

County Council Members

wilda newman [wildanewman@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 8:54 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear County Council Members,

Now it is your turn to step up to the plate-Please retain the \$2 Million in the county budget for RENEW HOWARD. Columbia is a vital part of the county and major attraction to the state. Make sure that we renew and revitalize and prevent the insidious decline and breaking of our infrastructure, as we have seen happen across the United States. Sometimes shortsightedness dooms the future and exacts a payment far greater than the investment needed at a much earlier point. As residents these are the things we expect to be put in place to renew and refurbish so that we are not confronted with crises and substandard living. Thinking ahead and doing what's needed when it is needed shows vision and planning, hallmarks of a worthy county and state.

Thank you,

Wilda B Newman

Knowledge Associates Resources, LLC

5964 Rosinante Run

Columbia, MD 21045 USA

Phone: 1-410-730-7583

Email: wildanewman@yahoo.com

Skype: wildanewman

Howard County EDA Budget Testimony.

Keith Ohlinger [kohlinger05@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 11:21 AM**To:** CouncilMail**Attachments:** Gabby's Letter to Principa~1.pdf (270 KB)

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

It was great to see everyone last night. My daughter, Gabby, enjoyed her first visit to a Council meeting. Thank you for letting me testify early, we stopped for ice cream at Alex's on the way home so that made it super special for her. Gabby was shy but wanted me to send you a copy of her letter, which is attached to this email. I try to let my daughters find their own path, I would love if they decide to farm when they get older but I am not forcing it on them. I am trying to teach them everything I know so they will have a good base with whatever they choose. A few weeks ago Gabby brought me a letter at breakfast. She had written it and wanted to give it to her principal Mr. Caldwell at Lisbon Elementary. I proof read it and removed a comma and corrected one misspelled word. I told her to re-write it neatly and take it to school, I told her I supported her 100% and she should not be afraid.

She turned in the letter but did not tell me that Mr. Caldwell responded with a note and asked her to have a meeting with him the next week during recess. He wanted to discuss her ideas. She had the meeting and he informed her that while he liked her ideas he was not in a position to change the curriculum, but he could put her in touch with people who might be able to help her. She came home and surprised me with her story. I talked it over with my wife and she felt it would be a good idea to bring Gabby to one the meetings I attend to see what I do and how things work. On Tuesday Kathy Johnson of EDA asked if I could testify and I thought this was the perfect time and perfect topic for Gabby to come along. I wanted to read her letter at the end of my testimony but unfortunately the three minutes goes by quickly. She was disappointed but I told her that I would write to you all and include her letter.

Thank you for all you do, keep up the good work!

Very Truly Yours,
Keith Ohlinger
Heritage Hill Farm

Dear Mr Caldwell,

I think we should ~~start~~ start learning about farming. Kids used to be taught about farming but now they aren't.

I want that to change.

I think we should learn to plant and raise fruits and vegetables. We should learn to raise animals too.

I was wondering if you could start to change some of our regular routines and put some farming in that time. Please let me know what you think.

Sincerely,

Gobby

Fwd: Budget Testimony - Non Profit Center

Feldmark, Jessica

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 4:07 PM

To: Ball, Calvin B; Weinstein, Jon; Fox, Greg; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Terrasa, Jen

Cc: Sayers, Margery; Pruim, Kimberly; Smith, Gary; Knight, Karen; Clay, Mary; McLeod, Kate; Glendenning, Craig

Attachments: image001.jpg (3 KB) ; ATT00001.htm (1 KB) ; Budget Testimony - TC.docx (16 KB) ; ATT00002.htm (232 B)

Council Members,

I am passing along Tom Carbo's written testimony on the proposed nonprofit center. My apologies for the delay in forwarding.

If there are any last-minute additions to requests for attendance at your work session Friday, please let me know by 8:00 tonight.

Thanks,
Jess

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Carbo, Tom" <tcarbo@howardcountymd.gov>

Date: May 5, 2016 at 9:59:26 AM EDT

To: "Feldmark, Jessica" <jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov>

Cc: "Carole R. MacPhee" <carolerita74@yahoo.com>, "Best, Ada"

<abest@howardcountymd.gov>, "Joan Driessen (joan.driessen@acshoco.org)"

<joan.driessen@acshoco.org>, "Lynch, Cynthia" <clynch@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Budget Testimony - Non Profit Center

Per Chairman Ball's request, attached is the written version of my testimony before the County Council last night regarding the proposed funding for the Howard County Non Profit Center.

Thomas P. Carbo

Director/Executive Director

HOWARD COUNTY HOUSING

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive – 3rd Floor

Columbia, MD 21046

Direct Dial: 410-313-6348

Fax No.: 410-313-6092

tcarbo@howardcountymd.gov

Budget: Non Profit Center

- I am Tom Carbo, speaking tonight as Executive Director of the Howard County Housing Commission, in support of the proposed funding for the Howard County Non Profit Center.
- HCHC is proud and excited to be a participant in the proposed Howard County Non Profit Center. As you may know, the Commission has agreed to serve as the master leaseholder on behalf of the other non-profit entities that will be part of the center, including Hopeworks, FIRN, Making Change, United Way, HC Drug Free, Meals on Wheels, Howard County Autism Society, and ACS. ACS will serve as the center manager for the facility.
- The Commission firmly believes that the new center will be a game-changer for the non-profit community and a significant asset to the community. By co-locating multiple service providers at one site, the facility will have multiple benefits, such as:
 - Easier access to a “one-stop shop” for residents seeking services
 - Greater coordination of service delivery among providers
 - Greater collaboration among the providers
 - Improved efficiency through shared services and space
- This idea has been a proven and successful concept with over 300 such centers throughout the country.
- The Commission has been working closely with ACS and the non-profits to identify a site and to plan the space needs. We hope and expect to complete negotiations for a lease and to be able to begin moving into the new facility by January 1.
- The funding proposed in the County’s budget will go a long way to help many of the non-profits who do not otherwise have the revenue sources needed to make the move to a new facility. The \$300,000 in PayGo funds will help pay for costs such as the security deposit, IT planning and installation, and moving expenses. The \$210,000 in CSP funds will help defray lease payments.
- Another critical element of the success of the Non Profit Center will be the proposed relocation of Department of Social Services offices to the same office complex. DSS is currently working through the State’s process to obtain approval of their move to the site. Your approval of the budgeted funds will signal the County’s commitment to the NPC and should help move along the State process.
- On behalf of the Commission and all of the non-profits, we appreciate the Council’s support of our efforts to improve the health and wellness of our residents. We believe this proposed funding will prove to be a cost-effective means of greatly improving the efficiency of our efforts.

support expanded support for the school budget

Eric Soskil [ericzoskil@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 6:24 PM

To: CouncilMail

The current budget supported by the council and County Executive does not provide funding for staff benefits. I was told 38 million dollars was reduced from the HCPSS fixed funds, which takes away funds for staff health benefits. Please find a way to work collaboratively with the school board to fund both staff benefits and pay raises. The HCPSS staff help provide an excellent education and is the reason many people and businesses choose to live and work in Howard County. We are a vital part of the Howard County economy and the staff deserve the benefit and salary increases negotiated with the union.

Eric

Opposition to a Real Property Tax Increase

no-reply@howardcountymd.gov

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 8:21 AM**To:** S_Feher@verizon.net**First Name:** Steve**Last Name:** Feher**Email:** S_Feher@verizon.net**Street Address:** 3608 Mellor Valley Court**City:** Ellicott City**Subject:** Opposition to a Real Property Tax Increase

I have lived in and paid taxes in Howard County since 1975 (since 1985 in my current home in Ellicott City) and have kept detailed records of such. Over the last 28 years, regardless of the economy, my average yearly assessment has increased by 10.4% and my average yearly tax bill has increased by 4.95%. So to me, there is no such thing as constant yield, only constantly increasing real property taxes. The day before yesterday, CBS aired a news piece indicating that 50% of surveyed Marylanders would like to move elsewhere (whether they can or not is another story) citing ever increasing taxes as one of the reasons. As a senior citizen I have quietly been contemplating the same thing and for the same reason. I am not special, but I believe that I am a "typical" Howard County resident that is finally reaching what you might say is the tipping point with regard to taxes. I thought the recent rain/pain tax just implemented came close. So the bottom line is that I think that the Council, as our reps, should not approve any legislation that will increase resident real property taxes yet again. Instead, I vote that there must be a better way, rather than continually raising the per capita mandatory contribution of every resident to satisfy increased budget line items or amounts that are easily typed onto a budget document wish list, but not so easily afforded by all Howard County residents. Thanks for the option to voice my opinion. Sincerely, Steve Feher

RENEW Howard

Sandy Cederbaum [manager@oaklandmills.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 5:02 PM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: County Council_RENEW Howar~1.pdf (36 KB)

Councilmember,

Attached is a letter from the Oakland Mills board that asks you to retain funding in the FY17 Budget for RENEW Howard.

Thank you.

Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager

Oakland Mills Community Association

The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place

Columbia, MD 21045

Office: 410-730-4610

fax: 410-730-4620

<http://oaklandmills.org> **NEW EMAIL: manager@oaklandmills.org**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Other-Barn/120935497922232>

<https://www.facebook.com/omvillage>



Oakland Mills Community Association

The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place

Columbia, MD 21045

410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org

May 6, 2016

Howard County Council Members
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of the Oakland Mills Village Board and residents we ask you to retain the funding in the FY17 Operating Budget for RENEW HOWARD, a Neighborhood Revitalization Program, in the amount of \$2,000,000. This program will directly benefit Oakland Mills and older communities throughout Columbia and Howard County.

Funding the RENEW HOWARD program will provide county home buyers/owner occupiers with a source of financial assistance to renovate aging homes which are in significant need of repair. As Oakland Mills nears fifty years old, those homes in our village that have been neglected need modernization and will benefit from this program. Neglected homes have a negative impact on the neighborhood. RENEW HOWARD will have a positive impact on the neighborhood, the property values and resultant property tax revenues. This program will be a win – win for everyone and spur the economic renewal of Oakland Mills.

As always, and on behalf the entire community, we greatly appreciate everything that you continue to do for Oakland Mills and Howard County.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Thomas, Co-Chair
Oakland Mills Village Board

William R. McCormack Jr., Co-Chair
Oakland Mills Village Board

Tonight's Budget Meeting

Barb Ridenour [toolie12@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 1:32 PM**To:** CouncilMail

I cannot attend tonight's meeting but I am a concerned parent and I stand with our teachers. I am so frustrated with the continued misbehavior of our Superintendent. Like other Howard County parents, I received the survey asking where we would like to take our budget cuts. Her survey provides for a maximum of \$82 million in cuts, about a tenth of the overall school budget. Part of the survey suggests the cuts should come from teachers' pay and benefits. Please note that nine-tenths of our overall school budget is not accounted for in this survey. I would like to better understand the remaining budget as I suspect that while she seemingly could not find a cent that could be cut out of that part of the budget a thorough audit of her spending would find a few dollars that could be eliminated.

I am very concerned that she is pressuring teachers to fill out this survey which makes "name" and "address" both mandatory fields. It is beyond offensive that she is bullying our teachers into filling out a survey that more or less mandates them recommending cuts in their own salaries and benefits. This is beyond just a political ploy and heading more into the territory where a legitimate charge of hostile work environment could justifiably be made.

Please address this in the budget meeting. The budget issue must be resolved, preferably by the school system finding cuts in other parts of their budget. But wherever the cuts are made, the Superintendent needs to stop harassing our teachers and our community every time she doesn't get her way on something. How can our students be encouraged to follow an anti-bullying policy when our Superintendent continues to behave as the biggest bully on the block?

Barb Ridenour
Concerned Parent

Greater Elkridge Community Association testimony opposing the addition of the Mission Road proposed school site to the FY 2017 budget

Mr. Drew [mrdrew@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 9:55 PM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: GECATestimonyinOppositiont~1.pdf (432 KB)

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Drew Roth
President, GECA.

GECA Testimony in Opposition to Adding the Mission Road School Site to the 2017 Budget ([CB28-2016](#))

The Greater Elkridge Community Association opposes the purchase of land at the Mission Road quarry for the purpose of a high school site.

There are three reasons for this opposition:

- The site does not comply with the Howard County Public School System policy for school site locations.
- The site is part of a larger development, which does not yet have a site development plan for review.
- There is a better site for a high school which meets the immediate needs of Howard County students.

School Site Policy

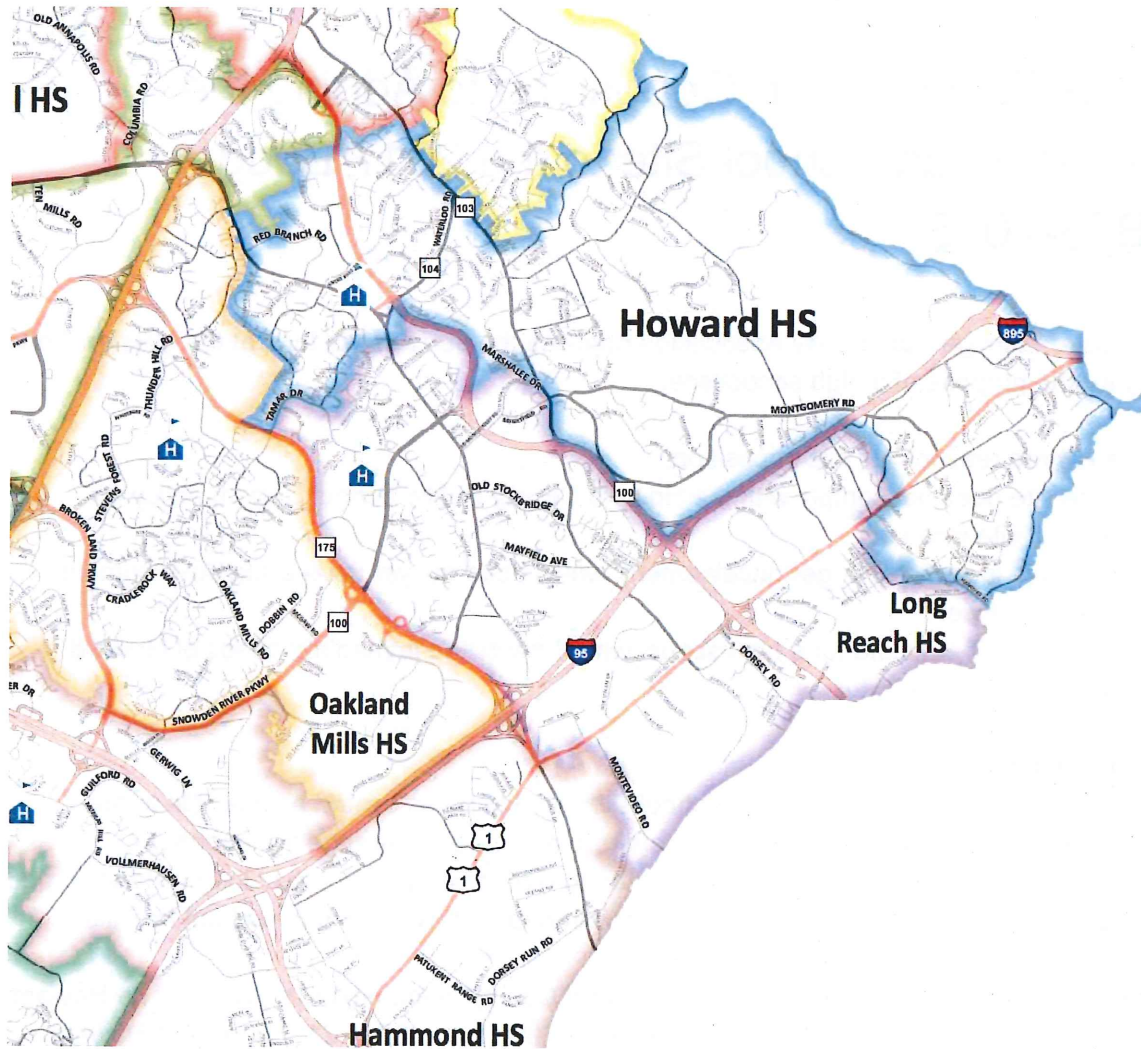
HCPSS Policy 6000¹ states in IV.C.2 “School sites should be as central as possible to the ultimate area to be served by the school in order to minimize long-range transportation requirements, reduce the need for some children to walk disproportionate or long distances, and enhance the ability of the greatest number of children to participate in after-school activities.”

The two most overcrowded high schools in Howard County in the next five years will be Howard and Long Reach. The 2015 Feasibility Study² states that in the 2020-21 school year Howard High School will be 595 students over capacity, and Long Reach High School will be 559 students over capacity. Excess students from these schools can fill 70% of the capacity of the next Howard County high school.

The current attendance area map for Howard and Long Reach clearly show that these schools' sites are not at all central to their attendance area. The map clearly shows that there would be no possible redistricting from the attendance areas of these schools to a new school at the Mission Road quarry that would result in that new school being central to the area it serves.

¹ <http://www.hcpss.org/f/board/policies/6000.pdf>

² <http://www.hcpss.org/f/schoolplanning/2015-feasibility-study.pdf>



Current high school attendance areas³

Lack of a Site Plan

The Mission Road quarry site is zoned M-1 MXD-3. The zoning regulations for the MXD Mixed Use District 127.0.B⁴ state:

3. Development within the MXD Districts shall be guided by a Preliminary Development Plan and Preliminary Development Criteria approved by the Zoning Board in accordance with the procedures established in Section 127.0.D. Except as allowed by Section 127.0.B.4 below, no development shall occur within an MXD District prior to approval of the Preliminary Development Plan.

³ <http://www.hcps.org/f/schoolplanning/map-hs201415.pdf>

⁴ https://www2.municode.com/library/md/howard_county/codes/zoning?nodeId=HOWARD_CO_ZONING_REGULATIONS_S127.0MXMIUSD1

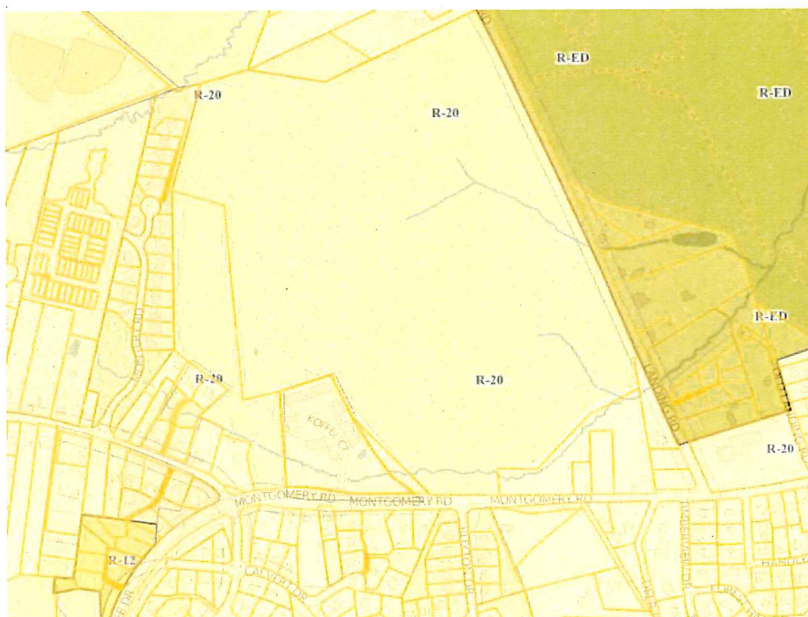
4. Prior to approval of a Preliminary Development Plan, use or development of MXD-zoned land shall be subject to all regulations applicable to the underlying zoning district. [...]

The underlying M1 zoning does not permit use as a public school. A public school cannot be built on this site under the current zoning until a preliminary development plan is in place. It would be prudent to defer acquisition of land for a public school at this site until the preliminary development plan is approved. This will allow full public review of the full plan for the site, as well as any desired zoning changes, without a premature commitment by the county to use part of the site as a high school. Waiting until the preliminary development plan is approved would also reduce speculation that there exist secret agreements between the site owner and the county government for the eventual full development of the site.

The owners of the Mission Road quarry have previously undertaken very dense town center scale development projects, such as [Konterra](#). It is not likely that they would build on the quarry site at the density allowed by the existing zoning. This means that there is no urgency to the school site purchase, since the County Council/Zoning Board will have to act on this site in the future, and the school site is very unlikely to be lost to development under the current zoning in the meantime.

A Better High School Site Exists

Howard County already owns a 96 acre parcel ideally located for a high school to address the overcrowding at Howard and Long Reach. It is currently undeveloped park land, and located at the intersection of Montgomery Road and Landing Road.



Property Public	
ID:	0.3465448530783005
ACCTID:	1401189182
PLAT:	
MAP:	37
PARCEL:	68
LOT:	
GRID:	5
OWNNAME1:	HOWARD COUNTY MARYLAND
OWNNAME2:	DEPT OF RECREATION & PARKS
SDAT_Link:	Click for Property Info

Zoning	
OBJECTID:	479
ZONE:	R-20
ZONE_DESC:	
CATEGORY:	Low Density Residential

Any land used as a school from this parcel would have to be replaced by parkland elsewhere. This is an opportunity. The replacement park land does not have to be a single contiguous parcel, and there are several parcels with significantly better conservation value that are adjacent to the Patapsco River, Rockburn Branch, and Deep Run that are also adjacent to state and county park land.

This school site would result in increased attendance area centrality for the new school, as well as for Long Reach and Howard. The necessary redistricting would result in most if not all redistricted students attending a school which is closer than their current school.

The County Executive has claimed that this site is not suitable for use as a school site due to the presence of wetlands. This claim is not consistent with the [Howard County Wetlands Map](#), which shows no wetlands on this site.

Conclusion

The Greater Elkridge Community Association strongly encourages the County Council to reject the addition of the Mission Road quarry site to the FY 2107 budget. No high school site acquisition should take place until the site is evaluated with respect to its attendance area per HCPSS Policy 6000. GECA advocates that a full analysis of the suitability and cost of both the Mission Road site the Landing Road site be performed by the county government, and that the full results of that analysis be made available to the public for review and comment before any budgetary decisions be made to support land acquisition.

Fw: HCPSS Budget and CR 60-2016

Heather Kelso [hkhuey@msn.com]

Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 5:37 PM

To: CouncilMail

From: Heather Kelso <hkhuey@msn.com>

Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 5:35 PM

To: JWeinstein@HowardCountyMD.gov; CBBall@HowardCountyMD.gov; JTerrasa@HowardCountyMD.gov; MKSigaty@HowardCountyMD.gov; GFox@HowardCountyMD.gov

Subject: HCPSS Budget and CR 60-2016

Hi.

I am emailing to say I do NOT support HCPSS's BOE or Superintendent's budget request. I DO support the county executive's proposed budget.

I do not support CR 60-2016. A further decrease in special education is unnecessary. I am a mom with two children who receive special education services. I am appalled by HCPSS's Superintendent and the BOE's actions (since her 2012 appointment), lack of transparency and harm to special education. My thought has been HCPSS was aggressive to advocates of special education students prior to Dr Foose and now it is blatant discriminatory to block parents and move monies out of special education.

Recently I attended a party with a large group of my mom friends. Typically these parties are fun and light where we chat about our family routines and lives. Now Dr. Foose and the BOE shenanigans dominate the conversation. We have taken note of the response to Dr. Foose and the BOE's damage which includes legislators. The tone of our conversations has changed dramatically.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts. I particularly want to thank Councilwoman Jen Terrasa and her notice of the "Expert Legal Model" during a recent budget work session with HCPSS. I look forward to watching tonight's public hearing and Wednesday's work session.

Thank you.

Heather Kelso
Columbia, MD

Thank you for your efforts

Ruth Walker [ruthwalker3@me.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 1:21 PM

To: CouncilMail

May 17, 2016

To the Howard County Council,

I applaud your efforts to make sense out of a budget from Howard County Public Schools. After watching the April 29 County Council meeting with Dr. Foose and Ms O'Connor, I am more than a little embarrassed by their lack of preparation. It raises some concerns about their leadership and abilities manage a multi-million dollar budget much less a school system of 56,000 students.

From this observer's point of view, it appeared that Dr. Foose and Ms O'Connor did not have the necessary documentation for council members to review and discuss the proposed budget. Many others have looked for these documents on the HCPSS website, but cannot find a trace of them. Is this pattern of behavior for this Superintendent and Board of Education indicative of their attempts to conceal even more information or are they so inept they don't have any documentation? I urge you to continue to press for all documentation from this Board of Education. Perhaps you can share them with the people who paid for them – taxpayers.

As I watched the April 29th hearing, I came up with a few questions of my own. I am an HCPSS teacher but I am willing to risk possible retaliation for bringing some of these matters to your attention.

Questions:

Expert Legal costs.

. Was expert legal accessed for other issues besides Special Education?

Is it a retainer fee + services?

. What are the costs of expert legal for non-special education or student related issues?

Is there a summary of billable hours from expert legal?

. What documents were generated by the Budget office besides the expert legal

costs/special education avoided costs? Were they used in the budgeting process?

. Where can they be obtained?

. What budget areas were part of a deep analysis process to support FY 16-17 budget request?

. Is there additional documentation to support your budget request?

. What is the average costs of audits for the various departments?

. Are audit reports or recommendations from audits used as part of the budget review process?

What other budget components do we need to address?

• The cost of the Learning Management System that still does not have functionality at the Elementary

School level.

- The cost of 6 weeks of testing per school?
- The money from the Race To The Top federal grant?
- The deferred payment of teacher step raises over the past two years (for work that had already been completed). Is that part of the budget timeline for 16/17?
- The cost of the “survey” sent out to parents and teachers regarding the “cuts” to be made. Done by a private firm.....
- All 12 month employees given the week between Christmas and New Years as PAID leave with no deduction from sick days or personal days. 14/15 & 15/16 (Possible area to consider for furloughs?)

Impact of proposed budget cuts

Furlough days: What is the average cost savings for one furlough day?

How many furlough days would be needed to meet the budget constraints?

By creating larger class sizes, how many teaching positions would be eliminated?

What is the average cost savings of this budget cut?

If (only) 8 people testified on 5/12 at a BOE budget hearing and you have received “1,000” surveys, how does that compare to the 56,000 students enrolled in HCPSS.

If you assume at least 2 children per family, divide 56,000 by 2.

That leaves 28,000 students/families.

1,000 respondents to the survey = 0.00003571428

The possibility that the survey was taken by HCPSS staff, reduces the percentage.

Many citizens are concerned about the “bank robber” mentality of this Board of Education. The bullying and intimidation is diminishing the morale in our schools. We are hopeful your actions will bring some sanity to the outrageous demands and behavior of our Superintendent and Board of Education.

Bridge Columbia

Jeryl Baker [villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 3:02 PM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: BoardofDirectors.TCCA.2016~1.pdf (138 KB)

Good Afternoon,

At its May 11th meeting the Town Center Village Board voted to support maintaining the requested funds in the 2017 capital budget for Bridge Columbia. I've attached a formal letter of support, please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

--



Jeryl Beth Baker / Village Manager, Executive Director
villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org

Town Center Community Association
Office: 410 730-4744 / Fax: 410 730-1823
5430 Vantage Point Road
Columbia, Maryland 21044
www.ColumbiaTownCenter.org



Town Center Community Association

5430 Vantage Point Road – Columbia, Maryland 21044

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Village Board:

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Columbia, MD 21044

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lwengel@msn.com

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jbroida1@gmail.com

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Columbia, MD 21044

H/C: 443-835-9719
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Columbia Council Representative:

Lin Eagan*
5422 Smooth Meadow Way
Columbia, MD 21044

H/C: 443-255-0733
Lin.eagan@ca-board.org

Village Manager: Secretary/Treasurer:

Jeryl Baker

W: 410-730-4744
Fax: 410-730-1823
villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org

* Term Expires 4/30/18

** Term Expires 4/30/17

effective: 5/11/2016



Telephone 410-730-4744/410-730-4801 – Fax 410-730-1823
villagemanager@columbiatowncenter.org – www.columbiatowncenter.org

Fixed Charges Problem

Lisa [lmarkovitz@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 4:17 PM

To: CouncilMail

So if it mostly boils down to how much is really needed for self-insured benefits in Fixed Charges, and the trust issue of the historical over-estimation of deficit that doesn't materialize and is even a large surplus makes it hard to believe they must have that extra \$20-30mil, then is it possible, legally, to not grant the increase, but allow them to come to you later IF the deficit actually materializes or is about to, and get more money later? Can't they do a supplemental emergency measure or something? The fiscal year is almost over, why do they even need to rely on a forecast at all? The doom and gloom hasn't happened for many years so far.

Thanks, and thanks for all this hard work, and juggling of numbers, and constituent concerns.

Lisa Markovitz

HCPSS budget

Leslie Kornreich [lkornreich@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 6:57 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Chairman Ball, Members of the County Council,

You must be exhausted. I am exhausted, and I only watched part of the work session today on the HCPSS budget. There are elements of it that are exceedingly difficult to understand. I want to thank you for your persistence in asking what is necessary for you to understand it, and also for your tenacity in getting to the bottom of where all the money is really going.

Earlier this week in my testimony on the categorical transfers, I gave you a document with a history of large balances left in the health fund despite dire predictions by HCPSS that the fund would run a large deficit. The total amount of excess remaining in that fund over the fiscal years between 2011 and 2014 was \$63 million. I have a very simple question, and it goes to why HCPSS is pleading poverty in the fixed charges category now: What happened to the \$63 million left in the fund over those 4 fiscal years?

I hope we agree that the only money necessary to fulfill the budget needs of HCPSS are for teacher salaries (including pay raises and benefits according to their negotiated contract), instruction and special education. Everything else -- the accountability office that keeps track of all the big data, the contracts for data monitoring, the legal fees, and many positions in the central office that have only been added in the last couple of years -- is gravy. If HCPSS needs money for these superfluous categories, they should have to come back and ask for it later.

I will keep this short since I know you all have been mired in it all day. Thank you for your service and for keeping HCPSS's feet to the fire when it comes to finding out how much money they really need.

All the best,
Leslie Kornreich

Advance Care Portal - Additional Budget Info (Horizon)

Tiffany Callender [TCallender@thehorizonfoundation.org]

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 8:44 PM**To:** CouncilMail**Cc:** Feldmark, Jessica; Madachy, Phyllis; Glenn Schneider [GSchneider@thehorizonfoundation.org]; Nikki Highsmith Vernick [nhighsmith_vernick@thehorizonfoundation.org]; Delorenzo, Carl**Attachments:** Horizon End of Life Collab~1.pdf (134 KB)

Hello all –

To provide additional context for the \$25,000 advance care directive budget item, here is some further information about the end-of-life work the Horizon Foundation is undertaking with the community and how the registry fits into this larger effort.

Horizon is working with over a dozen community stakeholders on a campaign to encourage end-of-life planning across the county. The campaign includes developing a resource website, launching a year-long learning collaborative to build capacity, and developing a registry where residents can provide contact information for their identified health care proxy.

While the attached document provides a brief one-page overview of the overall campaign, we want to highlight the portal in particular as a key component of the work. Talking both with providers and subject matter experts in this field, we learned that two critical first steps for the public to take are to have a conversation with loved ones about their care wishes and to identify a health care proxy. Providers have shared that having health care proxy contact information is a very useful way to learn of (and therefore be able to honor) a patient's wishes.

In thinking though how to build such a portal, we initially thought the registry could be hosted on the county government site. However, after learning of the many security and privacy requirements that need to be met to comply with the state's specifications, we investigated potential alternatives to host the site. We discussed the registry concept with MHCC and CRISP, and both suggested we explore using the existing state sanctioned site for storing advance directive information – "MyDirectives.com", which is powered by ADVault.

We are now working with ADVault to build a customized version of the "MyDirectives.com" site for Howard County that will highlight naming a health care proxy. This approach seems more appropriate since ADVault has already developed "MyDirectives.com" to meet Maryland requirements and so building the Howard County registry through this platform means it too would meet the state's technical and privacy specifications. Working with ADVault also enables us to have a true IT host to address any ongoing issues.

We are still exploring opportunities for customization and developing the "face" of the site. We want to ensure residents feel their submitted information is safe and can be communicated to their providers. While this might mean co-branding the site with different logos or images of Howard County organizations (e.g., Howard County General Hospital, Howard County Health Department, etc.), the technical operation of the site would remain with ADVault. We expect to confirm the plan for the registry build with ADVault in the coming weeks.

Hopefully this provides some additional context for the proposed registry, and how the \$25,000 contributes such a key component to this larger community campaign. Please feel free to let us know if you have other questions or if we can provide more information.

Tiffany

Tiffany Callender
Senior Program Officer

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Phone: 443-766-1220 | Email: tcallender@thehorizonfoundation.org
www.thehorizonfoundation.org



END-OF-LIFE COLLABORATIVE: SUMMARY

Overview

The Horizon Foundation, in partnership with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and The Conversation Project, will launch a year-long community collaborative on end-of-life health care planning. The collaborative will bring together organizations interested in learning more about end-of-life planning, and how best to make this type of planning a standard of work in their organization.

During the collaborative participating organizations will develop and implement a plan to improve end-of-life care planning. The collaborative will provide coaching to support organizations in reaching these individual goals. The collaborative will also provide ongoing content training and forums for organizations to share challenges, successes, and how best to spread this work across the community.

The collaborative is a part of a larger campaign by the Horizon Foundation that focuses on two critical first steps in end-of-life planning: having a conversation about care wishes with family members and loved ones, and identifying a health care proxy who can communicate these wishes. Other components of the campaign include developing a resource website and an electronic portal for individuals to register health care proxies. A full-scale public campaign will also follow the collaborative, building on learnings from the collaborative and encouraging the public to, at a minimum, take these first two steps in end-of-life planning.

Time period

- June 2016 – June 2017
 - Kickoff Date: June 23, 2016 (morning session)

What to expect

- General end-of-life content training (how best to start conversations, legal considerations, etc.).
- Four in-person learning sessions providing issue-specific training, best-practice sharing, peer-to-peer learning, and opportunities for community collaboration.
- Monthly mentoring calls with The Conversation Project and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to guide organizations through their individual projects.

Who can participate

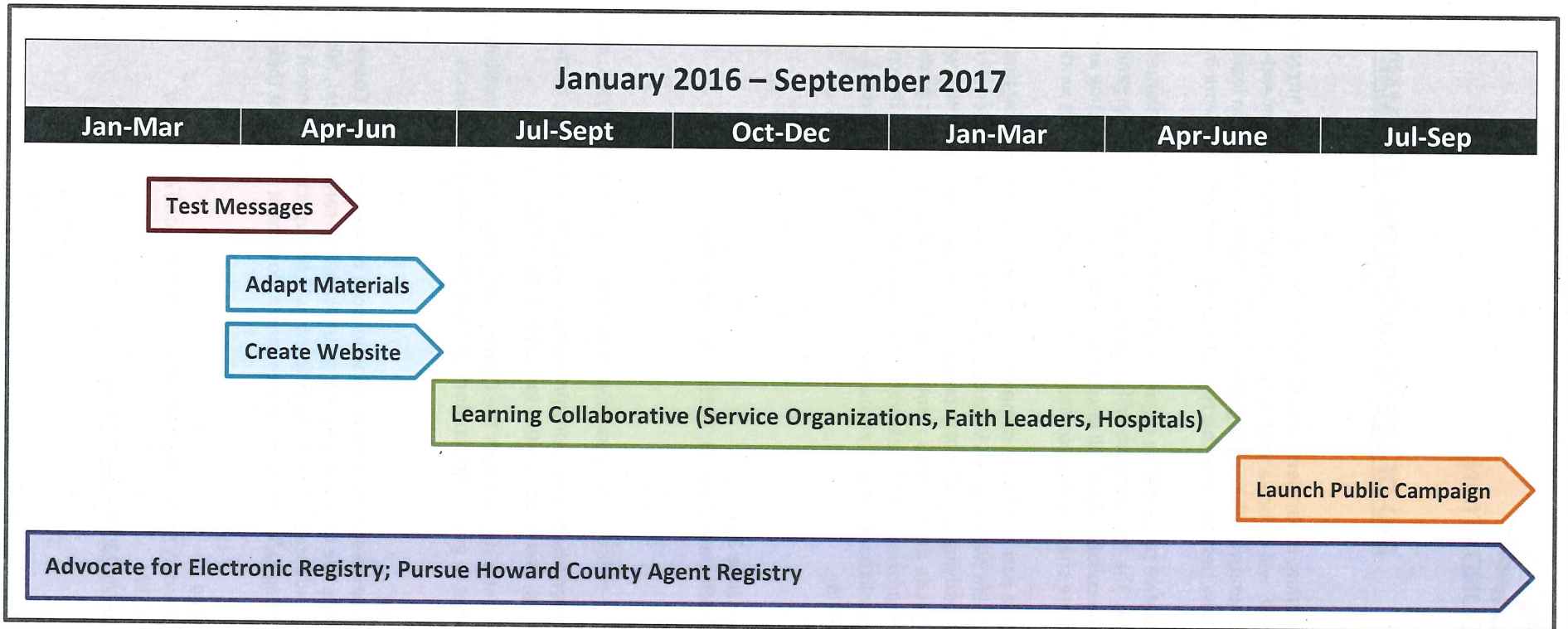
- Any organization serving individuals who work or live in Howard County can participate in the collaborative. We encourage health systems, health care providers, faith leaders, and other community advocates to join. Participants will be expected to commit to the learning sessions and mentoring calls and to implement an improvement project at their organization.

For more information

- *Tiffany Callender, Senior Program Officer, The Horizon Foundation*
443-766-1220
tcallender@thehorizonfoundation.org



Horizon Foundation End-of-Life Planning: 2016 – 2017 Timeline



Fwd: Board of Education's 1st Online Budget Survey Gains Input of 1,100 Participants

Kim [kimmgrin@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 11:09 AM**To:** CouncilMail

Dear members of Howard County Council,

I am incensed that the HCPSS thinks it is acceptable to use their parent email system to send political messages. Since the addition of the new communications director, newsletters and social media content seem to be written as promotional pieces. As a parent, I look to these HCPSS newsletters ONLY for information about my school and relevant information about events pertaining to my students. I have inquired with the communications department about how I can subscribe to only those newsletters (the way it used to be) and was told I either get all news or none. Filling them with public relations and self promotion only makes me delete them before carefully culling them for anything that is relevant. It's an abuse of the access they have to parent and student email addresses.

It seems that 1,100 people completed this suspicious and carefully crafted budget "survey", which HCPSS central office thinks that is a significant figure. It begs the question why 1,700 signatures on a petition asking not to renew the superintendent's contract was treated as a small minority?

Please do NOT allow this posturing to allow the HCPSS to bully the County into funding programs that families do not support and force them to make cuts in areas that teacher, parents and students have been vocal about being not necessary for quality classroom instruction.

Best regards,
Kim Grinnell

Begin forwarded message:

From: Howard County Public School System <no-reply@hcpss.org>

Subject: Board of Education's 1st Online Budget Survey Gains Input of 1,100 Participants

Date: May 20, 2016 at 9:54:18 AM EDT

To: <kimmgrin@gmail.com>

Reply-To: Howard County Public School System <no-reply@hcpss.org>

Stakeholders Agree Education Budget Inadequate, Some Funding Should Be Restored

The Howard County Board of Education's first online budget survey captured an unprecedented level of public input and the findings support the restoration of funding to support Howard County public schools next school year.

Completed survey responses were received from 1,104 parents, school system employees and community members. The online survey responses complement the public input received in more

than 40 emails, letters and public hearing testimony received by the Board. In addition to identifying cuts, survey respondents recommended that the County Council restore \$14 million to \$23 million of the \$50.4 million difference between the County Executive's budget proposal and the Board's budget request. "Unless the County Council intervenes, the Board of Education will be forced to adopt a budget that will not provide the funding necessary to meet its legal obligations and cuts will need to be made to meet our funding requirements," said Board Chair Christine E. O'Connor.

During the Board's budget work session tonight, the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) budget team presented [an overview of the budget process](#), the County Executive's cuts and the survey results during the Board's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Work Session.

The largest number of survey respondents self-identified as "Parent-Only" (752). Other survey participant categories included: Employee-Only (173), Employees/Parents (94) and other Community Members (85).

The [survey results](#) reflected responses to questions identifying 43 budget categories totaling more than \$80 million. The budget [survey results by stakeholder group](#) also were provided. Overall, more than half of survey respondents selected cuts in purchasing, contracts, 30 Central Office positions, the central office telephone system, conferences, technology and transportation.

New initiatives, including an expansion of prekindergarten at Oakland Mills Elementary School and the World Languages Program expansion, also are among the proposed cuts selected by survey respondents. Other survey items selected by more than 50 percent of respondents include the new Telehealth nurse position at Duckett's Lane Middle School, a new Black Student Achievement Program liaison at Harper's Choice Middle School, new Hispanic achievement liaisons at Mayfield Woods and Bonnie Branch Middle Schools, technology support teachers, assessments, class size changes, and furlough options, among other items.

Conversely, less than 50 percent of survey respondents selected Athletics, Recess Monitors, changes in the number of Paraeducators, Outdoor Education, and Field Trips. Other areas selected by less than 50 percent of respondents include choices to defer maintenance, defer salary increments, and defer equipment purchases.

The remaining budget schedule includes the following:

- May 23, 8:30 a.m. – County Council Budget Work Session
- May 26, 10:30 a.m. – County Council is scheduled to adopt its FY2017 budget
- May 26, 7:30 p.m. – Board of Education adopts its final FY2017 budget

Read more HCPSS News [online](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and our new [Mobile App](#)!

Howard County Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Howard County Public Schools directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)
SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

HCPSS Budget

Patti Gonzalez [pattigonzalez1@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2016 12:02 PM**To:** CouncilMail

Madam and Sirs,

I have been a resident of HoCo since 1989, I have two children who went to HCPS and my husband and I are both employed by the HCPSS. I am active in the HCEA as well as PATH. I follow the BOE and consider myself informed enough to have an opinion.

Please stand by the County Executive and do not give into the inept practices of this BOE. They can't or won't be held accountable for the choices and they have lost sight of their mission.

The Strength Finder thing is an example. I don't know what they call it, perhaps a professional development tool that they would like to spread to more schools but threaten to cut if not fully funded.

I have taken it, it's cute as pie. I liked it as much as those Facebook games, "Which Disney Villain are you?"

It was a lot of fun but at what cost and does it serve our mission? How can you have this fun if you can't read, if you can't read English, or if you don't have the technology that enhances your ability to read?

Has this Superintendent lost sight of her mission? Did she ever have a clear understanding of our expectations? Does she know she works for the BOE?

Because I have witnessed her schooling BOE members who challenge her and she clearly wants more autonomy then she had perhaps earned.

"B 2 B" , Back to Basics, that's what I want to see. I'm done with World Class, I'm over this sense of entitlement, it's time to remember or reevaluate our mission, the one that starts with the "3 R's 4 all".

Thank you,
Patti Gonzalez

Sent from my iPhone

Please vote NO to Resolution 60-2016

Nora Hart [ms.nora.hart@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 4:48 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Council,

As the parent of third grader with autism in HCPSS, I see daily how lack of trained professionals and continued cuts through budget transfers have negatively impacted our kids. At every level, HCPSS is cutting special education services through these transfers. Additionally, this year, HCPSS cut the MINC programs to four days per week. This is a significant reduction in intensity for the youngest and most vulnerable children with special needs. These are the children whose outcomes can still be reversed or improved with quality early intervention which HCPSS has always been known to provide and, for which, HCPSS was nationally recognized. Families move to Howard County for our outstanding public schools. Please don't let our special education programs languish. Please vote NO to resolution 60-2016.

Thank you,
Nora Hart
7855 Tuckahoe Court
Fulton, MD 20759