

School budget

Thomas Harman [tom.harman@icloud.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 9:09 AM

To: CouncilMail

FILE COPY

Dear Council Members,

Hopefully in addition to all of your work on the budget, and speaking with the Board of Education, you also had the opportunity to review the survey that the county put out. There were many issues with the survey, which skewed the results. Primarily, the survey only presented certain areas of the budget for cutting or keeping. Secondly, the survey could only be submitted if the full \$50 million dollar amount was accounted for, thereby "forcing" many of the responders to include choices they might not have otherwise included. It is deceiving for the school system to say that the public overwhelming indicated that the county council should restore funding. Please do not restore funding. The school system has an \$800 million budget! They need to be respectful of the tax payers and figure out where to trim expenses.

Thank you,

Sharon Harman

County Resident, and parent

Sent from my iPad

The Future is Now

Heather Kelso [hkhuey@msn.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 10:28 PM

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

Good Evening.

HCPSS has requested \$490,000 transferred out of special education (CR 60-2016). I think the important question is why wasn't this money used for students with special needs? Also why wait until so close to the end of the fiscal year to request? Who is running this budget? Who is decides to deprive special education students?

I respectfully request you deny HCPSS's request to transfer money out of special education. HCPSS has had plenty of time all year to make this request and their timing is quite interesting. The onus is on HCPSS to manage their budgets not only responsibly but morally. There are very few who have any oversight very few have any oversight of a HCPSS's huge amount of money. The Council's voice is one of those few. Please help special education students and say no to CR 60-2016.

"The Future is Now."

Thank you.

Heather Kelso
Columbia, MD

Letter of Support for Nonprofit Center

Theresa Ballinger [tballinger@howard-autism.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 8:02 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: joan.driessen@acshoco.org; Thibaudeau, Roger E. [Roger.Thibaudeau@jhupl.edu]; Patrick Boxall [ptjboxall@gmail.com]; Elizabeth Benevides [ebenevides@hussmanfoundation.org]

Attachments: 2017 Howard County Operat~1.docx (311 KB)

Howard County Council:

I submit the attached letter of support for your consideration during the 2017 Howard County Operating Budget deliberations.

Theresa Ballinger
HCAS Board President



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

May 25, 2016

-via email-

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Subject: 2017 Howard County Operating Budget; Budget Items Related to the Planned Nonprofit Center

Dear County Council Members:

On behalf of Howard County Autism Society (HCAS), I am writing to express support for the planned Howard County Nonprofit Center, and to request *your* support for two line items related to the Nonprofit Center in the 2017 Howard County Operating Budget – a \$210,000 rent subsidy that will be divided by the amount of square footage leased among all of the nonprofit tenants with the exception of the Housing Commission, and a one-time \$300,000 to assist with start-up costs for the Center.

As you know, HCAS is a community-based organization dedicated to serving individuals on the autism spectrum, their families, and the community. HCAS provides information, support, and advocacy; promotes awareness of autism that values the dignity and uniqueness of each individual; and works to improve the quality of and access to services and to educational opportunities.

HCAS is excited about the proposed Nonprofit Center for two main reasons. First, the Center will provide HCAS access to facilities to effectively support an extensive and expanding array of programs from a central and accessible location. HCAS maintains a staffed Resource Center and a significant portion of our limited budget (approximately 12%) is committed to rent. It is our hope participation in the Nonprofit Center would decrease that line item as well as other related cost categories such as phone service, internet, printers and copying services due to economies of scale. Second, the Nonprofit Center will allow our organization to strengthen ties with other Howard County nonprofits and provide opportunities for partnerships, knowledge sharing and relationship building. Leveraging co-location will also allow HCAS to more effectively refer HCAS members to other service-oriented organizations; expand HCAS' reach to individuals and families affected by autism that may not have connected with our organization; and create new opportunities for HCAS to fulfill its mission.

Of course, these benefits can only be ensured if the financial structure of the Nonprofit Center makes the occupancy costs affordable on a sustaining basis. Your support is vital to ensure the planned Nonprofit Center proceeds with a viable financial plan.

Sincerely,

Theresa Ballinger
President

• providing support • promoting awareness • advocating for change
10280 Old Columbia Road, Suite 215, Columbia, Maryland 21046
410-290-3466 • www.howard-autism.org • info@howard-autism.org

Support for Nonprofit Center subsidy and start-up funds

Joan Driessen [joan.driessen@acshoco.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 3:06 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Council Members,

ACS appreciates the careful consideration that you have given to the subsidy and start-up funding for the proposed nonprofit center. These funds are critical to our ability to make this project happen. There have been multiple efforts within the past two decades to create a center that can provide accessible and coordinated services to Howard County residents. Many factors have coalesced to make this an optimal time for its creation. The allocation of the \$210,000 to subsidize the rent for the tenants, as well as the \$300,000 in start-up funding are key to making it a reality.

It is our hope that the 10 nonprofits currently slated to share space in this center will be joined by other key service providers in the near future. We are fortunate to have identified space in an office park that is both centrally located and offers opportunities for expansion, including adequate space for the Department of Social Services. Our plan is to create a human service hub for the county where services can be provided more effectively and efficiently, and that provides an environment where collaborations and partnerships can thrive.

I encourage you to support the funding for this center. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Joan Driessen

Joan Driessen
Executive Director
Association of Community Services of Howard County
10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 920
Columbia, MD 21044
410-715-9545
www.acshoco.org



Support for the Nonprofit Center subsidy

Sebastiao, Elizabeth [sebastiao@mowcm.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 2:32 PM

To: CouncilMail

Hello,

I am writing this email to ask for your support by funding the Nonprofit Center for the Howard County Operating Budget in 2017. Countless lives can be changed for the better with the right amount of funding. The rent subsidy of \$210,000 and the \$300,000 one-time start up costs are nominal in comparison to the years of supportive services that can be offered to the community.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Best regards,

Elizabeth Sebastiao, M.S.

Regional Manager, Southwest Region
Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, Inc.

5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 214
Columbia, MD 21044
(410) 730-9476- direct line
(443) 573-0971- fax
sebastiao@mowcm.org
www.mealsonwheelsmd.org
www.facebook.com/mealsonwheelsmd
<http://twitter.com/mealsonwheelsmd>
To donate: www.mealsonwheelsmd.org/donations



This electronic mail message may contain information, which is confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any disclosure, photocopying, distribution or use of the contents of the received information is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please reply to the sender immediately and permanently delete this message and all copies of it.

Please approve funding for the new Non-Profit Center for Howard County :)

Heifner, Janet [heifner@mowcm.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 1:47 PM

To: CouncilMail

Jan E Heifner, CPA, MBA
Deputy Executive Director,
Finance, IT, Facility
Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, Inc
515 Haven Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
443-573-0917 direct line
443-573-0972 fax
heifner@mowcm.org
<http://www.facebook.com/mealsonwheelsmd>
<http://twitter.com/#!/mealsonwheelsmd>
To donate: <http://www.mealsonwheelsmd.org/donations>



This electronic mail message may contain information, which is confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any disclosure, photocopying, distribution or use of the contents of the received information is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please reply to the sender immediately and permanently delete this message and all copies of it.

Snail Mail out there from Peoples Voice is not from us

lmarkovitz@comcast.net

Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 11:21 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Council Members,

I received a letter in the mail today, at my office address, with The People's Voice on the label, marked URGENT. The letter was addressed to "Fellow People's Voice Members", and berated the addition of administrative staff for the Council in the budget. It used some choice words.

I am reaching out to you with the fact that this is not from The People's Voice, nor any Board member, and our membership data is not available to the public. We are publicizing this fact on Facebook and Twitter as well. I have no idea why those unwilling to properly identify themselves are implying they are with our organization.

I do not know how widespread the distribution of this letter was. Anyway, good luck with your commendable and tedious work on the budget. Frankly, I haven't looked into the details of the Council budget increase, but I have often thought you could use more help, especially with constituent services ever increasing.

Lisa Markovitz

County Council Members

wilda newman [wildanewman@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 8:54 PM

To: CouncilMail

FILE COPY

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 ~~not~~ 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,

Gooby

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; Pruum, 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 [ericoskil@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

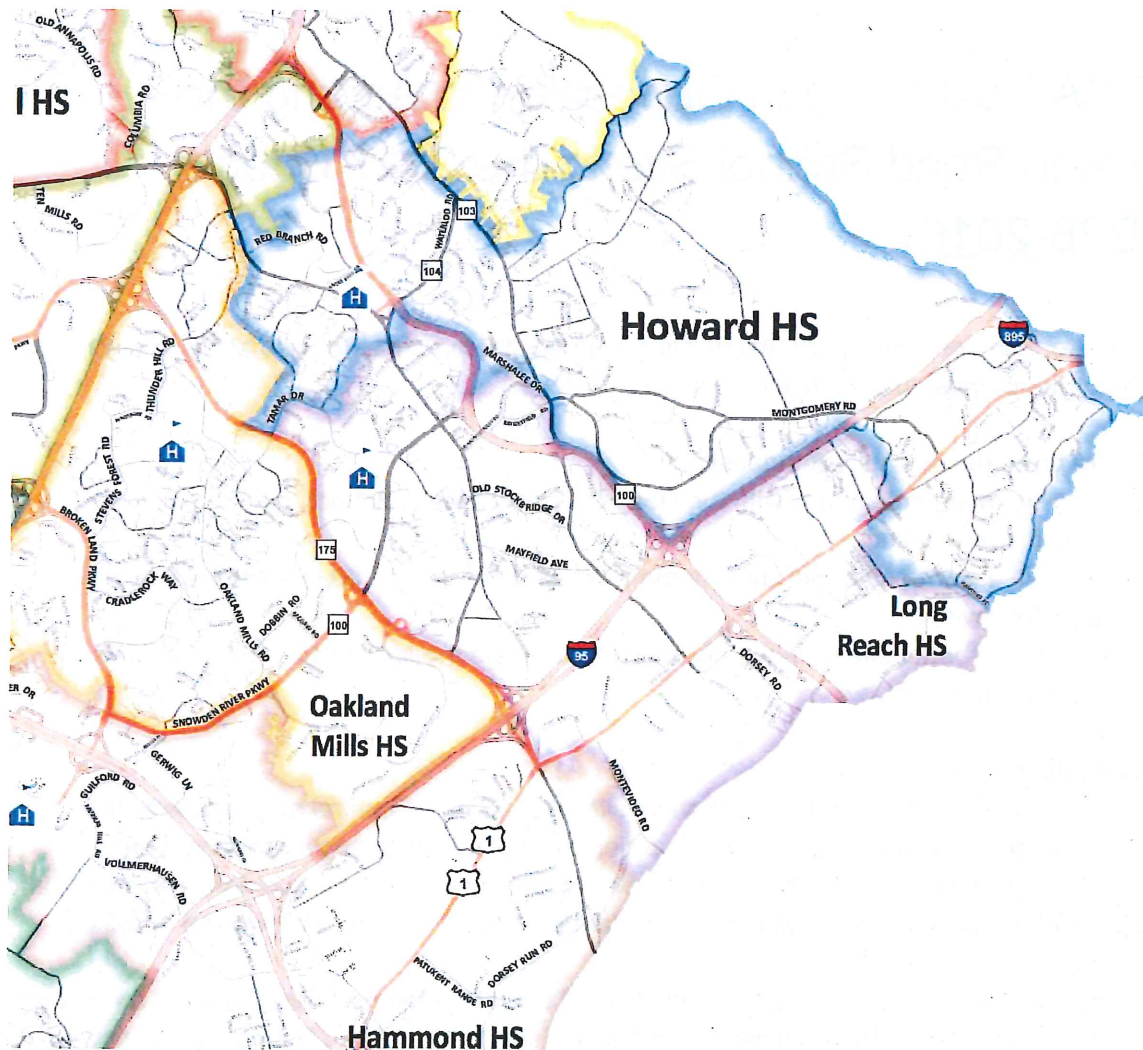
HCPSS Policy 6000¹ states in IV.C.2 "School sites should be as central as possible to the ultimate area to be served by the school in order to minimize long-range transportation requirements, reduce the need for some children to walk disproportionate or long distances, and enhance the ability of the 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.hcpss.org/f/schoolplanning/map-hs201415.pdf>

⁴ https://www2.municod.com/library/md/howard_county/codes/zoning?nodeId=HOWARD_CO_ZONING REGULATIONS_S127.0MXMIUSDI

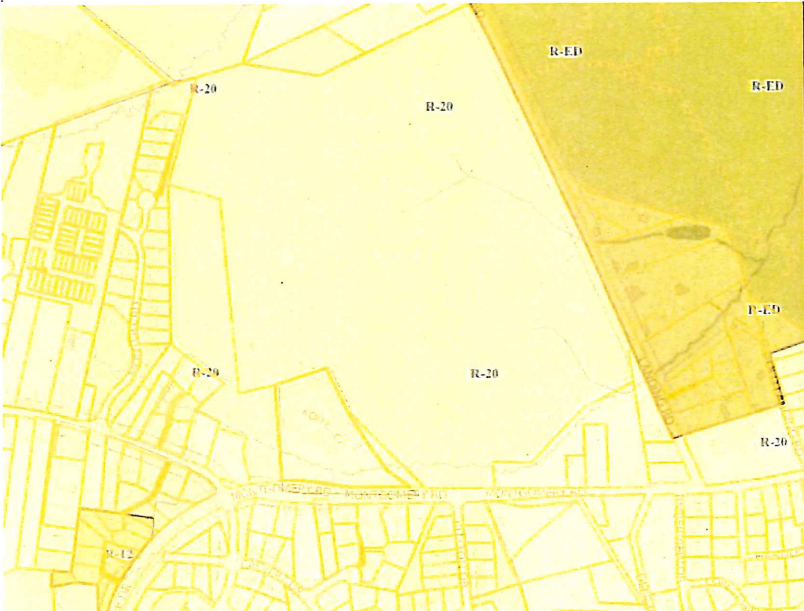
4. Prior to approval of a Preliminary Development Plan, use or development of MXD-zoned land shall be subject to all regulations applicable to the underlying zoning district. [...]

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 Elkrige 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:

Linda Wengel* Chairperson
10101 Governor Warfield Parkway, #330
Columbia, MD 21044

H: 410-964-1671
lwengel@msn.com

Joel Broida** Vice-Chairperson
5400 Vantage Point Road. Apt 413
Columbia, MD 21044

H: 410.992.1033
jbroida1@gmail.com

Lynn Foehrkolb**
5507 Vantage Point Road
Columbia, MD 21044

H: 410-997-3670
lfoehrkolb@yahoo.com

Kirsten Coombs**
10213 Sherman Heights Pl
Columbia, MD 21044

H: 410 964 8685
kcoombs1209@gmail.com

Monique Augusta*
6096 Laurel Wreath Way
Columbia, MD 21044

H/C: 443-835-9719
moniqueaugusta@yahoo.com

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

The Horizon Foundation
10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 900 | Columbia, MD 21044
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

January 2016 – September 2017

Jan-Mar

Apr-Jun

Jul-Sept

Oct-Dec

Jan-Mar

Apr-June

Jul-Sep

Test Messages

Adapt Materials

Create Website

Learning Collaborative (Service Organizations, Faith Leaders, Hospitals)

Launch Public Campaign

Advocate for Electronic Registry; Pursue Howard County Agent Registry

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.

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

FILE COPY

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice, LLC - 3205 B Corporate Court, Ellicott City MD 21042

Testimony on Council Resolutions 72 and 75, 2016

The amount of the Building Excise fees and fees-in-lieu of providing Moderate Income Housing Units, where allowed, both of which are paid by builders/developers are set each year via Council Resolutions. Any increase is capped by the amount of the percentage set by the Engineering News Record's Construction Cost Index for the Baltimore Region. This cost index went down this year, thus no increases will be seen in these two fees for the next fiscal year.

I personally think the usage of this particular indicator as a cap is inappropriate. There must be data available that is more localized. I realize this is the most local data from that group provided, and is set by law as the index used for the cap.

I realize that this economic indicator can show the affect of supply and demand on prices in the industry, which then extrapolate to the notion that profits are down, even with decreased expenses, as decreased costs occur with decreased demand, and thus, certain cost increases are then capped at the government level. I get that; however, this is not Baltimore, this is Howard County. Our housing market is not the same, especially recently, and our demand for housing is high. Otherwise there wouldn't be a clamor from developers to increase their ability to provide so much of it, in ever-increasing amounts, even instead of commercial development, etc. They are viewing the market here as such.

In summary, the market demand for housing here is solid, holding up property values, and yes construction costs are down for the Baltimore Region, so you are forced to take an expense that is used in a comparative way, analyzed as paid versus bearing the much larger cost of providing a MIHU, and you have to keep it flat, when providing that MIHU is certainly an expense that is increasing in Howard County. It is certainly a no-brainer to pay the fee instead.

I know there are State law issues here. I just wanted to request that you keep in mind that this is an area where County development is reaping an economic benefit that is out of your control, and maybe when you are faced with decisions regarding analyzing the economic ability of developments to be able to proceed without additional incentives, you can remember these issues, on the other side of the coin, and take them into consideration as well.

FILE COPY

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice, LLC - 3205 B Corporate Court, Ellicott City MD 21042

Testimony on Council Resolutions 72 and 75, 2016

The amount of the Building Excise fees and fees-in-lieu of providing Moderate Income Housing Units, where allowed, both of which are paid by builders/developers are set each year via Council Resolutions. Any increase is capped by the amount of the percentage set by the Engineering News Record's Construction Cost Index for the Baltimore Region. This cost index went down this year, thus no increases will be seen in these two fees for the next fiscal year.

I personally think the usage of this particular indicator as a cap is inappropriate. There must be data available that is more localized. I realize this is the most local data from that group provided, and is set by law as the index used for the cap.

I realize that this economic indicator can show the affect of supply and demand on prices in the industry, which then extrapolate to the notion that profits are down, even with decreased expenses, as decreased costs occur with decreased demand, and thus, certain cost increases are then capped at the government level. I get that; however, this is not Baltimore, this is Howard County. Our housing market is not the same, especially recently, and our demand for housing is high. Otherwise there wouldn't be a clamor from developers to increase their ability to provide so much of it, in ever-increasing amounts, even instead of commercial development, etc. They are viewing the market here as such.

In summary, the market demand for housing here is solid, holding up property values, and yes construction costs are down for the Baltimore Region, so you are forced to take an expense that is used in a comparative way, analyzed as paid versus bearing the much larger cost of providing a MIHU, and you have to keep it flat, when providing that MIHU is certainly an expense that is increasing in Howard County. It is certainly a no-brainer to pay the fee instead.

I know there are State law issues here. I just wanted to request that you keep in mind that this is an area where County development is reaping an economic benefit that is out of your control, and maybe when you are faced with decisions regarding analyzing the economic ability of developments to be able to proceed without additional incentives, you can remember these issues, on the other side of the coin, and take them into consideration as well.

FILE COPY

TESTIMONY – CR-54

MAY16, 2016

John DiTomasso

I realize that CR-54 and other changes separating the Housing Commission from county government are almost inevitable. I testified against the bill to sever the Housing Commission completely from county government. Now, however, I would like to remind the Council that their recent action requires more than just establishing administrative policies for the Housing Commission.

I was moved to do this after hearing County Executive Kittleman speak at last week's meeting of the Oakland Mills Village Board, where he introduced the consultants who will be doing the feasibility study for the revitalization of Oakland Mills. The new plan for our village center includes not only the retail strip but also the surrounding apartments.

During the question period, I commented that we were fortunate that the County owned a large section (the 17-acre Verona complex) of the area included in the study. The County Executive interrupted me to explain that the Verona Apartments actually belong to the Housing Commission, not the county. Was he preparing to deny responsibility in some future scenario where the Commission decides to redevelop the Verona in a way that increases the already high concentration of poverty in our village? When the head of the Housing Commission is no longer the head of the County Housing Department, he will not be answerable to the County Executive. Likewise, should the feasibility study develop a scenario for revitalization that suggests the use of those apartments in some innovative way, was the County Executive preparing us for the fact that he would be powerless in helping to make it happen?

This change that you are making won't alter that reality. Nevertheless, it brings home to me one of the key recommendations of our Village Center Plan: to advocate for a comprehensive housing policy for the entire county. The policy should set guidelines and parameters within which the Housing Commission must operate. Mr. Kittleman's own transition team made such a policy its number one recommendation. It pains me to report that so far nothing has been done to accomplish this.

We in Oakland Mills know all too well what happens when decisions about affordable housing are made on a piecemeal basis. Concentrating poverty in a few neighborhoods has placed a huge burden on a handful of schools. This in turn leads new homebuyers away from these neighborhoods. In Montgomery County this has resulted in what amounts to de facto segregation at the eastern end of the county. Are we immune to similar unintended consequences here in Howard County?

If the Executive branch lacks the political will to write a Comprehensive Housing Policy, then it's incumbent on the County Council to take the lead. The Housing Commission must have a framework that guides future purchases and redevelopment of its extensive holdings of apartment complexes in Columbia. CR-54 is fine as far as it goes, but it does nothing to address the big picture. Howard County can and should provide enough affordable housing for all residents; however, lack of a countywide housing policy could spell disaster for the entire county.

Council Resolution 60-2016

A resolution approving certain transfers between major categories of the Howard County Board of Education Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2016

Written Testimony of Christina Delmont-Small
May 16, 2016 @ 7:00pm

FILE COPY

My name is Christina Delmont-Small and I reside at 10206 Maxine Street in Ellicott City, Maryland. Although I am a candidate for Board of Education, I am testifying this evening as a parent and a taxpayer.

I am testifying against Council Resolution 60-2016. I respectfully request that the County Council NOT pass CR 60-2016 until the County Council has received information from the school system that will provide a better understanding of why these funds need to be transferred.

There are also some issues with budget transfers that the school system has made this fiscal year that should be examined before the transfers are approved:

Building Maintenance Funding Transfers

From July 1, 2015, through February 29, 2016, the BOE has transferred the following funds within the #11 Building Maintenance Category:

\$605,188 From Repair-Buildings with \$205,188 transferred to Equipment-Replacement and \$400,000 transferred to Repair-Equipment (Attachments B – E).

#	Program	Expense Type	From	To	Date From	Date To	Attachemnt
11	Building Maintenance	Repair-Buildings	55,188	0	10/1/15	10/31/15	B
11	Building Maintenance	Equipment-Replacement	0	55,188	10/1/15	10/31/15	B
11	Building Maintenance	Repair-Buildings	100,000	0	10/1/15	10/31/15	B
11	Building Maintenance	Equipment-Replacement	0	100,000	10/1/15	10/31/15	B
11	Building Maintenance	Repair-Buildings	200,000	0	11/1/15	11/30/15	C
11	Building Maintenance	Equipment-Replacement	0	50,000	11/1/15	11/30/15	C
11	Building Maintenance	Repair-Equipment	0	150,000	11/1/15	11/30/15	C
11	Building Maintenance	Repair-Buildings	150,000	0	1/1/16	1/31/16	D
11	Building Maintenance	Repair-Equipment	0	150,000	1/1/16	1/31/16	D
11	Building Maintenance	Repair-Buildings	100,000	0	2/1/16	2/29/16	E
11	Building Maintenance	Repair-Equipment	0	100,000	2/1/16	2/29/16	E
		Total	\$605,188	\$605,188			
	Program	Expense Type	From	To			
	Building Maintenance	Repair-Buildings	605,188	0			
	Building Maintenance	Equipment-Replacement	0	205,188			
	Building Maintenance	Repair-Equipment	0	400,000			
		Total	\$605,188	\$605,188			

Questions:

- What were these funds used for?
- With the issues of moisture, leaking roofs and mold in many of our school buildings, why are funds being transferred out of Repair-Buildings?
- HCPSS is requesting a categorical transfer of \$1,131,000 from Operation of Plant to Maintenance of Plant for "urgent maintenance projects." What are these "urgent maintenance projects" and how much funding is needed for each?

Transportation Funding Transfers

In March of 2016, the BOE transferred funds within the Program Regular Transportation. They transferred \$300,000 out of Bus Contracts, \$200,000 out of Bus Contracts-Special Education, and \$100,000 out of Bus Contracts Pupil Personnel Services and put the \$600,000 into an account "Category 9 Budget Reserve" (see Attachment A, page D1).

Questions:

- What is this category and what are the funds to be used for?
- Do other Programs have a "Budget Reserve," if no, why not? If yes, which Programs have this expense and how much funding is in each and how will those funds be used?
- Throughout the FY17 operating budget, it is stated that the homeless student population is growing. If this is true, why are we funds being transferred out of the expense Bus Contracts Pupil Personnel Services?
- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act (<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg116.html>) requires that students be transported to their home school and the projected number of requests for this service is estimated to increase over FY16 requests.

We are unable to determine from the FY16 budget the amount of funds dedicated to this expense.

However, the FY17 Board Request is \$484,000, so assuming that the FY16 amount appropriated for this expense was less than the \$484,000 requested for FY17, reducing it by \$100,000 (and not taking into account funds expended to date) the total amount left would be \$384,000. Will the transfer out of \$100,000 leave sufficient funds to transport homeless students for the remainder of FY16?

- If we are able to transfer out \$100,000 in FY16, is the amount that is requested for this expense (\$484,000) for FY17 an appropriate amount?

Audit Prior to Approval of Categorical Transfer

A financial and programmatic audit of the Health & Dental Fund (Program 9715) and Fixed Charges (Program 8001) should be completed prior to approval of any categorical transfers. The audit should focus on the transfer of funds from the General Fund into Program 9715 and Program 8001 and how the budget for each is developed (why projections of funds needed and remaining fund balances have been inaccurate, metrics used to determine claims amounts, etc.).

Thank you. If you have questions/need additional clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Christina Delmont-Small
delmont_small@verizon.net
703-434-2185 cell

7834 Rockburn Dr
Ellicott City, MD 21043
May 16, 2016

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

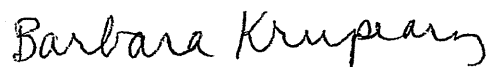
Subject: Council Resolution 60-2016

The Howard County Public School System has been transferring money out of the Special Education budget for years - \$470K in FY12, \$900K in FY14, \$1.1M in FY15, and now they are asking to transfer \$490K in FY16. In Town Hall meetings, Board of Education candidate forums, and PATH listening meetings, we consistently hear from parents and educators about the denigration of special education in HCPSS.

Please do not allow this transfer and ask the school system to focus on improving special education services instead. To this end, please also pass the County Executive's budget that fully funds special education, as well as the hiring of new teachers and the negotiated salary increases for educators.

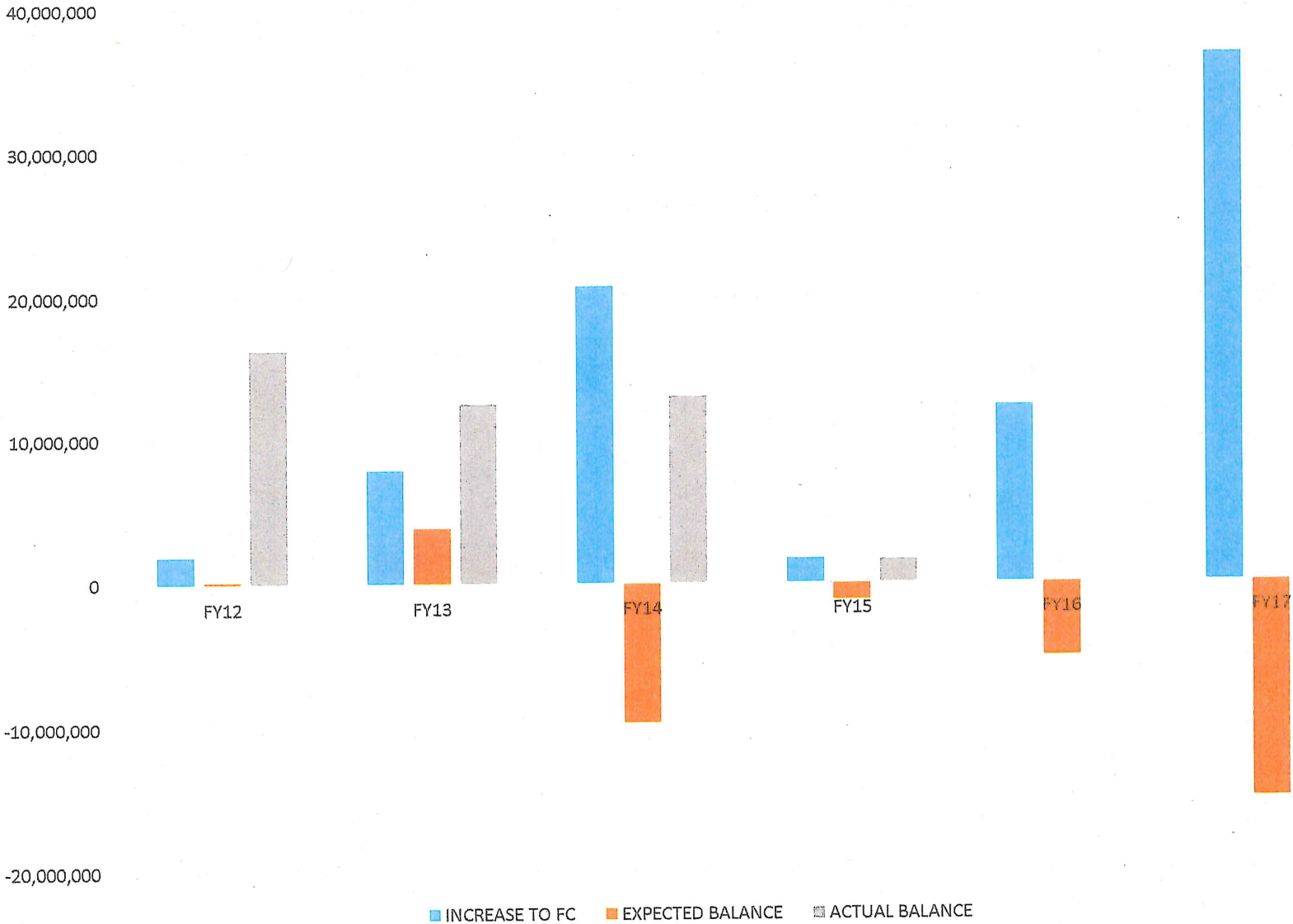
I am concerned that we are expecting hundreds of new special education students in kindergarten through 12th grade with no increase in teachers. Since our educators already feel their caseloads are too big to adequately meet the needs of special education students, HCPSS should be hiring additional special education professionals and staff. Please ask the school system to spend money on the direct instruction of students.

Respectfully,

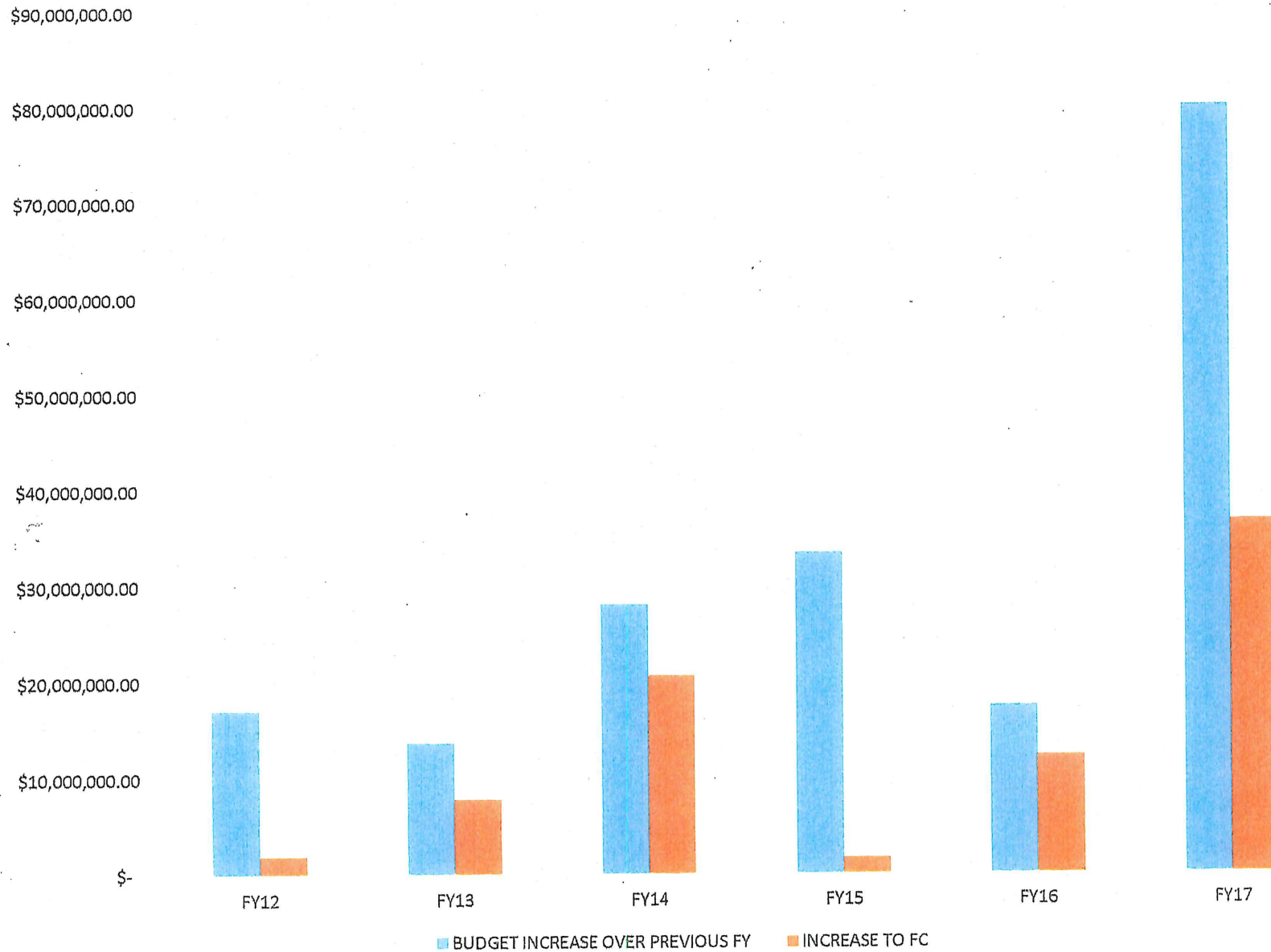


Barbara Krupiarz

Fixed Charges Budget Line Item by Fiscal Year



Operating Budget and Fixed Charges Increases over Previous Fiscal Year



Testimony of Leslie Kornreich

RE: Council Resolution 60-2016

Many of you know that I am a parent of a child with special needs. We moved here 19 years ago when someone told us, unequivocally, that Howard County Public Schools is the place to send your special needs child. I trusted them, and for many years afterward I could enthusiastically pass the same recommendation along to friends I knew were looking for a school for their special needs child. I am sad to say I cannot do that anymore.

I no longer trust that our school system leadership places any priority on special education. While insisting year after year that there are no cuts to special education, HCPSS has moved \$4.5 million out of special education in the last 6 fiscal years. The last 3 budgets have had no increase in school based teachers and support staff while projecting over 1,000 new students each year. And the money removed each year from special education has gone to fund the undisclosed location known as the "fixed charges" category.

Projections for the health fund, a major component of the fixed charges category, seem to have been made by someone in HCPSS going to Vegas and putting it all on black. The predictions have been so dire as to instill fear that HCPSS would go bankrupt from paying its share of employee health costs, when in reality this fund has wound up with millions in surpluses. What happens to all this leftover money? Shouldn't there be millions of dollars left in the health fund from previous years carried over? And before approving a single transfer, shouldn't you be able to answer these questions?

And what services are our special needs students NOT receiving with this money moved out of special education? One parent provided an example just today: "My son's SLP said they are considering a rotating schedule for delivering services to children due to a shortage of SLPs. Why would they be moving money out when we have a shortage of providers? My assumption is that teachers are being thwarted when they ask for help or report a case load that is too high and therefore only reporting to Central Office that everything is okey dokey because that's all that central office wants to hear."

Special education teachers and support staff are being "surplused" from at least 3 elementary schools next year, meaning their positions will be left vacant at the schools they are leaving.

Cutting elementary paraeducators was on the "cut or keep" survey sent out by HCPSS a couple of weeks ago.

Special education teachers, paraeducators, and related service providers all over the county are telling us, the parents, to please advocate for their needs because they are afraid to speak up for themselves. They have asked us to tell you, to tell the Board of Education, to tell anyone who will listen that the most dire need, the one that keeps them up at night and keeps them at school long past when the kids have gone home, the one that stresses them out most during the day, is lack of support. Lack of support from their leadership, lack of financial support, and lack of support staff to help teachers meet the needs of their special education students.

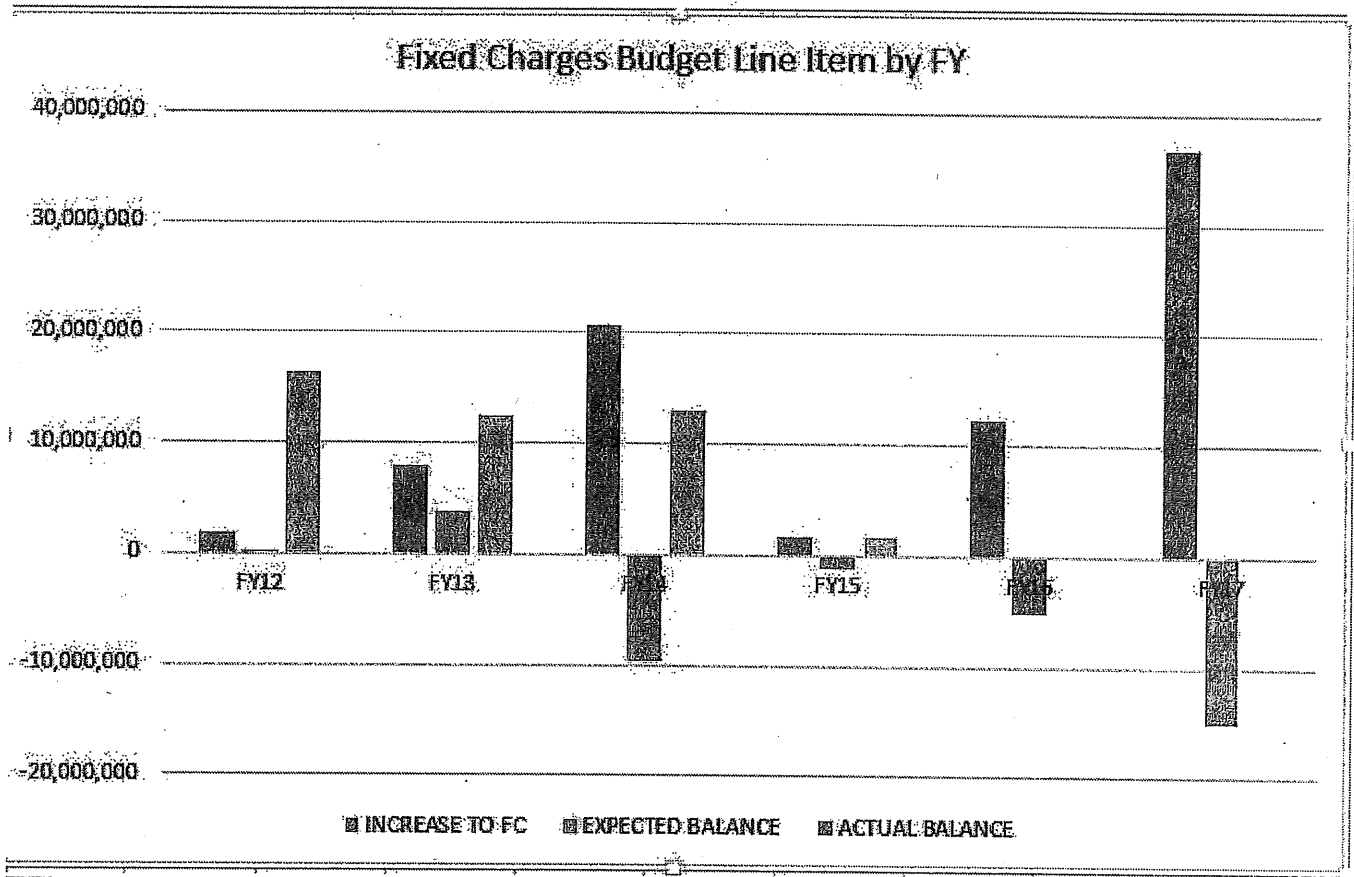
But I digress. We are here to talk about categorical transfers. I just couldn't figure out a way to talk about that without addressing the priorities they fund. Neither I, nor you, nor the members of the Board of Education themselves have the information necessary to document where every dollar removed from special education would have been spent, nor an accounting of where the money moved into fixed charges has been spent in the past and will be spent in the future. You should insist, as Cuba Gooding Jr. did in the movie Jerry Maguire, that before you approve a single transfer HCPSS must "show me the MONEY!"

(More on back)

Projected Balances in Health Fund vs. Actual Ending Balances:

(Source: the Howard County Education Association)

- 2011 Projected Balance \$0; Actual Balance \$21,642,934 (off by \$21M)
- 2012 Projected Balance \$166,640; Actual Balance \$16,342,109 (off by \$16M),
- 2013 Projected Balance \$3,964,674; Actual Balance \$12,527,992 (off by \$8M)
- 2014 Projected Balance (NEGATIVE) \$9,635,526; Actual Balance (POSITIVE) \$13,031,658 (off by \$23M).



Source: HCEA

Categorical Budget Transfers FY09 – FY15

From	To	Explanation	Amount	FY	Source
Special Education	Fixed Charges	Prefund Health Fund for FY16	\$1,100,000	FY15	4/9/15 BOE Meeting
Special Education	Fixed Charges	Prefund Health Fund for FY15	\$900,000	FY14	4/10/14 BOE Meeting
Special Education	Mid-Level Administration	To fund the 2.0 technology replacement plan for school-based administrative employees cut from the Capital Budget.	\$470,000	FY12	4/12/12 BOE Meeting
Special Education	Maintenance of Plant	Funding is available due to vacancies in Special Education salary accounts. Funding is moved to Maintenance of Plant to meet additional expenses created by the moves from Faulkner Ridge Center to Old Cedar Lane and the Ascend One building.	\$294,500	FY11	4/14/11 BOE Meeting
Special Education	Instructional Supplies	To meet technology and replacement equipment needs and support the division of Cradlerock School.	\$1,245,100	FY11	4/14/11 BOE Meeting
Total Transferred FROM Special Education to Other Programs			\$4,009,600	FY11, FY12, FY14, FY15	

(Source: HCPSS Categorical Transfer Report from BoardDocs)

(More on back)

From	To	Explanation	Amount	FY	Source
Instruction – Salaries	Special Education	Funding is available due to vacancies in Instructional Salary accounts. Funding is moved to Special Education where sufficient turnover did not occur.	\$450,000	FY10	4/15/10 BOE Meeting
Community Services	Special Education	To meet special education needs.	\$28,940	FY10	4/15/10 BOE Meeting
Operation of Plant	Special Education	Funding is available due to vacancies in Operation of Plant salary accounts. Funding is moved to Special Education where sufficient turnover did not occur. There were fewer vacancies in Special Education than in past years and contracted/temporary help funds were used to provide services where vacancies did occur.	\$620,000	FY09	4/30/09 BOE Meeting
Fixed Charges	Special Education	Funding is available due to a rate decrease for the retirement fund received after the fiscal 2009 budget was approved. Funding is moved to Special Education where sufficient turnover did not occur.	\$600,000	FY09	4/30/09 BOE Meeting
Transportation	Special Education	Funding is available due to a decrease in gas prices. Funding is moved to Special Education where sufficient turnover did not occur.	\$250,000	FY09	4/30/09 BOE Meeting
Total Transferred TO Special Education from Other Programs			\$1,948,940	FY09, FY10	

Funds Transferred FROM Special Education	\$4,009,600
Funds Transferred TO Special Education	\$1,948,940
Net Result: Funds transferred FROM Special Education	<u>\$2,060,660</u>

(Source: HCPSS Categorical Transfer Report from BoardDocs)

County Council Meeting – 5/16/16. Against Resolution 60-2016

Deeba Jafri, 5840 Rockburn Woods Way, Elkridge MD 21075

Chairman Ball, members of the County Council,

Here I am. Again. After Thursday at the Board of Education meeting. Believe me it gives me no pleasure to have to keep tabs on our education system's leadership when I could be curled up on the couch reading a book. But sometimes you just have to speak up when you know something egregious is about to take place.

I totally get that midway through the year HCPSS may need to move funds around from one category to another, I understand that. And I'm not here to argue why funds are being moved into fixed charges when the HCPSS projections have been so off and we always run a surplus there. If you have information that we don't, please enlighten us. Dealing with and trying to understand the HCPSS budget is like opening Pandora's Box. Nothing is clear. It really needs to be turned over to the Campaign for Plain English, I so wish we had that here.

Anyway, what I am here to say is don't move \$490,000 out of Special Education to fixed charges. Special Education lost \$1.1 million to fixed charge last year. There are lots of things we can do to make Special education better, things I hear from my own 4th grader from her daily observations and I have heard from special education teachers myself. They already do a really hard job brilliantly, all they care about is making their students the best that they can be. I know that one simple thing that would help is more training for the one-on-one aides. Currently they get 3 hours for the student they are dealing with, they should have at least a day. Those providing close adult supervision also need extra training.

It shocks me that we would consider shortchanging special needs children in our society. It is our duty to make sure that we maximize the potential of every child in our county education public school system.

I don't care if you're a fiscal conservative or a bleeding heart liberal it's just not the thing to do. It's not what Howard County is. Not our identity at all. "The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the famed anti-Nazi dissident and Lutheran pastor said that. I believe it is a true measure of a good, compassionate and empathetic society.

I believe Howard County is that and I believe that my county council members believe that too. I know you'll do the right thing. Hunniya believes you'll do the right thing. Send this resolution back to HCPSS. Tell them Special ed should not have funds transferred out of it. Tell them to fix it and send it back to you.

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice, LLC - 3205 B Corporate Court, Ellicott City MD 21042

Testimony on Council Resolution 60

Each year, the County Executive and County Council approves a budget for the Howard County Public School System. Later, they often come to you, to request permission to move funds around into and out of various categories, as time passes and forecasts are replaced with realities, well sometimes, and make adjustments. Historically, given their expertise and familiarity with their budget details and the needs of the system, their requests would rarely require investigation, review and research on your part.

Unfortunately, lately, we have seen, for many months now, in countless examples, the very justified lack of trust of the leadership of the School System. The Governor, and Comptroller have expressed these concerns as have other legislators in a bi-partisan way, and your constituents spoke loudly at the polls last month, all of these voices pointing out the intense need to dig into these numbers and provide oversight.

Thus, we request that you require more information about why the areas suggested to have funds removed from a category don't need those funds, especially in special education. Please ask just exactly how they are going to spend the additions to Fixed Charges. This category is made up of benefits for teachers and staff, which are self-funded. Is this requested amount going to alter the forecast in the current budget year request? Or is it going to get rolled forward, yet ignored in the dire forecast of immense deficit which then garners more from the General Fund to assist, and once money is categorized as Health/Dental, it is not to be refunded, even if the deficit never materializes.

Pay attention to this shell game, please. The funding needs of Fixed Charges are over-estimated, well beyond any rational, even conservative benefit estimate. The surpluses that materialize instead of the predicted deficits are not refunded to insureds, nor even taken into consideration to not request an increase in benefit costs to the insureds. The actual versus forecasted figures have been provided during the budget hearings. Please compare those figures to these category requests and get more information.

It appears that this type of resolution is deemed to be passed if not voted upon in 30 days. If you need more than 30 days to make your decision, then vote no, and ask them to resubmit their request, with even one dime of alteration, it can be resubmitted. I suggest this local law be amended, to allow you 60 days to make these decisions. I am sure when it was first enacted, we didn't have the problems we currently are experiencing, but times change and laws need to change with them, and your responsibility for oversight, unfortunately has to also change until the trust issues and transparency of how money is being spent is also resolved. Thank you.

Renew Howard and Bridge Columbia

Pat Gilreath [patgilreath@verizon.net]

Sent: Sunday, May 01, 2016 6:54 PM

To: CouncilMail

FILE COPY

Please retain the funds for these two programs in the budget.

Thank you!

Pat Gilreath

Sent from my inner soul

Bridge Columbia

wilda newman [wildanewman@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 9:00 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Council Members,

Please retain the Bridge Columbia funding in County Executive Kittleman's Capital Budget.

The Bridge Columbia, project B3863, has \$350,000 in FY2017 and \$500,000 in FY2018.

Please ensure that this amount is retained in the Capital Budget process. It is vital that Columbia and Howard County retain its leadership as a model community and part of that vitality is recognizing what is needed and preparing a plan to manage and then funding in order to move forward. Talk is commonplace, but talk with action is rare and required for the success of citizens and businesses alike.

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

Please fund the Bridge Columbia study and project

harringtonpr@netscape.net

Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 9:24 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council Members:

I am writing to ask that you support and fund the proposed Bridge Columbia study and related projects that arise from the study recommendations.

The current bridge is an eyesore and uninviting, and serves as a rift in the middle of an otherwise wonderful pathway that is almost complete from the hospital to Blandair Park.

A signature pedestrian bridge across Rt 29 will not only help connect the older and struggling villages of Oakland Mills and Long Reach to the expanding Town Center, but it would also provide an interesting landmark and gateway for visitors driving up the Rt 29 corridor into Columbia.

Furthermore, given the expansion of Town Center and the expected traffic as a result, a pleasant and practical pathway connecting East and West Columbia will help encourage people to bike, jog or walk to work, shopping, entertainment and restaurants.

My family with two young kids would love to feel comfortable walking in the afternoon/evening from Oakland Mills to the Lakefront for dinner and some live music on the lawn on a nice summer night. How awesome would that be? No doubt there are many other families who feel the same. Instead we have to get in our car to drive 2-3 times the distance it would take us to walk, all because we are uncomfortable walking across a path and bridge that is essentially in our back yard.

I'm not a city planner, but I have to imagine that the right kind of bridge and path network could help bring traffic to the area and invite people to use it at any time of the day, and get people out of their cars!

Please help move this project forward. There has been enough talk about it...it's time to take action!

Thank you for your support,
Pat Harrington
Stevens Forest/Oakland Mills Resident

Budget Proposals

Jervis Dorton [jervisdorton@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 2:36 PM

To: CouncilMail

FILE COPY

Dear County Council members

Here in Oakland Mills our Village Board has taken several initiatives to raise the awareness of the need to better maintain and improve our aging residences. The County Executive's budget proposal for substantial funding of Renew Howard is essential to achieving any meaningful results. Consequently I urge you to approve this item for the benefit of, not only this village, but all the older residential communities in Howard County.

Sincerely

Jervis Dorton
5963 Gales Lane
Columbia 21045
410 992 5218

Written Testimony -- Rec and Parks Budget

Elizabeth Benevides [ebenevides@hussmanfoundation.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 9:44 PM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: County Government_Funding ~1.pdf (160 KB)

Dear County Council Members,

On behalf of the Howard County Autism Society, the Maryland Coalition for Families, Special Olympics MD Howard County, and the Hussman Foundation, I am pleased to submit the attached written testimony requesting support for additional funding of therapeutic and inclusion programs offered by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of citizens and families with disabilities.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Benevides
Associate Director
Hussman Foundation / Hussman Institute for Autism
5521 Research Park Drive
Catonsville MD 21228
443.977.0513
ebenevides@hussmanfoundation.org



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

April 25, 2016

We the undersigned organizations **strongly request your support in directing the Budget Office to reconsider the allocation of funding for Therapeutic and Inclusion Programs** within the Department of Recreation and Parks.

A Coordinator 2 position, previously funded at \$60,000, has been frozen since November 2014, and much-needed program support in the amount of \$20,000 has been requested. These funds directly support our children and adults with disabilities, some of whom are the most challenged to find services in our county.

The needs of the disability community continue to grow. The Therapeutic Recreation program simply cannot address the increase in needs without this funding.

For many residents, these are the only opportunities outside of the home for after-school childcare or summer childcare and camp experience. All county residents deserve the opportunity to enjoy the many offerings of the Department of Recreation and Parks. Yet the reality is that there are many families whose children cannot participate in mainstream programs—by no fault of their own, but simply because of the severity of their disability. They need more support. They need more intensive 1:1 care. Families will pay for the fee-based services (which are costly), but due to the nature of the needs, these fees do not cover the costs. Supervision is critical. **The release of these funds to the Department of Recreation and Parks budget would ensure after-school and summer camp programs are safe, staffed with trained employees, and of the highest-quality possible.**

The Howard County Public School System encourages many parents to enroll students with disabilities in Recreation and Parks programs when they fail to meet the criteria for Extended School Year services (summer school). This puts an additional burden on the Recreation and Parks' accommodation services. If the coordinator position and additional funding were provided, these needs could be better met.

The increasing challenges of finding quality care and quality programs for children and adults with disabilities is of great importance in our county, and is something that many of us have brought to your attention in recent months.

We sincerely appreciate all of the support you have given thus far in addressing the needs of the disability community. You are a champion of many of the most vulnerable of our residents. We respectfully request your support to recommend the Budget Office release funding for the Coordinator 2 position and approve additional program funding of \$80,000 for the Therapeutic and Inclusion program.

Sincerely,

Theresa Ballinger, President, Howard County Autism Society
Elizabeth Benevides, Associate Director, The Hussman Foundation
Jane Plapinger, Executive Director, Maryland Coalition of Families
Bob Baker, Director, Special Olympics Maryland, Howard County

LARS FY17 Operating Budget Public Hearing Testimony

Stephanie Guzman [sguzman247@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 8:26 AM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: Leah Paley [lpaley@laureladvocacy.org]; sguzman@laureladvocacy.org

Attachments: LARSFY17HoCoPublicHearingT~1.pdf (84 KB)

Good morning County Council Members,

I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc. (LARS) for tonight's FY 2017 Operating Budget Public Hearing. Regretfully, I could not be there tonight to speak in person but if you should have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email at sguzman@laureladvocacy.org or by phone at (301) 776-0442 x28.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Guzman
Director of Emergency Services and Community Relations
Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.
311 Laurel Avenue Laurel, MD 20707
(301) 776-0442
www.laureladvocacy.org



LARS

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.

311 Laurel Avenue Laurel, Maryland 20707

Phone 301.776.0442 • Fax 301.604.7076 • www.laureladvocacy.org

May 4, 2016

Dr. Calvin Ball, County Council Chairman
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Good evening Chairman Ball, Vice Chairman Weinstein, and County Councilmembers:

My name is Stephanie Guzman and I am the Director of Emergency Services and Community Relations at Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc. (LARS). Each year, LARS assists upwards of 1,800 homeless and low-income individuals and families experiencing a crisis by providing both emergency and long-term services designed to promote self-sufficiency. LARS provides support services to residents of the Greater Laurel area including food, funds to prevent evictions, first month's rent and security deposit assistance, transitional & permanent housing, case management and resource referrals, employment assistance, holiday gifts and food, educational programs, and more.

I am writing you all to thank you for committing \$15,000 in Community Service Partnership (CSP) Program funding for fiscal year 2017, so that we can continue to provide emergency financial assistance to low income and homeless Laurel residents. We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with the County Council about the operating budget and the need to maintain and restore adequate funding for the programs that serve those most in need in Laurel. I am asking that you consider providing additional funding to LARS' Community Service Partnership (CSP) Program funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Your increased commitment of CSP Program funding for fiscal year 2017 will help LARS meet the growing need we are experiencing in our community. From 2014 to 2015, LARS assisted 200 Laurel households with rental and utility stipends and food assistance totaling \$33,250. LARS assisted 24 households with securing permanent housing, avoiding eviction, and maintaining or restoring power to their homes. Of these 24 households, 95% of them resolved their crisis within two weeks. 176 households were provided food assistance to combat food insecurity with only 47% of them returning within 60 days. 272 households received advocacy services with 100% reporting that the referrals and resources they were given were useful. These statistics

show that LARS is providing effective service delivery to a growing number of Laurel residents in Howard County.

In the past LARS relied on the matching funds from the Fannie Mae Foundation, Help the Homeless Program, through which LARS raised over \$115,000 a year from 2009-2012. However, The Fannie Mae Foundation has now completely retired the program. The loss of this program as well as additional grant assistance for our chronically homeless clients has made it very difficult for LARS to continue to meet the needs of the community. Our continued concern is having enough funding to be able to address the needs of the community adequately and without reallocating our limited operations and general overhead budget to accommodate the loss of funding.

The funding allocated to LARS to support the services we provide will greatly help LARS meet the growing need in our community. We appreciate Howard County Council's support for the fiscal year 2017 level of \$15,000 and ask that the County Council provide some measure of additional funds that allow LARS to continue serving the most vulnerable in this time of budget cuts and economic instability. These funds will go directly to the County's most disadvantaged residents in Laurel. We look forward to carrying out our mission and ask for the County's continued support and aid.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Guzman
LARS Director of Emergency Services and Community Relations
sguzman@laureladvocacy.org

Thank you for your support

Page 1 of 1

Thank you for your support

Keyanna Turner [kturner@archoward.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 11:39 AM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: CSP Grant Letter.pdf (313 KB)

Good morning,

Please see attached letter.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Keyanna

Keyanna Turner
Resource Development Coordinator and Executive Assistant
The Arc of Howard County
11735 Homewood Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Direct: (410) 730-0638 Ext. 226
Fax: (410) 730-0730
Email: kturner@archoward.org
Website: www.archoward.org



Achieve with us.

May 4, 2016

OFFICERS

Dorothy Plantz
President
Howard Community College

William Erskine
Vice-President
Ofit Kurman

Pam Guzzone
Secretary
Community Advocate

Jane Padgett
Treasurer
M&T Bank

Ed Wilson
President Emeritus
Constellation

DIRECTORS

Jeffrey Armiger
BB&T

Alex Barnes
People Power

Cathy M. Cope
*Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services*

Peter Della-Croce
Merrill Lynch

Joseph R. Geld
PNC Wealth Management

Phil Kiracofe
Gooseworks Consulting

Catherine Raggio
Community Advocate

Doreen Shing
Self-Advocate

Sarah Hochbaum
Community Advocate

Milke Lewis
*Ourisman Hyundai and Chrysler
Dodge, Jeep & Ram*

Michael Munoz
Howard Bank

Kathy Rama Tellis
Community Advocate

STAFF

Cindy Parr
Executive Director

Susan M. Haynes
Assoc. Executive Director of Admin.

Deborah L. Wagner
Assoc. Executive Director of Services

THE ARC OF HOWARD COUNTY

11735 Homewood Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
T 410 730 0638 F 410 730 0730 www.archoward.org

County Executive Allan Kittleman
Howard County Government
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the County Council for your support and recognition of human service organizations for the vital work they do in Howard County. Specifically we would like to thank you for the assistance you provide The Arc of Howard County. As you know, we offer supports and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are extremely appreciative of the \$159,750 we receive through the Community Service Partnership Grants program, administered by the Department of Citizen Services. These funds are critical for our organization as they support the following services provided by The Arc of Howard County:

- **Respite Care:** This program provides quality temporary care for children and adults at our Respite Care home located in Columbia. These services are provided on a daily, weekly, and weekend basis.
- **Residential Maintenance:** A support service that provides routine maintenance for the 50 Howard County homes that serve as residences for people supported by The Arc. We also annually choose maintenance projects that will make these homes more accessible and energy efficient.

Without these funds, we would not be able to provide this program and offer respite to families who are the primary caregivers for their disabled loved ones. Our residential maintenance of 50 homes would also be difficult to accomplish without CSP grant support. You can only imagine what it takes to maintain the home quality standard expected in Howard County. Many of the people we support have the opportunity to age in place because of our ability to offer this necessary service for their homes.

Again, thank you for your continued support of The Arc of Howard County.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Plantz, President
Board of Directors
Arc of Howard County

Cindy Parr
Executive Director
Arc of Howard County

budget testimony - Kimberly Bronow

Feldmark, Jessica

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 3:25 PM

To: Ball, Calvin B; Fox, Greg; Greg Fox (Greg.Fox@Constellation.com); Weinstein, Jon; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Terrasa, Jen

Cc: Sayers, Margery

Attachments: KDorseyBronow Howard Coun~1.DOCX (23 KB)

Council Members,

Please see attached budget testimony from Kimberly Bronow.

Thanks,

Jess

Jessica Feldmark

Administrator

Howard County Council

410-313-3111

jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov

Testimony in Support of Proposed \$250,000 Funding to Support Planned Expansion of Howard County Conservancy's Environmental Education Center

Submitted on 05/04/16 by Kimberly Dorsey Bronow

kdorseybronow@gmail.com

410-480-1608

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the proposed \$250,000 funding of Howard County Conservancy's planned expansion. My name is Kimberly Dorsey Bronow. I live at 4416 Whispering Willow Drive in Ellicott City. I'm honored to serve on the Howard County Conservancy's board.

Thank you, County Executive Kittleman, for including \$250,000 in this year's proposed operating budget as Howard County's match to the second of two \$250,000 bond bills approved by the State of Maryland, which was put forward with support from the Howard County Delegation. This proposed match demonstrates Howard County's joined commitment with the State of Maryland to support and help ensure – along with the growing number of local businesses, community organizations, individuals including many Howard County citizens, and private and family foundations who have already pledged or donated funding for the expansion – the bright future of the Howard County Conservancy. The proposed County funding is critical to the Conservancy's ability to achieve its fundraising goal and break ground as planned this fall.

Founded 25 years ago by local citizens, the Howard County Conservancy is an exceptional organization with a long track record of offering high quality programs. The Conservancy is led by a small, talented, highly committed and passionate staff, powered by hundreds of Howard County volunteers, and serves many thousands, including over 10,000 students, year in and year out.

It is at once a local gem, a state treasure and a regional model. Investing in the future of the Conservancy through this funding for the planned \$1.8 million expansion of the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center, which is the heart of the Conservancy and the gateway to all that the 232-acre main property has to offer, is a wise investment for the County.

The Conservancy is a place that inspires, and is a source and hub of, community and sustainability as well as leadership and innovation.

Starting with leadership and innovation, as just one example, the Conservancy, through its unique and deep collaboration with the Howard County Public School System, created the Watershed Report Card program. Through this program, which is currently being funded by a \$310,000 federal grant from NOAA, students from every high school in the county serve as both scientists and civic advocates in evaluating the health of local watersheds and presenting their data to public officials. At this time, 11 Maryland city/county school systems are actively interested in seeing this program go statewide.

Unveiled at the 2016 Watershed Report Card Summit last month was an improved stream survey tool for student and citizen scientists. Through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), students this year helped to create a set of stream protocols that are student-friendly but also align with the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) protocols. This new Conservancy/DNR branded tool will help ensure higher quality student data in the future. Maryland DNR has adopted this improved tool for use with its citizen science program, Stream Waders, which surveys more than 100 streams across the state annually.

The Conservancy is a place that welcomes and serves everyone, children and adults of all ages, often for free or little cost. It fosters and sustains community and harmony – bringing individuals, families and neighbors from every culture and every tradition together – to learn about, enjoy and protect our natural resources which we all share and depend on.

It's a place where generations spend time learning and growing together. Where elders, whether grandparents and master naturalists or camp counselors and student scientists and civic-advocates, teach and inspire their youngers, and where the very youngest teach us right back in so many profound ways.

It's a place where families come for reunions, where businesses come for retreats, where couples come to marry. It's a place where Scouts demonstrate their community service, and where so many county organizations like the Howard County Bird Club and the Howard Astronomical League, bring their members and host public events. It's a place, where Master Gardeners side-by-side with "everyday" neighbors grow vegetables and tend public gardens and trails. It's a place where historical societies help re-tell the stories of Howard County's past and where you can walk back in time and explore historic buildings. It's a place that inspires through both art and science. It's a place where all can spend time among the plants and creatures and natural wonders of the streams, meadows, woods and skies.

The Conservancy does all this and more as it connects people with nature. Connecting people with nature is essential work.

When we are in nature, we are reminded that we are part of something bigger than ourselves and that we depend on each other.

When we are in nature, we are immersed in the wisdom of diversity – which is that each of us belongs, each of us has an important role to play, and each of us has unique gifts that are essential to the whole.

Where do we go when we need to find clarity or get grounded and restore balance or remind ourselves we are strong enough? We go to the beach, we walk in the woods, we work in the garden, we go out on the water, we climb a mountain.

When we are in nature, the beauty that surrounds us reconnects us with our senses – with our common sense. In nature, we come to know what our grandparents and their grandparents knew. They knew the wisdom of the cycle of the seasons – the growth and flexibility of spring, the partnership and maturation of summer, the harvesting and letting go of autumn, and the dying off and stillness of winter, a time to conserve and recharge in order to grow again.

Attending to and being attuned to nature is essential to our humanity and our health. (Our common sense tells us this, and, for those wishing to quantify the unquantifiable, study after scientific study linking spending time in nature with a myriad of benefits is just beginning to back this up.)

Likewise, the work of the Howard County Conservancy – connecting people to nature – is essential to the well-being, community, and sustainability of Howard County.

I urge you all to heartily support and approve the proposed funding in its entirety. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks!

Page 1 of 1

Thanks!

David Stancil [dcstancil@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 4:03 PM

To: CouncilMail

Friends,

Thank you for all you do to make Howard County such a great place to live!

I'm writing to encourage you to retain the funding for Bridge Columbia and Renew Howard in the upcoming County budget. Both of these projects are critical for sustaining the quality of life we've come to enjoy in HoCo.

Sincerely,

Dave Stancil

Pastor

Columbia Baptist Fellowship

Oakland Mills Interfaith Center

--

Live Simply, Love Generously,
Care Deeply, Speak Kindly,
And Trust in God Who Loves You.

Testimony in support of HCEDA budget

John Jolly [johnsjolly@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 4:36 PM

To: CouncilMail

To the County Council:

As a Howard County resident and a local entrepreneur I was delighted to see that the County Executive has allocated both a marketing as well as incentive/seed fund budget to HCEDA/MCE. In an increasingly competitive economic development environment, these two funds will go a long way towards helping the EDA support Howard County based companies across their entire lifecycle from startup to launch.

More specifically the funds will I believe better able EDA to attract companies to Howard County and support the companies that are already here. They will also enable EDA to make sure companies are aware of what EDA and the MCE can provide in the way of support, and enable the MCE to create programs and content to assist start-ups.

Howard County has tremendous natural advantages for start-ups, this funding will help the HCEDA/MCE leverage those advantages and create local jobs.

John Jolly
5325 Chase Lions Way, Columbia MD 21044

Budget Testimony -- Recreation & Parks Board

Feldmark, Jessica

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 5:24 PM

To: Ball, Calvin B; Fox, Greg; Greg Fox (Greg.Fox@Constellation.com); Weinstein, Jon; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Terrasa, Jen

Cc: Glendenning, Craig; Sayers, Margery

Attachments: CalvinBall Letter FY17 bud~1.pdf (143 KB)

See attached...

Thanks,
Jess

Jessica Feldmark
Administrator
Howard County Council
410-313-3111
jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov



Howard County

RECREATION & PARKS

7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, Maryland 21046

John R. Byrd, Director
jbyrd@howardcountymd.gov

Phone: 410-313-4640
www.howardcountymd.gov/rap

Fax: 410-313-1699
Tdd: 410-313-2323

May 4, 2016

Dr. Calvin Ball, Councilmember
Howard County Council
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043-4392

RE: FY-17 Budget Request

Dear Dr. Ball,

I'm writing to request the support of the County Council for County Executive Allan Kittleman's proposed FY 17 budget, and specifically for that proposed for the department of Recreation and Parks. Each month the Board hears about accomplishments and services provided by the Department and we're very proud of what we hear. We also hear about challenges and service demands that are inevitable as the county population grows. Every area of the department is facing funding challenges and it remains difficult to keep up with demand. We know you realize this, and Recreation and Parks is not alone. The FY 17 DRP budget proposal provides a modest increase in operational areas including park rangers, overtime for staff to provide coverage for programs at parks and facilities, additional program funding for therapeutic recreation services, supplies, materials and contingent staff and some restoration of funding from prior year cuts. We appreciate your consideration and support of the FY 17 budget.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair
Recreation and Parks Board

FW: Baldwin Common electricity

Terrasa, Jen

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 6:06 PM

To: CouncilMail

Please see the email below regarding Baldwin Commons

Thanks,

Kate McLeod

Special Assistant

Councilwoman Jen Terrasa, District 3

George Howard Building

3430 Court House Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

410-313-3108

From: Sara Vermillion [mailto:speedy.vee@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 7:41 PM

To: Wilson, B Diane; Terrasa, Jen; McLeod, Kate

Cc: Brian Clifford

Subject: Baldwin Common electricity

Jen, Kate, and Diane,

While I'm back from England this week, I won't be able to attend tomorrow's public hearing on the proposed Howard County Operating Budget. I'd like to submit the following letter in support of the budget line item funding electricity for Baldwin Common. I looked on the Howard County website and did not find a link for submitting this electronically. Please let me know if I missed something.

Hope all is well!

Sara

Thank you for including funding in the proposed operating budget to provide outdoor electrical sources on Baldwin Common in Savage. We sincerely support this project. For several years, members of the Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute have been exploring options with County staff for installing such sources on the Common. While the staff have been very helpful in identifying options, the price tag has always been prohibitive for the community. Our reasons for wanting electricity on the Common are twofold. First, eliminating yards and yards of extension cords and rubber mats radiating across the ground from Baldwin Hall to the Common will significantly improve safety by reducing the tripping hazard and minimizing exposure of electrical connections to the elements, particularly during the winter months when the tree is lit for 6-8 weeks. Second, a source of electricity directly on Baldwin Common will greatly facilitate the setup and enjoyment of events there, such as Savage Fest and the Holiday Lighting event. A substantial amount of effort has gone into planning how to provide electricity for each of those events that have grown into county-wide attractions, so not having to worry about that logistical detail—including hauling out those heavy mats--will be a huge source of relief.

Regards,

Sara Vermillion

Brian Clifford

Bridge Columbia

Page 1 of 1

4/28 - 4/28

FILE COPY

Bridge Columbia

Chrisgphillips1 [chrisgphillips1@verizon.net]

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 2:25 PM

To: CouncilMail

Please preserve or increase funding for Bridge Columbia. It will give Columbia an iconic identity and pull together East and West Columbia: Blandaire Park and the Mall, the Community College, and the hospital.

Chris Phillips

FY 2017 Capital Budget: Downtown Columbia Bridge (Bridge Columbia)

Cathy Spain [cathyspain@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 2:00 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Councilmembers:

I write to support the proposed funding for Bridge Columbia in the capital budget proposal submitted by County Executive Kittleman. I support a new bridge for several reasons:

1. Redevelopment of Oakland Mills: It will help to attract investment for the redevelopment of Oakland Mills Village Center. Developers have told our Village Board that better access to Downtown Columbia will make Oakland Mills a more desirable location for investment.
2. Remedy for Traffic Congestion and Parking Demand: It will provide better transportation options to drivers and non-drivers making Columbia less auto-centric. I avoid Downtown Columbia and the Mall currently at certain times of the year and on certain days. With the growth that is projected in residential units, entertainment facilities, and commercial space, parking and congestion will make Downtown Columbia an even less desirable destination. Providing better access to Downtown is good for business as well as residents.
3. Transit Option for Seniors and Others: I strongly support the goal of making Columbia a bikeable/walkable community. However, with the aging of our population in Columbia and Howard County, attention must also be given to seniors and others who need more and better transit options. I support the development of a circulator bus system that connects Wilde Lake, Downtown Columbia, and Oakland Mills to facilitate movement in Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods. Circulators have proven very successful in many communities. They have routes that are easy to understand and the service frequency encourages use. A transit/bike/pedestrian bridge over Route 29 will facilitate this type of service along the corridor extending from Howard County General Hospital and Howard Community College to Blandair Park and through Downtown Columbia. There are a myriad of commercial, educational, recreational, and religious and other destinations along this route.
4. Safety and Security: The current bridge is so narrow it does not meet current standards for bike/pedestrian pathways. It should be wider to make the shared use pathway a safer experience for bicyclists and pedestrians. Many residents in Oakland Mills do not use the bridge because the pathway leading to the bridge is deemed unsafe. One way to provide a sense of security is to have more eyes on the street with regular bus service and to give residents the option of riding a bus to and from Downtown Columbia.
5. A Gateway to Columbia: The current bridge is an eyesore—a rusty, enclosed cage. A new, iconic bridge will stand as a gateway to the beautiful, planned community of Columbia and will be emblematic of Columbia and Howard County's commitment to sustainability.

As a member of the core group of Friends of Bridge Columbia and a 39-year resident of Oakland Mills, I urge your support for Bridge Columbia in the FY 2017 capital budget. Thank you.

Cathy Spain
President
The Spain Group LLC
6167 Camelback Lane

Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 730-9568 (o)
(443) 538-1201 (m)
cathyspain@verizon.net

Bridge Columbia

Gwen Martinsen [gmartins19@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 12:23 PM

To: CouncilMail

I am opposed to retaining funding for Bridge Columbia, project B3863, \$350,000 in FY2017 and \$500,000 in FY2018 in the County Executive's Capital Budget.

It is my firm conviction that this entire project is not a good use of county and taxpayers money. Those who are promoting the project are not considering what could be done with the money that would benefit the entire Columbia community nor are they considering the negative impacts of the plan on the neighborhoods involved.

Gwen L. Martinsen, Ph.D.

support Bridge Columbia

Joan Aron [joanaron@ymail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 11:34 AM

To: CouncilMail

To: Howard County Council

From: Joan L. Aron, 5457 Marsh Hawk Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Please support Bridge Columbia funding in the County Executive's Capital Budget under project B3863. In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the amounts are \$350,000 and \$500,000. Oakland Mills Village will benefit from this project.

Thank you

RENEW Howard & Bridge Columbia

Lindsay Cox [lindsay.m.cox@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 11:09 AM

To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan

Good morning,

I am writing as a citizen of Howard County in the Oakland Mills neighborhood of Columbia to urge the council to retain Allan Kittleman's proposed budget for the RENEW HOWARD project for the next fiscal year. Our neighborhood is made up of predominately older homes, many in need of revitalization but belong to lower income families who cannot afford the necessary repairs. This money will be very helpful in allowing current homeowners to make updates to their homes, which will keep our property values up, and will entice local businesses to stay in the area. Please support Allan Kittleman's budget proposal.

I am also writing to urge you to retain the Bridge Columbia funding in the County Executive's Capital Budget. The bridge is in need of major repairs to make it safer. It is a great connector between central Columbia and our community, but it is unsafe at night time. We need more lighting and repairs to make it truly a commuter option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

~Lindsay Cox~

FILE COPY

1967-1968

1968-1969

1969-1970

1970-1971

1971-1972

1972-1973

1973-1974

1974-1975

1975-1976

1976-1977

1977-1978

1978-1979

1979-1980

1980-1981

1981-1982

1982-1983

1983-1984

1984-1985

1985-1986

1986-1987

1987-1988

1988-1989

1989-1990

1990-1991

1991-1992

1992-1993

1993-1994

1994-1995

1995-1996

1996-1997

1997-1998

1998-1999

1999-2000

2000-2001

2001-2002

2002-2003

2003-2004

2004-2005

2005-2006

2006-2007

2007-2008

2008-2009

2009-2010

2010-2011

2011-2012

Support RENEW HOWARD project in county budget

Barbara Russell [babsrussell@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 3:03 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to ask that you support the County Executive's request for funds in the FY2017 Howard County Budget for the RENEW HOWARD loan program. This program will be a great help to those residents who live in homes that are in need of major repairs or general upkeep but who may not be able to pay for the entire cost without some financial help such as would be provided by this program.

RENEW HOWARD would not only benefit individual home owners but their communities -- such as Oakland Mills -- as well. RENEW HOWARD would have individual home owners, the county and lending institutions all working together for the benefit of all involved.

As someone who is living in a now 45 year old home on a retirement income I can tell you that home repairs and general upkeep are a financial challenge. Also, an older community such as Oakland Mills has a significant number of homes that currently are in need of repair and the RENEW HOWARD program would most likely benefit our village as well.

Thank you for considering my request.

Barbara L. Russell
9474 Wandering Way
Columbia, MD 21045

Re: Annotated Testimony on HCPSS Capital and Operating Budget, as requested

Doug Kornreich [kornreich@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 7:00 PM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: Exhibit E _Transcript of m~1.pdf (698 KB)

Attached is the transcript of the meeting between the Howard County Delegation and the acting State Superintendent. Page 11 is the part where they discuss the level of review that the State Superintendent conducted of the contract.

Basically they conducted no review. "We don't receive the contract" says the State Superintendent.

The point is the State conducts virtually no supervision over the Board of Education despite its theoretical power to do so. It is up to you and the County Executive to use the available tools to conduct the appropriate checks and balances over the Board of Education.

Thanks,

Doug Kornreich

From: Doug Kornreich <kornreich@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 3:32:05 PM

To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Subject: Annotated Testimony on HCPSS Capital and Operating Budget, as requested

Dear Council members:

Thank you for allowing me to testify on Monday night in support of the County Executive's proposed operating budget for HCPSS. After I testified, you requested that I provide the testimony along with supporting documentation. I am sending that in this email. I am including my original testimony, and then adding explanatory comments and documents that support my assertions.

Testimony of Douglas Kornreich – April 25, 2016
In favor of the County Executive's Proposed Budget for HCPSS

In my day job, I am a government contracts attorney who works in the areas of contract competitions, conflicts of interest, and outsourcing. The Superintendent with the cooperation of a majority of the School Board has been fleecing the taxpayers of Howard County over the past several years in diverting funds away from education and towards her cronies and towards her personal self-promotion. I applaud the County Executive's attempt to provide some supervision of the profligate spending by supporting classroom education but cutting the bloat of expenses from the central office.

1. Dr. Foose is a member (paid for by our tax dollars) of the District Management Council. This DMC is a for-profit entity. Although the superintendent is a member of this organization, the school system handed them a non-competitive contract for \$300,000 for a study of special education. And when that was not enough, DMC came back and was given another non-competitive \$100,000 contract to study

custodial services.

Supporting documentation

Information on the District Management Council:

As background, here are three articles about the District Management Council and its efforts to fleece school systems nationwide -

"School Austerity Measures come to the suburbs" (See Exhibit A - attached)

"Cashing in on Special Needs Kids" (<http://www.progressive.org/news/2015/10/188342/cashing-special-needs-kids>)

"Who's your Daddy? A superintendent or the District Management Council?" (<http://www.brightlightsmallcity.com/whos-your-daddy-a-superintendent-or-the-district-management-council/>)

Specifics about the Sole Source, noncompetitive contracts to DMC:

DMC was handed a non-competitive contract to conduct a special education audit for Howard County Schools for \$300,000. Meanwhile Montgomery County, MD, schools (a much larger district) conducted a competition; and awarded a contract for a Special Education Audit for only \$150,000. (See Exhibit B - Attached)

Montgomery County actually received a product that was made publicly available. Howard County taxpayers still have not been given whatever report was actually produced, including the response to Councilperson Terrasa's request.

DMC was given an additional non-competitive \$100,000 contract to study custodial services in 2014. (See Exhibit C - Attached)

Specifics about the Membership in DMC:

The membership in DMC is specifically written into Dr. Foose's contract with HCPSS. I do not have a copy of the contract, but I would hope they would provide it to you upon request. I can try to locate a copy but it will take time.

The invoices (Exhibit D - Attached) were provided in response to a public information act request asking for invoices for Dr. Foose's DMC membership that is contained in her contract.

2. Then there is Dr. Foose's relationship with Jeffrey Krew. Krew was Dr. Foose's personal attorney who negotiated her first contract with the school system. As soon as she got into office, she laid off the two attorneys who were salaried employees of the school system, only to replace them with her choice of Krew as outside counsel. He again switched sides to represent her against the Board of Education in negotiating her second contract earlier this year. In the first place, that was an obvious conflict of

interest. Second, not only have the legal bills skyrocketed, but the only ones giving legal advice to the school system are billing by the hour and are beholden to the Superintendent's goodwill. They are not employees tasked with doing the right thing. We can see the results of this in how the school system's public information act responses, mold issues and the lack of incentive to treat parents as partners in the special education world. Now we are paying over \$800,000 a year for legal services instead of \$200-300,000. The conflicts are everywhere, and the taxpayers are paying the price.

Supporting documentation

In 2011, the head of the Special Education Department, Patricia Daley, testified that the second in-house attorney, Dan Furman, who was dedicated to special education worked well and was a cost-effective way to handle the special education needs of the system.

See 2:28:30 of the video,

<http://hcpstv.new.swagit.com/videos/3578>

Despite the Board having just determined it was more economical to use in house counsel, Dr. Foose ordered the Board to lay off the attorneys. The savings claimed in the article were clearly fraudulent as they did not expect to need zero legal services.

<http://thedailyrecord.com/2012/09/25/howard-schools-expel-in-house-counsel/>

Mr. Krew had not bid on or performed general legal work for HCPSS as can be seen from "Exhibit P-3" of this link:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/8LAKCB512CE0/\\$file/09%2008%202011%20Bids%20and%20Contracts%20BR.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/8LAKCB512CE0/$file/09%2008%202011%20Bids%20and%20Contracts%20BR.pdf)

Also note the selection committee in 2011 consisted of the in-house counsel, the director of purchasing, and a Board Member who also happened to be an attorney (Frank Aquino).

Upon Dr. Foose's hiring, her personal counsel, Mr. Krew, immediately bid to perform general legal work for HCPSS and was immediately selected. Note the selection committee consisted of no attorneys, no board members, and no procurement specialists. The committee consisted solely of people that directly reported to Dr. Foose.

[http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/92FT4F758A2D/\\$file/12%2003%202012%20Bids%20and%20Contracts%20Addition%20BR.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/92FT4F758A2D/$file/12%2003%202012%20Bids%20and%20Contracts%20Addition%20BR.pdf)

Now our legal expenditures are approximately \$800,000 a year instead of the \$200,000 for two in-house attorneys immediately before Dr. Foose was hired.

Moreover this conflict did not end upon his getting a large share of the County's legal work. When Dr. Foose negotiated her second contract last year, Mr. Krew again switched sides to represent Dr. Foose against the school system in the negotiations. Clearly he is representing Dr. Foose's interests and she is rewarding him with unnecessarily large legal fees out of our tax dollars.

3. Another example -- the unnecessary addition of MAP Testing, a test that at best is redundant and useless, but additionally diverts large dollar amounts to yet another sole-sourced for-profit company, again without competition.

Dr. Foose brought the "Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)" Testing regime to Howard County. These tests are ostensibly administered to help teachers differentiate education. However, the results of them come back so late that they are no use to teachers actually teaching the children, and they are no use to teachers and principals trying to make placement decisions for the next school year. Moreover two weeks of instruction are lost to administering this series of tests which is IN ADDITION TO the required PARCC/MSA testing scheme. Seattle, a similarly sized school system (slightly over 50,000 students) spends approximately \$500,000 a year on MAP testing, I expect HCPSS spends a similar amount. And that does not even include the time wasted, extra test preparation time and loss of the use of media centers and other rooms set aside for the testing.

Moreover, the US Department of Education funded a study of the actual utility of MAP testing on student achievement in reading and found no benefit to its use:

"The results of the study indicate that the MAP program was implemented with moderate fidelity but that MAP teachers were not more likely than control group teachers to have applied differentiated instructional practices in their classes. Overall, the MAP program did not have a statistically significant impact on students' reading achievement in either grade 4 or grade 5." (this is the conclusion in the Executive summary, page xii)

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midwest/pdf/REL_20134000.pdf

See, also, "15 reasons why the Seattle School District Should Shelve the MAP Test" (<https://seattleducation2010.wordpress.com/2011/03/15/15-reasons-why-the-seattle-school-district-should-shelve-the-map%C2%AE-test%E2%80%9494asap/>)

4. Furthermore, Dr. Foose has spent taxpayer funds to curry favor with the Board of Education – for example by giving favored Board members trips to China. Ostensibly there was supposed to be some benefit to the school system by interacting with China, but she picked three Board Members to accompany her: Ann DeLacy, Ellen Flynn Giles and Frank Aquino. The selection of Aquino to accompany her was particularly egregious. He was selected to go on the trip after he already had announced he was not seeking re-election to the Board of Education. This trip was taken in November 2013, Aquino left the board immediately after returning as his term ended at the end of November 2013. It was clear that there was no proper purpose for his trip, Dr. Foose was apparently rewarding her supporters on the board. More recently the school system paid over \$5,000 a piece for Leadership Howard, which again serves no educational purpose, for preferred board members: Ann DeLacy, Ellen Giles, and Christine O'Connor. This is yet another example of Dr. Foose buying loyalty from select board members by rewarding them with taxpayer funds unrelated to the educational purposes of the Board of Education.

Supporting documentation

"Supt. Foose, Board of Education Members to Visit China". (<http://patch.com/maryland/ellcottcity/supt-foose-board-of-education-members-to-visit-china>)

Frank Aquino's Linked in Profile -- showing he left the Board of Education in December 2014. (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/fjaquino>)

5. When Dr. Foose's contact was renewed this year, the review of that contract was supposed to be done by the State Superintendent. However, he approved it without even reading the terms of the contract.

I wanted to get this to you and I do not have Exhibit E in my possession, though I have seen it in the past. I am attempting to obtain it, but you can verify that there was no review of the terms of the contract by the state superintendent before he signed it by talking with Del. Warren Miller, Del. Frank Turner or other members of the Howard County Legislative Delegation who were present at the meeting with the State Superintendent. They has asked for the meeting to discuss the contract before the approval, but arrived at the meeting only to find that he had already signed it and did not even read its terms and conditions. I will forward the transcript in a separate email as soon as I receive it.

Exhibit E, (to follow), Transcript of meeting between the Howard County Delegation and the Acting State Superintendent.

6. State law requires that the Board of Education get approval of the County Council to transfer items between major categories. See Md. EDUCATION Code Ann. § 5-105 (b) (Exhibit F, Attached). Specifically:

"(2) A transfer **between major categories** shall be made only with the approval of the county commissioners or county council."

Supporting documentation

The Howard County Board of Education has ignored this law for several years, blithely moving money between categories without seeking approval by the County Council.

See Exhibit G, containing transfers between major categories over the past several fiscal years. To the best of my knowledge, those were never sent to the County Council for approval. Obviously you are in a better position to know how that process actually did or did not happen.

7. Now we discover that on April 12, the Ethics Board found Ann DeLacy violated the school system ethics policy earlier this year by soliciting employees for funds over the school's email system -- yet the board took no action in response.

Supporting documentation

"Howard school board member defends use of staff email addresses for fundraising" (<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/howard/columbia/ph-ho-cf-delacy-fundraising-emails-0324-20160318-story.html>)

Ethics Board response, dated April 12, 2016 (Exhibit H, attached).

So with HCPSS, we have a purchasing system rife with cronyism, conflicts of interest, and no meaningful checks and balances on their day to day activities. The County Executive is trying to use the available

tools to protect education, while at the same time reining in this corrupt behavior. Please support his efforts to do just that, and please use all the tools at your disposal to require budget compliance as well.

Thank you.

Douglas Kornreich

Transcription of Meeting between members of the Howard County
Delegation and Dr. Jack Smith, acting Maryland Superintendent of Schools.

February 24, 2016

Source: Audio file from Delegate Warren Miller, recording at the meeting.
Transcribed by Lisa Markovitz (as best as could be heard).

WM: Delegate Warren Miller

JS: Jack Smith

SP: Delegate Shane Pendergrass

EE: Delegate Eric Ebersole

TH: Delegate Terri Hill

FT: Delegate Frank Turner

TK: Delegate Trent Kittleman

GG: Senator Guy Guzzone

WM: Okay, so to start with some, some history. We have a very active community in Howard County; people are very concerned about the schools. I would say it's the number one reason people live...move to Howard County. They want great schools for their kids, and over the last several years, it's come to light that there are some serious maintenance issues predominately with roofs in our schools. The Board of Public Works has been aware of this since at least 2009, if not before that. My concern, the constituents' concerns kind of focus around, we are a wealthy county, we get a lot of money from the state, we don't, my constituents feel the schools are not being maintained in a standard that should exist in the schools in Maryland. We think the budgeting for it is not been properly approached. Their concerns are because these same constituents started with the School Superintendent and the School Board. In those concerns were not heard. So at that point we started hearing it, and I think I can speak for everyone here, that we've all been contacted with various concerns, various issues some of it has to do with the openness of the board and the way they're conducting their business with the Superintendent. Some of it has to do with the way the Superintendent is conducting herself. Recently, we had lots of concerns lots of people

contacted us, for her contract renewal it was very hard for the average citizen to walk into the boardroom and listen to the proceedings for the contract renewal. So, at that I am going to kind of stop but I want you to hear that. I don't really have a question for you, but that's part of this. I'm sure there will be some questions up at this point, if any other member wants to ask questions or comment, or if you want to respond to what I've said you're welcome to.

JS: Well, I would have no specific response to what you shared because I have no first-hand knowledge or no..

WM: Right, well that's part of the....

JS: . of any of what you shared with me, and you know in terms of receiving any information, uh, through any system that the State Superintendent's involvement I've certainly not.... I see, and so I have heard discussions about rumors and other things in that role, andthose who.... I seek responsibility ... but as far as any first-hand knowledge I have not....

TK: What would be the superintendent's role in a situation like this if any? Is it completely within the county? Or if there are issues, the state Superintendent takes any role at all?

JS: The state Superintendent's role, in terms of the approval of the appointment or reappointment of the local Superintendent is focused on and limited to the verification of credentials, and so that's really what the role is and is identified as yes this person is qualified and appropriately credentialed to hold this job.

TK: Would this, your office, wouldn't get involved in any other issues?

JS: Not around the appointment or reappointment of the Superintendent in the matters of those shared with me so far.

TK: Or over the contract term?

JS: It's, there are um, rules around the removal of a Superintendent and so I can certainly send those to the AG's office, which is a different issue than those we are discussing here.

TK: Thank you.

JS: So, we'll provide those if you would like.

TK: Yes, thank you.

WM: Have you ever been in a position, or to your knowledge has the state ever denied the renewal of a contract for a Superintendent.

JS: To my knowledge denied the renewal? No.

WM: Or the contract from the start?

JS: The denial of the appointment before or the consideration for appointment based on a credentialing and typically that happens during the search process, so that they, someone ensures that the person has the credentials they're supposed to have before their name gets a finalist or as a selected candidate.

WM: and the other item I did want to bring up but forgot to list in the opening, my understanding I don't have anywhere to verify this, that her contract was renewed or was approved last Friday.

JS: I did send the letter at the end of last week, or the beginning of this week saying that her credentials were in order.

WM: Can we request a copy of that letter?

JS: Absolutely.

WM: Okay.

GG: Is that a statutory authority regarding the credentialing part?

JS: Yes

FT: I have a lot of issues to bring up but I see no purpose of bringing them up just to.... since, you know, the contract has been approved. I mean, I could go through letter-by-letter which has cumulated people are upset.... they also indicate they sent to you, which you are probably ...aware, what's going on in the County.

JS: I have received letters from citizens in Howard County and what I've been sharing with them is my role is to ensure that the credentials are in order for reappointment.

SP: Does anything trigger a concern on the part of the Superintendent of the State, when these kinds of issues are bubbling up? I would think that it reflects on the whole State when we have a problem and that there might be some role for the State to be in consultation with someone at the County levels. Do you have any role at all in what goes on in the counties?

JS: There are, as I said before, rules around the removal of the Superintendent or specific criteria and so if charges were brought forward in that way, then I would have a role in that.

SP: So you have no role in reaching out or sort of getting involved unless something formal is brought to you as a sort of a quasi-judicial kind of an issue?

JS: Well certainly we would share with, uh, county if we received information that we believe or were aware that they did not have, absolutely, which happens occasionally. I receive a letter and it is clear the local school system has no knowledge of it because they need to be aware of the issues or whatever is being identified so they can work on that, and then we can consult with all 24 school systems around anything that we believe is a matter of concern or they believe is a matter of concern, around curriculum, instructions, assessment, school facilities...

SP: Public health

JS: Yes

SP: Quality, issues, you've not been involved in that in any way is that correct?

JS: I'm sorry?

SP: You've not been involved in that in any way have you?

JS: For Howard County?

SP: Correct.

JS: There's been no..request....

SP: Even though you've heard this, I mean you mention that you've been aware of these problems when serving on the IAC committee.

JS: What I'm aware of the IAC is, what the current State of the maintenance is, and if send you the maintenance reports, the most recent ones, then you can see how ... as well as the other ones, and that's the nature of that discussion. The challenge always is, for a state like Maryland, the balance between state oversight and local authority and local control, and that's always an on-going question in this state, about what this local school board and local school system and their responsibilities versus the responsibility of the state and the General Assembly often takes sides and takes different positions on..

SP: mmmhmm, it seems like hands off is the position right now, pretty much unless something comes directly to you.

JS: Well, it depends on the topic and what it is. It depends on the topic. There are a lot of rules in this state of Maryland around all sorts of topics where the state clearly has a clear oversight obligation and so if, if a school system for example is violating special education law then that comes right around state department of education is very not hands off. So, it just

depends on the topic and how it's brought forward, and there are some questions of local control over versus state control and questions of you know a fair and open process and that would be also a....

SP: A fair and open process is an issue to you?

JS: It's a concern for every single American gets a fair and open process around anything that's brought forward to anyone on any issue about any person or situation.

SP: So, had you heard any complaints about fair and open process within Howard County? Has any of this come to you?

JS: I ... had letters from individuals that are were concerned about the school board and that the school board has its own authority and responsibility and that it's really an issue for the local school board first, to address.

SP: So you have oversight, but you haven't felt that they've overstepped to a point that you needed to step in and have a conversation?

JS: I didn't say I had oversight. What I said is that it is an issue of the local school board and their decision to reappoint and work within the contract versus..

SP: I'm not saying the contract; I'm talking about public process.

JS: I understand.

SP: Public access, open, and I thought you said that you did have oversight, so that's what I'm confused.

JS: It depends on the topic and what is, I'll be happy to send it to you; I'll send you what the State Superintendent's parameters are in the operation of....

SP: If it has anything to do with open process, would be good.

JS: Okay, absolutely.

SP: Thank you.

JS: So, I..

FT : If it's an issue involving the open meetings act or the law and there was a violation alleged violation to that wouldn't the compliance board open meeting compliance board..have any way to look at that or ...

JS: The State Superintendent would not have any involvement in the open meetings compliance board would have that authority to come back and respond to whatever made the complaint or whatever, who the people are in control. This is what we found in our examination of this compliance.

TH: Hi, thanks for meeting with us. I was looking at the code, and I noticed that when it comes to your ability to remove the Superintendent from office, it lists immorality, misconduct in office, insubordination, and competency or willful neglect of duty. I presume that those would be the same criteria by which you would be able to not approve a reappointment, because there's some initial criteria you mentioned on the eligibility of certificate, did they graduate from accredited college, 2 years of graduate work and the,, it also says you have the right to approve just generally. All right, so what would constitute willful neglect of duty or incompetence?

JS: In my discussions with the attorney general, two separate issues, the removal versus the approval of appointment or reappointment and the approval the precedent and we focus in this state has been that the State is not involved in the reappointment of the Superintendent beyond the credentials, are the credentials of the first three criteria that you just read, that if it moves to the removal of the superintendent that an entirely different section, and that's what I am going to send you .. Information on around that...

TH: So, do you have, can you give me, give us just an idea; what would constitute willful neglect of duty?

JS: ...of the Superintendent? No, I really can't without thinking more about that. .I.,

TH: The reason I am asking is that one of the, when I spoke with the AG's office, several months ago, because we had been hearing complaints all up and down the school system of an atmosphere of intimidation where people felt that they could not speak up or act on the interests of the students which is obviously, the interests that we are most concerned about, um, like I said, went from para educators, teachers, administrators, and frankly people in central office, and we were hearing that the respect and responding to the freedom of information act requests and all of this because there was a lack of accountability for the other responsibilities, and in my concern was that you know, so I asked AG's office who controls the Superintendent and they said well the local School Board and I said, well what if the local school board isn't doing this right? Who controls them? The Superintendent, and so the question was what does the State Superintendent and what can the State Board do? And apparently the State Board can do very little, but the Superintendent can, so I would try to figure out what is, and in what extreme situation do you or someone in your office, act to say this is dangerous, this is not what we would have people do, this person is not doing their job? I just don't understand maybe we didn't reset that level, but since no one seems to be able to tell me what that level is, it's kind of hard, so we have a Superintendent, I'm not saying we do now, but we have a system, a Superintendent where we go from being number 1, number 2, top five system in the country within 5 years, teachers are leaving, people don't want to apply and we're failing our students, will that be willful neglect? I don't know what constitutes willful neglect of duty?

JS: Well, I think what you should all understand is that all the variables, all the pieces of any situation in law, a unique circumstance, matter, and so for me to provide conjecture to you would be wholly inappropriate for me to do that. If there were a case in front of me whereby I, a responsibility to take action, I would look at that, listen very carefully, according to the laws of the state of Maryland. I would look through it and all the requirements and use my professional judgment and legal advice and all of the other

factors that are in there, and then I would have to make a decision, but for me to provide a theoretical response that is very difficult as you would know as lawmakers to do that.

TH: And you're not aware historically of any situation where a Superintendent has acted that way, where there is a case in Maryland where something was so egregious that a State Superintendent acted?

JS: Not in the last ten years or so. I have not seen anything like that. I've been engaged with some local Superintendent and now the state for about ten years and I haven't seen a situation.....

TH: Can you tell me what the complaint process is? Because it wasn't even clear to me if we're having an issue who we complain to and how we go about filing the complaint. Who has standing to file the complaint?

JS: I think the first complaint always goes to the local Board who should know about everything and it does start from there, then it goes along whatever track or path that is laid out, and so I'd be happy to send that to you in writing. So that the entire Delegation for Howard County has that in writing, in terms of how that would go about.

TH: And so does the State Board have any control at all over local Board. I believe they don't. Is that true that they really don't have any?

JS: The State Board can make sudden judgments about local Boards and take some actions, and I can also send that to you in writing so that you have that very clearly laid out.

TH: Thank you.

WM: So shifting gears a little bit. I want to walk through a scenario that happened in Howard County. We had a parent of a special needs child that was involved in a statewide group that requested a report that was funded by the County. Montgomery County and Frederick County did the same special needs assessment. They posted, they redacted personal information, they posted 95 of that report on their website. So, there's not

question about access. But in Howard County this individual for this group, requested the report for this group and was given the run around. What she finally had gotten was a heavily redacted, out of a 70 or 80 page report, a heavily redacted document, mostly blank pages. Her remedy under the Public Information Act was to go to court. She did. She got an inexperienced lawyer. She went to court in Howard County. From the beginning, the lawyer, the Superintendent hired, so this is an inside counsel, this is somebody they're paying a large sum of money to, asked for sanctions from the Judge and sanctions were received. So, we tried to deal with one bill, the Public Information requests, we're going to go back and look at all the requests from the time she's been there, the Superintendent, and try to determine if requests were denied properly or improperly, but there's got to be something the state can look at in regards to number one, spending large sums of money on contract lawyers to try to have a chilling effect on our citizens requests for open information. I think we all want open information and also the process, the way she was treated. It's one thing to go to court and lose. It's another to have sanctions placed against you, and I think it is a chilling effect for any other parent in Howard County or any other citizen that wants to find out information. They're going to think twice before they go to the Court now, which is their given remedy. So, if you have any thoughts, or reactions to that, I would appreciate hearing them.

JS: Well, I certainly think that public information requests are very important. The document you described, if it was created in and provided in that system, it is a public document. School System documents are public documents. So, that's what I would say to you.

WM: So would there be a basis for a complaint to the State Board about the way the county or the Superintendent handled this request?

JS: There's a basis for any complaint. It just needs to follow the right process.

WM: What remedy would you be able to offer?

JS: I don't know until I see it, ... and I don't know if it's under my purview or the State Board's purview. It all depends on the facts of the case always. Those are.. that's the important part of it, and that's why I'm completely unable, it would be unreasonable for me to...

WM: And again, we're just having an open conversation. We're not going to take you to court because you misrepresented something; we're just trying to learn from both your experience and by having you here. Anybody else?

TH: My question will be when you're reviewing the contract for renewal for initial hiring and you, let's talk about this specific case, when you received letters asking for you to move forward to renewal or not, what response did you consider the letters, did you launch an investigation, was there a discussion with the School Board? Was there discussion with the Superintendent? Was there any acknowledgment that you had gotten the letters, let's have a discussion? What is this about, in making the decision, or did you go, not criteria that I should be looking at and set it aside?

JS: First of all, we don't receive the contract. We receive a letter, usually one or two paragraphs that said from the local Board of Education says we have voted to appoint or reappoint this person and we're requesting your approval to that, which we immediately then do a credential check and send back a very short letter that says this candidate meets the credential requirements for this job. So, in terms of the contract, that's what we do. In terms of individual letters or circumstances if something comes in that would cause me to step back and say you know, this needs a look, I would just take another look at that point, but ultimately it's the local Board's responsibility to identify and contract with the Superintendent and that's what needs to happen in the state of Maryland and its construct, but there are avenues as with everything in the state of Maryland, and hopefully, everything in this country, to pursue concerns and convince of the specific issues in the concern as to what route it takes in the state.

SP: Is there anywhere in the law either state or possibly difference in the local, the relationship between the Superintendent and the School Board and how the School Board functions. It didn't really come to my attention

or my mind until recently, that the structure even though we elect a School Board, it's more like a corporate board of directors that hires the CEO, the Superintendent, and pretty much they have very, they don't have individual staff, but they're like a board of directors that sort of overlooks what the Superintendent is doing, which is decidedly different from what I, perhaps because I am a Legislator, would perceive the School Board as sort of being a kind of go-between, between the parents and the School Board, and I just don't know if there's something that describes this relationships in the law.

JS: There are descriptions in the law of the School Board's role and I can send those to you, that typically, a quasi-judicial role, they have a legislative role to enact policy and they have a fiduciary role and those are the three roles and part of that overall role is to work directly with their Superintendent and the leadership of their system and analyzing and evaluating what's happening in each of those areas.

SP: There's no comment about their relationship with the community in that?

JS: That's the relationship of the Superintendent, it's also the relationship with the community that they have relationships corresponding to the community about legislation, about policy issues, which then lead to operational issue because operations flows out of policy and then certain of the cross-sections overall would lead into the end result role issues or complaints that come into the local School Board and that's very clear how it goes in the state of Maryland to the Superintendent to the School Board to the state's School Board to the courts.

FT: So, you don't see, when you make that decision on the contract, anything that happens prior to that decision how it took place, the venue it took place in, whatever people were able to testify for the, on behalf of the Superintendent or against the Superintendent, that's not really your concern, right? Right?

JS: What I would say is, I was, the State Superintendent of Maryland in the current structure, receives a letter from the local School Board, the

appointing authority, and asks for approval of the person's credentials. That's the stint of that experience in Maryland. In terms of getting engagement with the School Board over its other credentials in place...

FT: So as long as I have my degree, and, 2 years, of what, 2 years of advanced degrees, the only thing you do is say he's qualified, bam, rubberstamp it and send it back.

JS: That has been the focus on the system in Maryland.

FT: Do you think that there is a flaw with that? You simply, why do we even need for you to do that? I mean if you're not do nothing but rubber stamp something. There's nothing. There's no purpose for you doing what you're doing.

JS: Well, I think it's an ongoing question of local authority versus state oversight, and that's how much in that continuum there should be. I mean, to turn that question around, you certainly would not want a State Superintendent not to approve a local board's choice if there is widespread agreement with that person, in the school system and on the local Board. I mean, it's all a balance and a continuum between state oversight and local autonomy and local authority, and that's something that Maryland, historically and consistently struggles with.

FT: So I don't see that as much oversight, I would say. I don't want to debate that with you, but...

JS: I understand.

FS: If that's all I can do is say OK. He's got the necessary degrees. Fine. I rubberstamp; I hit the stamp. I mean, that's from my perspective.

EE Relevant to Delegate Hill's question though, the vetting takes place as far as qualifications go, but there's a number of issues that...well, but there's a number of issues that...a number of criterion or behaviors or actions that would also be reason not to reapprove – the ones that she labeled. Is there any vetting done to make sure that the current

Superintendent or the incoming one, especially the current one, hasn't engaged in any of those kind of activities or those kind of actions.

JS: So if I understand your question correctly, you're asking me should the state look at those five areas and say before the person's appointed or reappointed, is there any reason to believe that the person is engaging in...

EE: It is the same thing you do for qualifications and look back at them, at the record...

JS: It's a bit of a broken record, but I would say that's the local Board of Education's responsibility in the way Maryland is structured to look at those things. Because if they want to remove the Superintendent, that's what they would look for. By the way, that's the same law for a teacher, a principal, or anybody in the state of Maryland. Those are the five areas that you look at when you have responsibility for an educator in this state.

EE: The document you have right there, that refers specifically to State Superintendent?

JS: Yes it's the same areas if you want to remove a teacher, if you want to remove a principal.

TH: So, traditionally, but are you saying that you don't think that you even have authority to review those, I mean...

JS: Clearly there's no precedent for looking at that.

TH: No precedent is not the same as no authority.

JS: Well, I don't think you have authority to look at something when the precedent has firmly been set in the interpretation of the law.

TH: Let me ask you this. So you're going to approve the criterion. Now, when you receive letters from constituents, either for or against, are you saying that because all you're doing, in this case, all you did was check the credentials, and made sure that was valid. What happens to the letters that

you received? Did you do an investigation? Was anything done with the letters saying that we have an issue with the board's decision to reappoint?

JS: I read all the letters I receive. We file them. If something in it causes me to believe that there is an area that I need to ask one of the divisions at NSBE to respond to, then we do that.

TH: So that would be back to Delegate Ebersole's point. Those issues would not fall under...so, if you are not looking at those other criteria, and saying have they met these standards, or what would you be referring now to divisions to look into.

JS: If, for example, someone writes to me and says, there is a serious violation in special education law. There is, we looked into, something to do with assessment, and this school system or this superintendent or this principal is violating an assessment law. There are very clear pathways for all of the areas, and that's what allows the local board and the state to work at least in some level of balance with one another. There are very clear pathways in the state of Maryland as to what you respond to as a statement. So, what I responded to the people who've written here, what the process is responding to them now is, this is my area of responsibility, credentials, in this area, and so that's what I looked at, and if the local Board questioned, and I referred them back to the local Board.

TH: Okay, for instance, in a letter that says the following issues need to be looked at – transparency, suspension rates, disrespect to parents, bullying being handled led to suicide, mold, bullying, accountability on how money was spent over testing student's responsiveness, parent's requests special education. None of those trigger, wait a minute, accountability on how money was spent, should we see if that's being followed corrected before we sign off on this? That didn't get referred to anybody?

JS: That's what the local board should look at. That's the local Board's responsibility.

TH: But you said that there are sometimes that you would then refer...

JS: If it's said that X person stole \$10 million dollars, then I would have a responsibility to refer that to the Attorney General's office. On the spot, and I would.

SP?: So you're saying that essentially only lawyers can write something to you that you can respond to. I mean that's what I'm hearing. Because you're saying that it has to be couched in a way that it looks like a clear violation rather than looking at something and saying, these facts actually could or might constitute a clear violation. You're not doing that analysis?

JS: What I'm saying is specific versus general. If there is a specific, on this date, this person spent this money inappropriately, I have an obligation to refer back to the local school system, and refer to the attorney general's office in terms of thinking about what happens with state money.

EE: You're pretty certain public information wouldn't be one of those things that would...

JS: Public information has a very clear path in the state of Maryland, and the state's super does not engage in public information violations.

FT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you.

WM: One last question. So, I do know there are also concerns delegate Turner had them, about no-bid contracts, and I'm wondering how the state school system feels about local boards and Superintendents purchasing things without having competitive bidding? And we're not talking small things we're talking large things. So for example they hired Gallup to do polling. And that was a no-bid contract no other polling firm was able to bid on those services. I'm assuming some of the attorneys they've hired have been no-bid contracts. They haven't gone out and contracted for attorney services. They just entered into contracts with individuals. So my curiosity is does that rise to the level of something where if we share this, that specific information about those no-bid contracts, would that concern you?

JS: It would concern me in terms of sharing the information. Then what I will do is look at what the avenue or pathway is for that sort of complaint

or concern, and then I would activate that pathway or that avenue, So, I can certainly look into that and then turn that information over to you..

WM: I will work with Delegate Turner, and you'll have a letter shortly identifying our concerns about certain contracts, the way they were awarded. We believe there was no competition for those services so you'll be getting that...

WM: Thank you very much for your time. Very helpful.