



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL School System Budget Review Committee

August 31, 2016

Dear Superintendent Foose:

As you know, the County Council recently created a Citizen's Advisory Committee to study matters related to the HCPSS budgets. This diverse group met for the first time last night and quickly found that the Committee members wished to begin their work by learning more about the School System's budget formulation processes.

Committee members are interested in the timelines for developing and approving the operating and capital budgets, the various milestones (including internal HCPSS budget formulation milestones), and the legal and practical constraints on the budgeting process.

Beyond just a straight description of the various steps of the process, this is also an important opportunity for the committee members to begin to understand important aspects of budget formulation such as formulas that HCPSS uses to calculate staffing expenses, the relationship between long-range facilities and attendance area plans and annual capital budgets, how the concept of zero based budgeting is practically applied within HCPSS and ways that concerns or tradeoffs are factored into each step of the process.

To these ends, the Committee desires that an appropriate representative or representatives from the HCPSS Budget Office attend the next Committee meeting to educate Committee Members on those matters.

This meeting will be devoted to learning about the ways that the School System budgets are developed and approved. The Committee will not be reviewing or analyzing specific appropriations, but will likely have questions about specific aspects of the formulation process.

Although the next meeting time has not yet been set, the meeting will be in early September. Council staff will let you know as soon as the date is set.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joshua Kaufman".







Joshua Kaufman, Chair
jkaufmans@verizon.net

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olga Butler".

Olga Butler, Vice Chair
olgabutler@gmail.com

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