

Re: Montgomery County Council cuts CIP Budget 8.8%  
Thank You!  
Laura Stewart  
[lmstewart120@gmail.com](mailto:lmstewart120@gmail.com)

A quick follow up, I was remiss in leaving out the fact that the vote was unanimous for the 8.8% cut.

If you would like a synopsis of the meeting, Bethesda Beat covered it, I am providing the link. I would like to correct one part, one MCPS representative was there and made herself known, but was not formally asked to come up and speak.

<http://www.bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Beat/2017/County-Council-Votes-to-Cut-Spending-Guidelines-for-Bonds/>

One quote from the article shows that we responded with force to this proposal.

"Council members acknowledged Tuesday that they received numerous emails about the spending guidelines and indicated many came from PTA leaders and representatives."

Also I received this response from Councilmember Sydney Katz. Please let me know (direct e-mail) if you receive a response from other council members.

On Thu, Oct 5, 2017 at 12:35 AM, Laura Stewart <[lmstewart120@gmail.com](mailto:lmstewart120@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear MCCPTA Friends,

To those who wrote to the County Council asking that the County CIP bonding not be cut, I want to let you know that your letters DID make a difference. This was a cut to the entire Montgomery CIP, yet schools by far dominated the discussion. Our letters were mentioned more than once. Now that they approved the 8.8 % cut in bonding, not the 11% that Ike Leggett proposed, we will need to follow up with a message loud and clear. DO NOT cut the school's CIP Budget!! I will gather the CIP committee and we will come up with a strategy as to when a new campaign will be the most effective.

The GO committee chair, Nancy Navarro explained that paying off the bonds would take more from the Operating Budget, and therefore would hurt that side of the budget. **Our question is, if you don't have adequate classrooms, how does that teacher teach kids ready to learn in a safe, comfortable environment?** They can find cuts somewhere else this cycle because we cannot let our schools continue down this path of disrepair and significant overcrowding. As the BOE Board of Education President Mr. Durso explained, we need MORE funds in order to keep up with the tremendous growth, not less. We are advocating to at least hold steady.

Below is a synopsis of how this cut would affect schools if done proportionately through the 6 year CIP, based on our share that we have currently. MCPS gets about 1/3 of the bonding money. This is NOT the actual amount they would cut, it is only if they cut all departments proportionately.

**Thank you again. Your letters showed the county that parents are ready to engage, and we vote!**

If you would like to see what the individual Council members said about their commitment to schools, their rationale, and their response to our letter writing, please watch Item 5 on this video link. Minute 26 to 1:15.

[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=169&clip\\_id=13851&meta\\_id=143749](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=13851&meta_id=143749)

FY19 330 = 10 million cut, our share, 3.8 million  
FY20 320 = 20 million cut, our share, 8.08 million  
FY 21 310 = 30 million cut, our share, 9.45 million  
FY 22 300 = 40 million cut, our share, 8.65 million  
FY 23 300 = 40 million cut, our share, approx. 13.32 million  
FY 24 300 = 40 million cut, our share, approx. 13.32 million

Total is 56.62 million. I used the proportion that is in the CIP now for years 19 through 22. Each year varies as to the percentage of bond usage. I used the 1/3 average for the out years.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Laura Stewart  
MCCPTA CIP Chair