



P. O. Box 435
Bel Air, MD 21014

July 22, 2023

Mr. Bob Cassilly
% Office of the Harford County Executive
220 S. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Dear Mr. Cassilly,

The Harford County Council of PTA (HCCPTA) Board of Directors would like to thank you for reconsidering the initial allocation of County funding toward the school system. Your additional allocation of \$10M, above the original \$304M allotment, will no doubt assist Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) in being able to continue to provide a quality education to all public school children across our County.

The debate over public school funding this past year, unfortunately, is not new. And, based on historical trends, we anticipate that future gaps between funding and State education mandates will continue to be prevalent. But, in spite of the perceived dire outcomes, hope is present:

- It is our hope that the current and future Harford County residents continue to partner with HCPS and the Harford County Government in ensuring that public education in our County continues to produce well-rounded, civics-minded individuals.
- It is our hope that HCPS will be able to provide a variety of programs and classes that provide exposure and engagement in a multitude of functional areas and interests.

- It is our hope that the teacher-to-student classroom ratios, at minimum, will stay the same as what was experienced in the prior school year.

Education is not political, but we recognize that it is highly politicized. As we prepare for future impending discussions on the HCPS budget and the inherent fiscal limitations, it is important that the community is apprised of the challenges that both HCPS and Harford County Government are facing. We will continue to advocate for fiscal responsibility and for full funding for education in Harford County.

We thank you for your support of our HCPS children. We ask for your continued support of Harford County Public School students.

HCCPTA remains primed for engagement.

Please let us know how we can help!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A. Renee DeBiase, President

// signed on behalf of the HCCPTA Board of Directors //

CC:

Harford County Council

HCPS Board of Education

Harford County PTA Leaders