

Carol DeSoto

From: Leslie Schroeck <laschroeck@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Public Record
Subject: Fully Fund CCPS!

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County Commissioner,

Good Morning,

I am Leslie Schroeck and I am a High School Resource Teacher at La Plata High School. In addition, I am the EACC Treasurer and currently serve as the Chief Negotiator representing the certificated staff of CCPS at the bargaining table.

Negotiating with CCPS in these unprecedented times was not easy. EACC and CCPS fully understand how hard making the transition from traditional school to distance learning has been for the entire school community, but it would not have worked without the efforts and dedication of every CCPS educator! These educators deserve thanks, but more than that, they deserve compensation for going above and beyond. In spite of this belief, we also acknowledge that the economic uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic and Stay at Home orders is an important consideration. EACC, in representing all certificated educators, had to reevaluate some of our top priorities in terms of employee compensation even though CCPS educators continue to fall behind our colleagues across the state.

EACC and CCPS have come to a reasonable salary agreement that does not include a level (longevity) increase for certificated staff. Instead, we have agreed to a COLA which will increase starting teacher salaries in an on-going effort to ensure CCPS remains competitive in recruiting qualified educators while also recognizing that the loyal employees at the end of the scale have had significant losses to their retirement funds.

I want to thank The Board of County Commissioners for historically providing solid funding for the students and employees of the Charles County Public School system. I'm appreciative that my commitment to a quality education for every child is echoed by our elected officials.

To continue that vision together, I ask that you fully fund the Superintendent's budget request for the upcoming fiscal year. Now, more than ever, we've seen the impact that public education has on our community, and we need to make sure that every resource is at our disposal to maximize the education and services we provide to the students and residents of Charles County.

I know that the current times are challenging for many, but I also know that the longer-term vision of what Charles County is, and can be, is important in moving through – and beyond – the current crisis. We start to fulfill a positive vision, together, when we put resources where they are most needed. Fully fund CCPS to show that you, too, are for our students.

#EACC4OurStudents

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