

Carol DeSoto

From: Melissa Carpenter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Public Record
Subject: We need you support!

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County Commissioner,

My name is Melissa Carpenter and I have been a Charles County resident for my entire life. I am a current 5th grade teacher at Wade Elementary in Waldorf. I am a proud graduate from Thomas Stone High School and appreciate all of the support from the Board of County Commissioners both as a student and now as an educator.

As an educator, having the resources I need to effectively do my job ensures that every student in our community can be a success. When we make it through this crisis the community will return to the schools and our students will need more support than ever. I understand that the medical crisis will cause an economic crisis but our schools were in need of more supports before this pandemic, when we return it is not the time to make cuts.

At my elementary school we had 720 students and 1 and a half time counselor as well as a psychologist split between three schools. Typically we only had one of these amazing individuals in the building at a time and multiple students in crisis. Recommended student to counselor ratio is 250 to 1. This was during normal times and we could not afford the staffing to make this happen. When we return from this pandemic mental health support and small class sizes will be needed to help our students get back on track. I understand needing to make cuts, but our schools need more support in a time like this, more staffing, more programs, more to help our students improve their academic progress. We can not fail the next generation.

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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