

Carol DeSoto

From: Peter Ullmann <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Public Record
Subject: Fully Fund CCPS!

[External Content Warning] This message is from an external sender. Please exercise caution when opening attachments and hover over any links before clicking.

County Commissioner,

The Board of County Commissioners has historically provided solid funding for the students and employees of the Charles County Public School system, and I'm appreciative that my commitment to a quality education for every child is echoed by our elected officials. As an educator, having the resources I need to effectively do my job ensures that every student in our community can be a success.

As a fine and performing arts teacher in Charles County for the past 13 years, I can tell you that our subject areas have historically been under-resourced compared to the "traditional" core content classes (Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts). I say "traditional" because in the 2015 reauthorization of ESSA, Music and Art (among other subjects) were declared to be core content by the United States Senate. However, in Charles County, we still have far fewer (and smaller) fine and performing arts facilities for our students than extra-curricular sports despite having similar numbers of participants, and fewer still when compared to math and language arts classrooms, science labs, the James E. Richmond Science Center, etc... The seven performance facilities across the county that we have must be shared between 40+ schools in addition to every other activity that wishes to use the spaces that were built for the use of fine and performing arts students, who have been marginalized nation-wide. None of our schools host art galleries for our students to show off their hard work and provide cultural enrichment for those students who do not participate in art classes.

Furthermore, we are not afforded proportionate resources to purchase instruments, consumables for art, or new music for our students that appeals to their culture, particularly when compared to the resources that are given to the aforementioned "core content"

classes... Because there's simply not enough resources to go around. There never is, and that cheats our students out of receiving the best education they could get.

To continue the vision of having our students receive the best possible educational experience 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 (particularly the arts, which everyone has turned to for calm, comfort, entertainment, and community) 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

Peter Ullmann

bodhisattvaspath@gmail.com

3207 High Timber Court

Waldorf, Maryland 20602