

Carol DeSoto

From: Shannon Walden <swalden@ccboe.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:42 AM
To: Public Record
Subject: Fully Fund CCPS!

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County Commissioner,

Hello! My name is Shannon Walden and I am a third grade teacher at Malcolm Elementary. I am the current Teacher of the Year nominee from my school. This high honor has caused me to reflect on what it means to be extraordinary. Being extraordinary is no longer a choice as an educator. The circumstances our students face are extraordinary and require more attention than ever before. A large percentage of our students are being raised by caregivers other than their natural parents. Financial situations cause strains at home that carry over into our classrooms. When our students do not have what they need, we provide it to them. The teacher to student ratio grows each year which means materials are scarce and teacher bank accounts are dwindling.

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.

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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