

Carol DeSoto

From: Trisha Gingery <tgingery@ccboe.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Public Record
Subject: Fully Fund CCPS!

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County Commissioner,

My name is Trisha Gingery and I currently work as a new teacher mentor in Charles County Public Schools. I have worked with new teachers at Dr. Mudd and Neal Elementary. Prior to working in this capacity, I worked as a classroom teacher for ten years in Charles County at Neal Elementary, Dr. Brown Elementary, and Indian Head Elementary.

I can't imagine being in your position during this time of the unknown and uncertainty. However, I urge you to fully fund the budget. Working in Charles County as a teacher for ten years, I missed three "steps" or raises. We (CCPS teachers) went from the highest paid in Southern Maryland to the LOWEST. Now the salary scale has been "recalibrated," giving teachers some of what was rightfully theirs. The first year after the scale has been changed, and teachers are being told there will be no raise. It doesn't encourage anyone to stay or to believe that they will truly every move up on the scale.

As a new teacher mentor, I saw that both schools I worked at had OPEN positions once school started last year. One position did not get filled until November! This was a class of 28+ students (special education included) with a "teacher" with no experience for their first quarter. At another school, they were able to hire a conditional teacher that was later released. That class had daily substitutes, ILT as teachers, a conditional teacher, more daily substitutes, and finally a teacher placed in February!

I also want to let you know about three classroom teachers who decided to leave teaching IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR. One teacher had over 20 years of experience in other states. Teachers are dealing with hours of planning, paperwork, and being held to a higher standard.

They have been told to “do more with less,” and they have done it. But they don’t deserve to be treated that way.

It is time to stand up for teachers and for our students. Pay teachers what they deserve. Otherwise we will continue to lose them to other counties. Possibly in the middle of the year.

Thank you,
Trisha Gingery

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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