

## Linton Springs Elementary School PTA



*everychild. one voice.*®

375 Ronsdale Road  
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

November 22, 2022

Dear Carroll County Board of Education Members,

We previously wrote to express our gratitude that the Board would delay redistricting decisions until more information could be obtained regarding development in the area, feasibility of capital projects, and the financial impact of Blueprint requirements. We'd like to express that appreciation again and extend our thanks to you for the Board's ongoing work evaluating these multi-faceted and complicated issues. We also appreciate the Board's continued willingness to listen to input from the school community.

The Linton Springs PTA has an advocacy committee whose members have been active in researching issues that impact the county and the school community. Some of these activities include attending town hall meetings with County Commissioners and Superintendent McCabe to gather valuable information regarding the issues impacting our schools and to determine ways we can help. In this role, we recently wrote to the County Commissioners urging them to provide additional funding to CCPS to address the schools' growing needs. That letter is attached here for your information. Through our advocacy efforts, we understand that the Commissioners rely heavily on input and requests from the Board of Education in determining what amount of funding is needed to address the school-system's many needs.

We write today to urge the Board to focus its efforts on securing increased funding for our schools in next fiscal year's budget. We all agree that in order for CCPS to function effectively and meet the county's needs, increased funding is needed. CCPS faces several funding challenges. Future capital projects are looming, such as new schools or additions/improvements to existing schools to address capacity issues. Other capital improvements include replacement of aging playground structures throughout the county. Implementation of Blueprint requirements will require funding as staff may need to increase and space needs to be available for full-day Pre-K. Present through all of these larger costs, the routine expenses associated with materials, supplies, equipment and technology are continually rising within schools. Our previous letter to the Commissioners details these rising costs, of which we know you are all well aware.

Certain County government officials have claimed that Carroll County's population is not increasing. However, our research confirms development and population growth are occurring within the County

and the impact of that growth is quickly being felt in our schools. According to the County planning office, 297 new dwellings are planned for the Freedom Area over the next few years. We think it's safe to assume each of those new homes will bring at least two children, which results in nearly 600 additional students on our already strained schools. Additionally, according to US Census county migration data as analyzed by the Baltimore Business Journal, Carroll County has experienced a net gain to its population in several recent tax years as people leave Howard and Baltimore Counties to move here. The Baltimore Sun recently reported on Carroll County's 'unusually high revenue' the past two years. The area is growing and thriving, and our schools need to keep pace.

Our understanding is that the Commissioners begin budget discussions in January 2023, for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023. We urge you to take an active role in advocating for the financial needs of our school and insist the Commissioners make school funding a priority. According to county websites, our neighbor to the south Howard County allocates 58.87% of its operating budget to schools, while Carroll County allocates less than half, at 45%.

We intend to remain active and to continue our communications with the Commissioners to urge an increase of funding to CCPS. However, the Board possesses the most information regarding educational needs and will be the most persuasive on this issue. You are our most important ally. Please use your authority and influence to request increased funding for our schools. We will be there supporting your request and encouraging the Commissioners to allocate the requested funding to CCPS and invest in the County's future generations.

Sincerely,

Linton Springs Elementary School PTA