

**Linton Springs Elementary School PTA**



375 Ronsdale Road  
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

July 28, 2022

Dear Carroll County Commissioners,

The public schools in Carroll County are in need of additional funding to ensure the success of our students. Long gone are the days when chalk and chalkboards were the primary mode of instruction. Today a competitive education requires technology – projectors, digital subscriptions, laptops, technology carts – all of which should be adequately funded in the CCPS budget. Schools are needing to fundraise to meet basic educational needs such as replacing obsolete projectors. Schools are having to prioritize which educational materials to replace with their limited budgets and hope they can fundraise to meet their other needs. They must decide whether to replace a class set of books that are well-worn from use or to purchase a new projector because replacement bulbs are no longer available for their current one. Schools are being forced to take on fundraising campaigns to pay for technologies and educational materials that should be supported through their annual allocated budget.

Supply chain issues have affected the price and availability of everything from paper to technology, and those additional costs need to be reflected in the school budget. We are coming out of the pandemic and our schools are in need of additional investments to bring them back where they need to be – where the citizens of Carroll County expect and deserve them to be.

We are seeing first-hand the growth of the population in Carroll County through increasing student enrollment and growing demands placed on the school system. This summer Linton Springs Elementary will be getting portable classrooms installed to meet the growing number of students despite already being the largest elementary school in the county. With younger families moving in, Carroll County must plan to address the overcrowding in schools and replacement of some of our oldest schools. Funding must be addressed to maintain the quality of education that CCPS provides. Besides redistricting, brick-and mortar-expansions and/or new facilities need to be considered to address the problem as our communities are

undergoing continuous growth. As the tax base grows, education funding should be commensurate with that expansion.

Additionally, the CCPS Operating budget needs to include the replacement of aging playgrounds at elementary schools. The burden to fundraise \$150,000-\$180,000 per playground has fallen on PTAs and local communities. Communities and PTAs who cannot afford the bill must let their students go without or wait years until enough parents and school staff can apply for and be awarded sufficient grants to fund the project. This is unacceptable. Parents expect that their children have a safe playground for physical activity at elementary schools and expect that it be provided by the school system. The job of a PTA is not to fundraise to fill the gaps in funding of a school district. The county must recognize the needs of its residents and not expect funding shortfalls to be made up by the PTA and young families.

For years now CCPS has had to make due with strained budgets and putting off expenses, particularly since the Great Recession. However, with the increase in student population from our growing county, surviving within the current budget is becoming unsustainable. Now is the time to invest in our communities and increase funding to CCPS at the level it requires and deserves. We encourage the Commissioners to invest in the future of our schools, our students, and our communities so that Carroll County can continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

Linton Springs Elementary School PTA