

# Calvert County Public Schools

---

Jack R. Smith, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

1305 Dares Beach Road  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
Telephone: (410) 535-1700  
(301) 855-1834  
FAX: (410) 535-7298  
TDD: (410) 535-6852  
<http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us>

April 8, 2009

Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President  
Maryland State Board of Education  
Office of the Maryland State Board of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Mr. DeGraffenreidt:

This letter is in response to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners' Maintenance of Effort (MOE) waiver request. The Calvert County Board of Education opposes the waiver request.

The Board of Education is highly appreciative of the County Commissioners' ongoing support of education. This has been evidenced by our joint funding formula that has historically provided increased funding in spite of decreased student enrollment. The County Commissioners' funding has assisted Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) in providing instructional programs that have resulted in student achievement being among the highest in the state of Maryland, a state that is #1 in education in the United States.

CCPS' proposed budget for FY 2010 also demonstrates the County Commissioners' commitment to education. Application of the funding formula would provide CCPS \$4.7 million over the MOE requirement. It has been necessary for CCPS to renegotiate a substantial reduction in the salaries of administrators and supervisors and initiate the negotiation process with the Calvert Education Association and the Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff. As you can see, additional cuts to our current proposed budget would exacerbate an already critical situation.

The Board of Education is deeply concerned about the waiver request. In light of the unpredictability of the State's financial commitment, any reduction in funding from the County Commissioners would have a serious impact on the operation of CCPS. The Superintendent's proposed budget was premised on the agreed-upon funding formula, which was well in excess of the MOE requirement equating to \$4.7 million. A reduction in the County Commissioners' funding below the maintenance of effort would thus result in a loss in excess of \$4.7 million.

To produce a balanced budget, in addition to the cuts proposed by the Superintendent, we would need to take drastic measures including, but not limited to: increase class size; eliminate instructional programs that have been instrumental in increasing student achievement and assisting students in meeting graduation requirements; set aside efforts to prepare students for the workforce by providing specialized instructional programs in the areas of math, science and technology; and cut support services and extra-curricular programs for students.

A MOE waiver also has the potential to exacerbate the County's and State's financial condition. CCPS is the largest employer in Calvert County. Any decrease in funding below that afforded by the funding formula from the County Commissioners would result in a further reduction in staff. A waiver of the MOE requirement would further reduce the number of positions in the Superintendent's

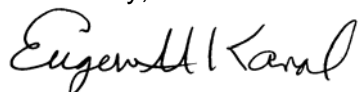
Letter to Mr. DeGraffenreidt  
April 8, 2009  
Page 2

proposed FY 2010 budget by more than 200 employees. This action would only add to unemployment in Calvert County, potentially resulting in more foreclosures and an even further decrease in income and property tax revenues to both the County and the State.

The Board of Education appreciates the economic challenges that the County Commissioners are facing; however, lack of MOE funding would have such far-reaching and long-term consequences that any recovery to the level of CCPS' current academic performance would take many years to achieve. Public education is our investment for the future; that investment cannot be sacrificed.

The Board of Education respectfully submits this letter of opposition to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners' Maintenance of Effort (MOE) waiver request.

Sincerely,



Eugene M. Karol, President



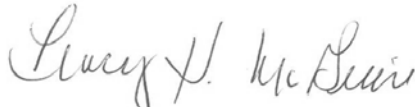
William J. Phalen, Sr., Vice President



William R. Chambers, Member



Rose C. Crunkleton, Member



Tracy H. McGuire, Member