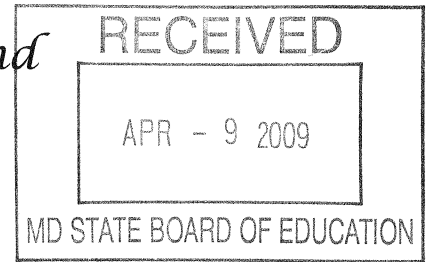


*Parents for Education
Worcester County, Maryland*



April 8, 2009

Maryland State Department of Education
Attn: Mr. James H. DeGraffenreidt, President
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. DeGraffenreidt,

The proud parents, voters, and citizens of Worcester County wish to express our concerns regarding the current budget proposal and the potentially devastating impact it could have on our school system, and most critically to our children.

We are aware of a budget shortfall that is facing the Worcester County commissioners and the difficult position they are in for balancing a budget that is best for our community. We are also aware that our commissioners have expressed an intention to cut the school budget to an unnecessary degree. Our schools would be able to maintain their superior level of commitment to our children under the guidelines of Maintenance of Effort. However, by majority vote our commissioners have applied for a waiver from you to circumvent the law that requires this funding. We implore you to stand up for the protection of our children and unequivocally DENY the waiver permitting our commissioners to fund below the Maintenance of Effort level.

We strongly believe that our county currently has the means to fund our school budget at the Maintenance of Effort level. Our commissioners need to be reminded by you, our State Board of Education and our State Superintendent of Schools that we as a state must always be and are dedicated to the highest quality of education possible for our children. Our priorities must be clear. Please do not use a budget shortfall as a vehicle to compromise education. Our state and our counties are directly affected by the investment of educating our children who are the next generation of leaders.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We have enclosed signed petitions in support of our efforts from many more concerned citizens of Worcester County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Hall".

Cindy Hall
Co-Chairperson
Parents for Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Ridgeway".

Beth Ridgeway
Co-Chairperson
Parents for Education

SIGNATURES

Kimberly Moore

R. Scott Jett

Ruth Miller

Keith Miller



Maureen Van Bruggen

Norm H. Van Bruggen

Norm Ours

Dan Jett

Deborah Dashiell

Carl D'Alipho

Jeanene Lura

Heley Anne

Phil Carter

Thylis

Julie Jones

Michael Abbaticchio
Amysubect

~~Paul Blad~~
Carm Fisher

Dail Quark

C Snyder

R. S. M.

Sandy May

Ronnie Zutterman

Ken Wj

M. Snyder

Rubaid Snyder

Colleen Rostek

Melvin J. Rostek

Ellian Rostek

Elizabeth Lind

Charlotte Horner

Lucille Henry

Charlene Briddell

Hilton Burned

Alfred Newton

Selenax Purnell

Mary Offiel

Elvin Purnell

Jeanette Merris

Edna Purner

Constance Sturgis

Annie C. Jackson

Mollie B. Marshall

Emma Jones

Emma Briddell

Marie Purnell

Flossie E. Calver

Mr + Mrs William J. Smith

Pauline T. Stockley

Cinderella Smith

Carolyn Briddell

Doris Mosley

Richard Mosley

Pauline Lunn

Some many

Jaye Harris - Cottman

James E. Spence

Anna Belle Franker

Linda Purnell

Rev. Barbara A. Harmon