

Honest considerations for the budget process.

- Testing - stop paying to give the 9th graders the PSAT. Students are over-tested. Parents that want their kids to take it 3 times can pay for them to take it at the high school at the same time that 10th & 11th graders are given the PSAT. That used to be done at RHHS and other schools.
- Stop paying for 8th graders to visit the High Schools in June. It is redundant with the August 9th grade orientation, which is actually more meaningful because they have their schedules. The June visit has no impact on scheduling since they have already signed up for their classes.
- Don't renovate schools but smartly build new schools on existing school sites with **increased** capacity.
 - Building new is more cost and energy effective than renovating old buildings
 - For example - OMHS - build a new larger school next to the old one
 - move all sports teams to BlandAir park during construction
 - Keep OMHS open during construction like was done for WLMS
 - Upon new school completion, raze the old building and put back in parking and sports fields
 - Do the same for every other older high school - build on site something that is larger capacity and build up not out
- Remove ALL printers from the buildings and have a small print shop within every building, or cluster of buildings, - i.e. a high school serves as a print shop for its feeder schools
 - Have a trained staff member to handle the requests - less people using the copier means less repairs
 - Put scanners in central areas for teachers to scan to email
 - Require secondary school staff to more fully use Canvas and print less or print at print shop
 - Go back to limiting paper use
- Textbooks
 - Have one print classroom set
 - Use digital textbooks for students
 - Use OER as much as possible
 - Students can use their phones to take pictures of assignment pages
- Bussing
 - Increase the walking radius for high schoolers to 1.75 or 2.0 miles - many of them drive as they get older or catch a ride with someone
 - Increase the walking radius for middle schoolers to 1.5 miles
 - Require a bus pass to eliminate student riding busses they are not assigned to and causing overcrowded busses
 - Do not pay for bussing for students who choose to avoid redistricting by staying in old schools
- Building Use
 - Increase cost for community use. It is more than actual electricity and custodial staff. It is wear and tear on the building and equipment and use of teacher supplies.
 - Community users should be required to pay for things that go missing
- Staffing
 - Remove one of the media specialists from the high schools. Howard County is the only county in the state that has 2 media specialists.
 - If that happens, strengthen the media paras. Some schools have very ineffective paras which would make that change difficult.

- One option: reallocate a media specialist to be a technology staff member to help with testing and technology needs in-house. As it is, there are not enough technicians to keep what technology each school has.
 - Another option: use the money saved from reducing the media specialist position to hire more techs
- Technology
 - Stop buying Apple products. If paras need a device, make it an android tablet or better yet a Chromebook.
 - Stop buying short throw projectors. They are cost prohibitive, and it is better served to hang, or put on a cart, a much cheaper LCD projector.
 - Switch to an all Google platform instead of entertaining both Microsoft and Google - email included.
 - Why do we have both Synergy and Canvas when Canvas can take attendance and keep track of grades?
 - Talk to the teachers in the trenches who are teaching the specialized programs and see what they really need. Can stuff be moved to an online programs like was done for WeVideo to get away from iMovie? That would eliminate buying more expensive computers.
 - See Homewood's online newspaper to gauge a replacement for all HS journalism classes
 - At the HS level, have parents pay half of a Chromebook that stays with the student all 4 years for HS, and then give it to the student at graduation. FARM kids can be subsidized their portion. Something similar may work for MS too. The Chromebook could either be taken home or left in 1st period classrooms (and returned at the end of the day) in a cart to charge overnight.
 - This could eliminate the need for stationary labs in the media center and other classes that use online programs
 - Overcharge of bid list items - some items do not need the extended warranty. By the time things get to that point they are no longer compatible with the technology in the schools. For example: the Canon VIXIA HF R82 on the bid list is \$394 and at Amazon is \$299.
 - Specialized teachers (like PLTW) do NOT need 2 laptops. One will suffice.
 - Get rid of the technology classroom teacher workstation. Buy an extra monitor and have the teacher use their laptop.
 - Make the Chromebook cart distribution equitable. If the Chromebooks are not going to be put in every school as promised at 75% then pull all the carts in, re-image them and redistribute them equally based on student population. At Centennial HS there are rooms that have BOTH a stationary lab and a Chromebook cart in them. This is unconscionable when other high schools are struggling for lack of technology access.
 - Eliminate AP testing technology problems by having the county work with College Board to use the existing Chromebooks.