

EXHIBIT NO. 2

2
4-8-02



Education Association of Alexandria

4600 Duke Street, Suite 305, Alexandria, Virginia 22304
Office: 703-370-1121 • FAX: 703-370-8705 • On-Line: www.eaaveanea.org

where excellence, accountability and advocacy are not just words

"Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives" are the words of American Journalist, Andy Rooney.

Good afternoon, Mayor Donley, Distinguished City Council Officials and members of the audience. My name is Valerie Rife. I am the Reading Specialist at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy. In addition, I serve as the Education Association of Alexandria's (EAA) President.

Today, I represent the employees of the Alexandria City Public School System. We would like to thank our City Manager, Phil Sunderland, for including the entire School Board's proposed budget in the City's budget. We support the School Board in their proposal and we have appreciated their generosity. In addition, the EAA would like to thank Mayor Donley and the City Council for their dedication, diligence and perseverance throughout this school year. In light of the tragedy that our nation experienced this fall, we have felt informed, supported and protected in our city. For this, we commend the leaders of the city of Alexandria.

Alexandria is growing, learning and working towards building a collaborative community partnership. We are all players on the team to help build a solid education for our children. Our students deserve



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quality teachers. *Every single research study shows the fundamental relationship between child and teacher is the single most important factor in student achievement. Therefore, we are requesting that a STEP 15 be created for our teachers who have served this system for many years without being compensated. We believe this to be a cost of approximately \$677,000. This money is a small token of appreciation to our dedicated employees. Despite the financial woes our city has felt this year, each item in the budget is a necessary piece of Alexandria's educational pie. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*

Thank you for your time, support and consideration.

Valerie Rife
EAA President
City Council Meeting April 8, 2002