

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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6-28-05

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 23, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 8

SUBJECT: PROPOSED JOINT RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTING THE ALEXANDRIA EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO PRE-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN ALEXANDRIA

ISSUE: Consideration of a proposed joint resolution by the City Council and the School Board requesting the Alexandria Early Childhood Commission to develop a plan for increasing access to pre-school opportunities within Alexandria.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the proposed resolution and request that the Early Childhood Commission provide Council with its comments by Council's second legislative meeting in September. The School Board is expected to consider the resolution at its July 1 meeting.

DISCUSSION: Councilman Krupicka asked that staff docket the attached resolution for Council consideration. The resolution, which is proposed to be a joint resolution from City Council and the School Board, requests the Alexandria Early Childhood Commission, with input from City and School staff, stakeholders and interested community members, to develop a plan for increasing access to pre-school opportunities within Alexandria. The resolution also asks the Commission to explore ways to achieve the goals and objectives of this joint resolution with a minimum of expense to City taxpayers and to place initial emphasis on providing increased pre-school access to City children who are not receiving a pre-school educational experience.

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Resolution

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Director of Human Services

Carol Farrell, Office for Early Childhood Development Director

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the City Council and School Board of the City of Alexandria (the "City") are firmly committed to continuing our efforts to improve the academic achievement and well-being of our City's children; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies and analyses indicate that children who have received quality pre-school educational experience tend to perform significantly better in school than those who have not, and that the benefits of providing such experience can extend well beyond elementary and secondary school. Such benefits can include, among other things, better performance on standardized tests, a more positive attitude toward school, lower rates of juvenile and adult crime, higher graduation rates, higher college attendance rates, and more fulfilling and lucrative employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of our City's public school students who have entered Kindergarten in recent years have had no pre-school educational experience whatsoever. Most of the students without pre-school experience are from minority or economically disadvantaged families; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the School Board believe that increasing access to quality pre-school programs and experiences within Alexandria will help us achieve our common goal of improving the academic achievement and well-being of all children in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Early Childhood Commission (the "ECC"), a commission established by joint action of the City Council and the School Board, possesses extensive knowledge of, and experience with, pre-school and other early childhood opportunities within our City. The City Council and the School Board believe that the ECC, with input and guidance from City and School staff and stakeholders and interested persons within the community, is well-suited to develop an implementation plan for providing increased access to quality pre-school educational opportunities within our City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA AND THE ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD:

1. That the ECC, with input and guidance from City and School staff and stakeholders and interested persons within the community, is requested to develop a plan for increasing access to pre-school opportunities within Alexandria; and
2. That, in developing this plan, the ECC should explore ways to achieve the goals and objectives of this Joint Resolution with a minimum of expense to the taxpayers of this City, and to place initial emphasis on providing increased pre-school access to children within our City who are not receiving pre-school educational experience.

Adopted: _____

William D. Euille, Mayor

Mark O. Wilkoff
Chairman, Alexandria City School Board

Attest:

Jackie M. Henderson, City Clerk