

Jackie Henderson

From: Neil Snyder <Winston1107@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:48 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: School budget cuts
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 08:48:15] Message ID: [39164]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Neil
Last Name: Snyder
Street Address: 213 Virginia Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-683-858
Email Address: Winston1107@yahoo.com
Subject: School budget cuts

I have two and soon to be three kids at George Mason Elementary school.
I
pay taxes. Do not cut the school budget
again this year or next. Do
hurt the kids because of unmet pension liabilities. Adults negotiated the
Comments: pension deal let
adults deal with the consequences, not kids. Some day
they be funding your retirement, social security, and Medicare.
Let them
grow up smart and motivated.
Thank you

Jackie Henderson

From: Ramee Gentry <rameegentry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:38 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: proposed reduction to ACPS allocation
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Mon May 07, 2012 08:37:50] Message ID: [39163]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Ramee
Last Name: Gentry
Street Address: 163 Barrett Place
City: ALEXANDRIA
State: Virginia
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-567-4676
Email Address: rameegentry@gmail.com
Subject: proposed reduction to ACPS allocation
I find it bitterly ironic that as our schools kick off Teacher Appreciation Week, the City Council is preparing to vote on a reduction of \$1.23 million to our schools next year. You understand that the additional 1.23 million from the State does NOT replace this. This proposed change to the budget, with its salary and retirement requirements is a CUT, and a very significant one at that. I understand that you must represent the needs of the entire City, but there can be no better investment in City funds than investing in our schools. School quality will always be a major driver of property values, and good property values is good for everyone in the City, not just those with children currently in public school. I recognize and share your frustrations with the recent issues with CIP budget management, but the persons involved have all been fired or

resigned. If this reduction in ACPS is meant to send a "message"

it
will only affect those of us who are left, who have done nothing wrong

and only want to keep up the
momentum we have created in improving our

schools.
ACPS must compete with other local jurisdictions for teachers,

and we need funds to keep our salaries
competitive. If school quality

starts to head in the wrong direction, the City of Alexandria will lose

money.
Please reconsider this devastating cut to our schools. Parents

with young children might not always have
the leisure time to write the

Council, but they are active members of the community, they are
energized

about this issue, and they do vote. Residents of Cameron Station, even

those without children, are pleased
with the good buzz about the middle

schools, knowing the increased value it gives to their homes, and they

vote, too.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
Ramee

Gentry
Samuel W. Tucker Elementary PTA President

Jackie Henderson

From: Monica Murphy <monicajmurphy@me.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 3:37 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS allocation
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 15:36:31] Message ID: [39099]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Monica
Last Name: Murphy
Street Address: 1305 dartmouth road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: (703) 863-1305
Email Address: monicajmurphy@me.com
Subject: ACPS allocation
Please do not cut the ACPS allocation by \$1.23 million. Funds are needed to
Comments: pay for taxes and benefits. It is important to calculate this amount and
reserve these funds to cover these expenses.

Jackie Henderson

From: Tammy Mann <tmann@campagnacenter.org>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 3:51 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Funding to Support Early Childhood Education
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 15:51:13] Message ID: [39100]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Tammy
Last Name: Mann
Street Address: 418 S. Washington St
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22032
Phone: 703-224-2345
Email Address: tmann@campagnacenter.org
Subject: Funding to Support Early Childhood Education
Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

I write on behalf of The Campagna

Center to express our support for a request that has been made to set aside

\$500,000 for early childhood education as recommended by the newly formed

Collaborative Commission on Children Youth and Families. I am honored to

serve as Chair of this Commission, though today I speak on behalf of The

Comments: Campagna Center, another organization with a rich history and firm commitment to improving the lives of children, especially young children.

As you are all well aware, investments made in the earliest years of life, reap tremendous benefits now and in the future. With over 400 children on the city's waiting list for child care tuition assistance, it would be a tragedy to overlook this level of need as the FY13 budget is adopted. Alexandria is a city rich in resources and has been a leader in investing in the early years. I urge you to take advantage of this

opportunity to vote in favor of restoring funding to support vital needs in this area – especially given that the city has a \$9.2 million budget surplus.

Thank You,

Tammy L. Mann, PhD
President & CEO
The

Campagna Center

Jackie Henderson

From: Jeff Lane <jeff.lane38@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 4:05 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 16:05:16] Message ID: [39101]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jeff
Last Name: Lane
Street Address: 2202 Fort Ward Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-212-8285
Email Address: jeff.lane38@gmail.com
Subject: ACPS

I understand that the City Council will consider on Monday whether to reduce the ACPS budget. My wife and I have two children at Douglas MacArthur Elementary school, and we support the system strongly. We believe the Council should reject any cut, or at least minimize the
Comments: reduction. Our understanding is that the additional monies being received from the State do not actually offset the proposed cut.

Thank you for
your consideration.

Jeff Lane and Mary Beth Buchholz

Jackie Henderson

From: Stephen Lally <slally@argosy.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 4:18 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Proposed cuts ACPS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 16:17:48] Message ID: [39103]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Stephen

Last Name: Lally

Street Address: 8 East Howell Ave

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone:

Email Address: slally@argosy.edu

Subject: Proposed cuts ACPS

I am concerned about the proposed cuts in the ACPS budget, and upset that

Councilman Fannon partly believes that this is not an important issue since only "15%" of the families have children in schools. This is incredibly short sighted. The quality of a city's schools is an important variable for employers looking to locate in an area. Although my family is one of Mr. Fannon's "15%," and I see the quality of the school system as of primary importance in my decision to reside in the city, it should be noted that my "childless" neighbors also report that the adequacy (or lack of adequacy) in the school system is an important variable in considering whether a council member is deserving of re-election. Already in the wake of debacle of the Mark Center, there is real question about the decision making process of the council. A cut like this does nothing but demonstrate a short-sighted perspective of our representatives.

Comments:

Jackie Henderson

From: Lisa Eppley-Pelusi <Lepelusi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 4:11 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS funding
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 16:10:30] Message ID: [39102]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Lisa
Last Name: Eppley-Pelusi
Street Address: 51 South Gordon Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22303
Phone: 703-855-4767
Email Address: Lepelusi@gmail.com
Subject: ACPS funding

Please do not cut ACPS Funding on Monday. As a parent of a kindergarten student in Room 16 at Douglas MacArthur Elementary, we have been directly affected and involved in bringing to attention the unhealthy state of the facilities. We are available to share our personal experience, since the room 16 class, teachers, and our allergy-prone daughter have been moved from room to room and exposed to a moist mold-prone environment throughout the school year. Please consider that cutting funding will potentially only increase the problems within the ACPS system. These and other well-known problems are causing intelligent, valuable, contributing, tax paying citizens to leave Alexandria when their children reach school age, as many, given the cost of living and the economy, are not able to afford private education. Instead, they choose to leave Alexandria and move to

Fairfax and other locations because of a poor school system. How would cutting funding affect this trend and the future of Alexandria? Lisa and Mark Pelosi

Jackie Henderson

From: Michelle Winston <winschelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 3:25 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Budget cut proposed to ACPS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 15:25:14] Message ID: [39098]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Michelle
Last Name: Winston
Street Address: 1901 Scroggins Road
Alexandria, VA 22302
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 571-312-1250
Email Address: winschelle@gmail.com

Subject: Budget cut proposed to ACPS
Dear Sir(s) & Madam(s):

I have just received an e-mail from the
Douglas MacArthur Elementary PTA regarding the proposed budget cut to
ACPS.

Frankly, it is shocking to me that in a town such as Alexandria,
this is being proposed and that the members of the City Council did not
even debate the topic.

Comments: I understand that funds are short due to the
economic situation in this county. But I don't think we should
automatically short change our children because of it -- certainly not
without debate and public input.
In our household, because our son
needs extra attention in a certain subject, we have obtained the services
of a tutor. The teachers are not able to provide him the one on one
assistance that he needs and we understand that. We are lucky because
we
are in a position where we are able to obtain additional assistance, but we

cannot afford to sent him to a private institution. I can only imagine the frustration of parents who cannot afford to pay for extra assistance and then to suffer school budget cuts, cutting who knows what to our kids and the teachers who teach them. My son's teacher spends her own money to buy books to help her students learn to read.

I do not think Mr. Fannon's argument is valid when he says a cut is justified because only 15% of Alexandria families have children at ACPS . That is backward thinking at best and I am sure when people step to the ballot box next time, they will remember his stance on such an important issue as this.

I think that it must also be remembered that these children are going to be responsible for taking care of us in our old age. Let us set an example that we do not look for easy solutions, we do not call votes without debates on such significant issues and without public input. We work, dig, fight and do what we can before such detrimental actions are taken.

Children are our future, treat them as such.

Thank you,
Michelle Winston

Jackie Henderson

From: J CACHAN <asjassin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 2:59 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: City Council cuTS TO acps
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 14:59:21] Message ID: [39096]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: J
Last Name: CACHAN
Street Address: 1420 DOGWOOD DR
City: ALEXANDRIA
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone:
Email Address: asjassin@yahoo.com
Subject: City Council cuTS TO acps
We'll see if you can get elected in the next round. It is outrageous that you are even considering approving a full budget cut to ACPS without even

Comments: debating the consequences it will have and impact on the quality of education to the children in this city.
Shame on you!!!!

Jackie Henderson

From: Mary Eileen Dixon <cmedixon8@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 3:15 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: cuts in early childhood programs
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 15:14:42] Message ID: [39097]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Mary Eileen
Last Name: Dixon
Street Address: 5052 Donovam Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 571-970-0369
Email Address: cmedixon8@msn.com

Subject: cuts in early childhood programs

I am writing to express my dismay concerning proposed cuts to funds for early childhood programs in the City of Alexandria. I do not believe that there is any other spending area which produces a better return, both in the lives of the children affected and in the society in which they live.

Comments: As a volunteer at the ALIVE! Child Development Center, I see the difference which high quality early care and education can make in young children who come from low income families and whose home environments do not provide the stability and support they need and who otherwise will arrive at kindergarten unprepared to begin academic instruction.

I therefore urge that the Alexandria City Council allocate in its FY13 Budget, a set aside of \$500,000 to address unmet childcare needs in the City and that the Council charge the newly formed Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) with reporting back to Council before its June meeting, with recommendations for the effective use of

these funds.

Thank you for your attention.

Mary Eileen Dixon
5052

Donovan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22304

Jackie Henderson

From: Larry Golemon <lgolemon@washtheocon.org>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 2:10 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Support Review of current ACPS operations over Budget Cuts that hit our Children
Attachments: ATT00002.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 14:10:21] Message ID: [39091]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Larry
Last Name: Golemon
Street Address: 3737 Seminary Road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-232-5303
Email Address: lgolemon@washtheocon.org
Subject: Support Review of current ACPS operations over Budget Cuts that hit our Children
To Alexandria City Council,
I strongly support calls for greater City supervision of ACPS finances and priorities, but not at the expense of drastic budget cuts that will have an adverse impact on teachers and educational programs that are working well. The City Manager's proposal is unwarranted—as it amounts to a “seizing” of public funds offered by the State.
Comments: The problem with ACPS is not chiefly at the level of local teachers and educational delivery—but at levels of Central Office leadership. I strongly support a careful review process of their work and financial practices instead of budget cuts this year. To take from the schools what the State has awarded them is nothing short of robbing Peter to pay Paul—and completely counterproductive.
As for Councilman Fannon's

remarks—that the public schools serve only 15% of families is first wrong for families with school-age children, and secondly suggests that other adults should not support the education of children in the city. Contrary to his remarks, the city must support strong public schools in, if not out of civic commitment, then at least as a draw for businesses, government employees, and military families to live and work here.

Don't take

such drastic action that impacts thousands in the city. Instead, go after the problem where it lies—with a handful or so at the top.

Larry

Golemon
Father of 2 in ACPS schools

Jackie Henderson

From: Sarah Constant <sarahconstant@me.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 2:59 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: School Budget - State Funding
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 14:58:32] Message ID: [39095]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Sarah

Last Name: Constant

Street Address: 3706 Seminary Road

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22304

Phone: 7036832744

Email Address: sarahconstant@me.com

Subject: School Budget - State Funding

I strongly ask you to reconsider the \$1.23 million plus in proposed cuts to the Alexandria City School budget. The state has provided the city with an opportunity to support its teachers, with step increases. Our teachers are critical to our children's development.

While I understand frustration

around the mismanagement of the capital needs budget -- I also believe this

is an opportunity to establish new levels of accountability through the

Comments: development of a working partnership between Alexandria City Council and

ACPS.

Refusing the state funds seems to me to indicate the bitterness

between council and ACPS lingers -- and the opportunity for Alexandria City

Schools to continue to grow and develop.

I encourage council to look

at this as an opportunity to move forward with ACPS and with the families and children of Alexandria city public schools.

Thank you.

5

Jackie Henderson

From: Beth Caseman <b.caseman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 2:36 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 14:36:03] Message ID: [39094]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Beth
Last Name: Caseman
Street Address: 5257 Colonel Johnson Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: (703) 683-1608
Email Address: b.caseman@gmail.com
Subject: ACPS Budget

Dear Council Members,

I am the concerned parent of a student at Samuel Tucker Elementary. I have learned in recent days that the budget passed by the State of Virginia included 1.23 million more than expected toward next year's school budget, and that the City of Alexandria now proposes to reduce their allocation to ACPS by the same amount. Unfortunately, the state money comes with mandated step salary increases, but the state is only funding the salaries, not the attendant increase in costs for payroll taxes and benefits that are tied to the salaries. As a result, ACPS must either reduce its proposed budget and/or take from reserve accounts to implement even the minimum required additional 1% salary and 1% employee VRS contribution required by the state to get to 5% by 2016. I have also heard that Alexandria is the only local jurisdiction in the Commonwealth to take this step. We cannot afford additional reductions. We need to stay competitive on salaries for our teachers.

Although households with school-age children make up only 15% of the city's population, the quality of Alexandria city public schools directly affects the entire community.

At minimum, better schools mean higher property values. The perception of

better quality schools in Arlington and Fairfax plays a major part in the decision by many of my friends and neighbors to move away from Alexandria.

We do not want Alexandria to be comprised only of the very poor, and the very rich. That helps no one. Moreover, we all benefit from an educated citizenry. I believe strongly in public schools, and though my husband and I could likely afford to send our daughter to private school, I want her to experience the diversity and gain a world view that can only be gained at this young age by attending class with students from all economic

backgrounds. And frankly, for the past 2 years, she's gotten an excellent education at Sam Tucker. Her kindergarten and first grade teachers have been wonderful. I fear, however, that if the Council cannot work effectively with the School Board to ensure teacher salaries stay competitive with our neighboring jurisdictions, great teachers will no longer want to teach in Alexandria. We ask so much of our teachers in this school district -- we ask them to teach classes comprised of children who do not speak English, children who have never attended preschool, those

who may have no access to books at home, and whose parents may never have

finished high school, alongside the children of doctors and lawyers like myself whose children have 3 years of preschool under their belt and may be

reading before they ever enter public school. Somehow, these teachers are

managing to level the playing field -- to educate children from all walks of life, to inspire and motivate them to learn more, to challenge all of the children in the classroom and to teach them to become great citizens.

Please support our teachers in this Herculean task, and recognize the value

of the work they do -- not only to the children they are teaching, but to the community at large in which many of those children will ultimately

live.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Beth Caseman, mother of

Elise Bowen, in Ms. Kujala's First Grade Class

Jackie Henderson

From: Janese Bechtol <janesebechtol@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 1:59 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: School funding
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 13:59:18] Message ID: [39089]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Janese
Last Name: Bechtol
Street Address: 276 Gretna Green Court
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-823-9756
Email Address: janesebechtol@hotmail.com
Subject: School funding
Funny how the state providing Alexandria an additional \$1.23 million for schools has the effect of costing the schools money! If our city leaders are adamant that the schools should not get any more money (contrary to the State's position) the least you could do is not penalize the schools by leaving enough to cover the increase in costs for payroll taxes and
Comments: benefits that will be required to meet the state requirement for step increases. Instead, it sounds like the city is choosing to make a point about the capital improvement funds by eating into the schools' operational funds -- all that does is punish our kids for something they had nothing to do with and were already hurt by.

Jackie Henderson

From: Stephanie Waldhoff <stwaldhoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 2:14 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Funding
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 14:14:24] Message ID: [39092]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Stephanie

Last Name: Waldhoff

Street Address: 100 Browns Mill Drive

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22304

Phone: 571-970-3538

Email Address: stwaldhoff@gmail.com

Subject: ACPS Funding

Dear City Council Officials,

I am concerned about the proposed cuts to

the ACPS budget. While I do understand that there has been an increase in

state funding for teacher salaries, those funds do not cover the additional

taxes and benefits, for which City funds will still be needed. I strongly

oppose these cuts as they seem quite arbitrary. I am certainly in favor of

fiscal responsibility and making the best use of funds available, the

decrease of City funding is not offset by the state funding increase.

Comments:

These cuts will result in ACPS using pension reserves to cover this

deficit. Given the large number of pension plans that have failed over the

past several years, it would seem unwise for the Council to force ACPS into

a situation in which they will have to borrow from the pension

reserves.

In addition, I have a significant issue with remarks made by

Councilman Fannon regarding his additional proposed cuts to ACPS. His

justification for these cuts is that, "want to be fair to all

taxpayers in addition to the school community. Over 85 percent of Alexandria households do not have children in the school system." The implication is that only 15% of tax payers benefit from the ACPS system. Primary and secondary education is a public good. The benefits reaped by the community from having an educated populace far outweigh costs associated with paying for their education. Better educated children grow into better educated adults and that is a benefit to all of us.

Not only

is education a public good through the reducing future expenditures on social service programs, it also benefits property values. Although many people do not currently have children in the ACPS system (though many of them did in the past or will in the future), the value of their houses is closely tied with the quality of the school system. This is an issue I'm sure everyone living in Alexandria cares about.

I urge you to please

reconsider any decision to cut ACPS funding.

Regards,
Stephanie

Waldhoff

Jackie Henderson

From: Larry Golemon <lgolemon@washtheocon.org>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 2:03 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Support Review of current ACPS operations over Budget Cuts that hit our Children
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 14:02:46] Message ID: [39090]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Larry

Last Name: Golemon

Street Address: 3737 Seminary Road

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22304

Phone: 703-232-5303

Email Address: lgolemon@washtheocon.org

Support Review of current ACPS operations over Budget Cuts that hit our

Subject:

Children

To Alexandria City Council,

I strongly support calls for greater City

supervision of ACPS finances and priorities, but not at the expense of

drastic budget cuts that will have an adverse impact teachers and

educational programs that are working well. The City Manager's proposal is

unwarranted—as it amounts to a “seizing” of public funds offered by the State.

Comments:

The problem with ACPS is not chiefly at the level of local

teachers and educational delivery—but at levels of Central Office

leadership. I strongly support a careful review process of their work and

financial practices instead of budget cuts this year. To take from the

schools what the State has awarded them is nothing short of robbing Peter

to pay Paul—and completely counterproductive.

As for Councilman Fannon's

remarks—that the public schools serve only 15% of families is first wrong for families with school-age children, and secondly suggests that other adults should not support the education of children in the city. Contrary to his remarks, the city must support strong public schools in, if not out of civic commitment, then at least as a draw for businesses, government employees, and military families to live and work here.

Don't take

such drastic action that impacts thousands in the city. Instead, go after the problem where it lies—with a handful or so at the top.

Larry

Golemon
Father of 2 in ACPS schools

Jackie Henderson

From: Marian Pegram <marianpeg@eathlink.net>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 1:29 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Approve Budget for CCNA
Attachments: ATT00002.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 13:29:20] Message ID: [39087]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Marian
Last Name: Pegram
Street Address: 5154 California Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone:
Email Address: marianpeg@eathlink.net
Subject: Approve Budget for CCNA
Dear Mayor Euille and Members of th City Council,

I am writing to

request that you approve the \$20,000.00 budget requested by the
Concerned

Citizen Network of Alexandria (CCNA) to support the RARE after school
program. It is very important to continue this program that is vital in
reducing the achievement gap for minority students in the City of
Alexandria. It is quite shameful that in a city that prides itself on
building one of the most technologically advanced schools in the
Comments: Commonwealth of Virginia, it is unable to identify \$20,000 in the budget to
support a program to help our minority students. We are currently
spending

more than \$20,000 to extend the trolley system in the city in order to
support the tourism industry. Certainly you can identify CCNA's request
for \$20,000.00.

I hope that you will do the right thing for our
kids.

Regards,

Marian Pegrum

Jackie Henderson

From: Yolanda Bailey-Stockton <ystockton@acps.k12.va.us>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 10:13 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS Allocation
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 10:12:43] Message ID: [39076]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Yolanda

Last Name: Bailey-Stockton

Street Address: 730 North Fayette Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone:

Email Address: ystockton@acps.k12.va.us

Subject: ACPS Allocation

I am not in support of the 1.23 million reduction of the ACPS

allocation.

This has a direct effect on salaries.

State funds come with

mandated step salary increases, but the state is only funding the salaries,

Comments: not the attendant increase in costs for payroll taxes and benefits that are tied to the salaries.

ACPS will absorb the cost of the increased

payroll taxes and benefits by dipping into pension reserves .

If the

city were not taking back the \$1.23, there would be no problem.

Jackie Henderson

From: Christina Polosky <mommpolosky@live.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 10:20 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: 10 May council meeting regarding upcoming. budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 10:20:00] Message ID: [39077]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Christina
Last Name: Polosky
Street Address: 381 Cameron Station Blvd
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 5719700031
Email Address: mommpolosky@live.com
Subject: 10 May council meeting regarding upcoming. budget
I just wanted to say as a constituent of Alexandria and parent of four

ACPS children, who pays full taxes, I was very very disturbed when I

heard about your "1 for 1" swap with our school system's

budget. I understand that APCS is getting extra money from the state

next year. I also understand this is a complex issue. But to me, a

Comments: simple mother who wants desperately wants my children to go to public

schools, good public Schools, I just dont understand why you would take

money from ACPS.
Finally, it seems the state has deemed our school

system
worthy of extra monies to get our teacher's salaries up to a

level they are more than worthy of, and you want to take your money in

return? This doesn't make sense to

me. Again, I am not a teacher or
affiliated in any
capacity other than my children who go to Tucker,

Hammond, and TC Williams, but it just seems to me that
you as a council

are sending the message that raises for
city workers is more important

than our teachers!
Nothing is more important to me as a voter than our

teachers. At a time when Arlington's and Fairfax's school
systems are

upping their salaries by the full amount
mandated by 2016 next year, your

proposed cuts limits
our teachers to only 1% and that is with them

dipping
into their pension fund! No wonder people hold
Arlington and

Fairfax schools in such higher regard than
APCS! Our own city council

seeks to take money away
from the schools. I truly hope you all realize

that come
election time this year I will be voting AGAINST any
member

who votes to take this funding away. I will also
be actively speaking out

to my friends and neighbors in
the Cameron Station and APCS communities

to vote
against you as well. Please don't mark this unexpected
windfall

for our schools from the state taint your tenure
as public servants by

going right back and taking your
money (money = your supporting

commitment to our
schools) away. Let's get together and make our school

system better than our neighboring countieslet THEM
be envious of

US for once...and not the laughingstocks we
will be if our own city

council doesn't think enough of
our schools and teachers to give them the

funds they so
rightly deserve. Vote against taking this money, please.

Thank you for your time.

Jackie Henderson

From: John Medina <cjmed310@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 11:03 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Budget allocation for ACPS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 11:02:47] Message ID: [39079]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: John
Last Name: Medina
Street Address: 164 Comay Terrace
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22304
Phone: 646 620-5450
Email Address: cjmed310@gmail.com
Subject: Budget allocation for ACPS

I was disappointed to read that the Alexandria City Public School System is due to lose 1.3 million dollars that it desperately needs. I have two children who attend school here and I am saddened when I hear neighbor after neighbor tell me they are moving to Fairfax county because they do not have faith in the Alexandria public schools. These are parents (taxpaying parents) of talented kids who will only make a school program shine. I regret that I may have to tell my two young boys that due to the disintegrating quality of education offered by the ACPS they may also have to attend school elsewhere.

Jackie Henderson

From: Margo Williams <mjw1021@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 11:58 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 11:57:32] Message ID: [39081]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Margo

Last Name: Williams

Street Address: 102 W Bellefonte Ave

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 703-683-2417

Email Address: mjw1021@gmail.com

Subject: ACPS budget

Please please please don't cut off your nose to spite your face. Please don't cut the ACPS budget. It seems almost punitive that you would cut so much. How can we have good schools without great teachers? Who will go to the schools without great teachers? How can we have great teachers without

decent pay? Taxpayers like me demand good schools. It's good for my property value. The school system can't do a good job without money. We

Comments: have a tough but diverse school population - that's our strength. I am disappointed that the City Council, by cutting so much from the budget, doesn't see it that way. I support the superintendent in what he is doing. He moved quickly to get rid of the people who messed up on the CIP. He may not be liked by all, but the schools needed change in order to approve. No one is perfect but he and the school board are doing the best they can - please give them the tools to do so - and that is money. Thank you.

Jackie Henderson

From: Jeffery Kline <klineje@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 9:15 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Fully fund early childhood education
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 09:14:37] **Message ID:** [39070]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Jeffery

Last Name: Kline

Street Address: 102 Commonwealth Ave

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 7035481560

Email Address: klineje@hotmail.com

Subject: Fully fund early childhood education

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

Every year at Hopkins House we

privately raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to help needy children

get a strong foundation in education. But these private funds are not

enough to cover the costs of educating all children that are in need.

That means, without assistance from the Commonwealth and the City,

Comments: children do not receive the education they need and, often, parents are

kept from the workforce as they cannot afford childcare.

The City

Manager has recommended in this FY13 Proposed Budget, elimination of

\$519,680 in funding for early childhood programs in the City. I write to

urge you to set aside \$500,000 in funding to address the unmet childcare

needs in the City.

There are over 400 children currently on the City's

waiting for childcare tuition assistance. These are the children of

low-income, working parents – our City's most vulnerable families. Without

the City's help, they will not have access to childcare and will likely

enter kindergarten under-prepared for achievement in school and success

beyond.

Alexandria has had a longtime and strong commitment to the early

care of the City's children, particularly those of our low-income,

working families. It is incomprehensible to me that as the demographics of

our city change (toward more market based housing, for example, leading

to a broader tax base) that we would become less supportive of low income

families.

I urge you not to abandon our children and to support the

recommendations of the City's newly formed Children, Youth and Families

Collaborative Commission to set aside \$500,000 in the FY13 Budget for

childcare in the City.

Thank you,

Jeff Kline

Jackie Henderson

From: Devin Reese <devinreese@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 9:27 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: reduced ACPS budget
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 09:26:50] Message ID: [39071]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Devin
Last Name: Reese
Street Address: 2401 E. Randolph Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703 739-2955
Email Address: devinreese@yahoo.com

Subject: reduced ACPS budget

Dear City Council,

I understand that the Alexandria City Manager has proposed reducing the city's allocation to ACPS by \$1.23 million. I am writing to express my dismay over this idea. One cannot argue that the state's money makes up for this since is funding salary step increases, but not the payroll taxes and benefits that will increase as well.

At a time

when ACPS is working so hard to meet the needs of Alexandria's unusually

Comments:

diverse population, this seems like a poor choice. One of the challenges of ACPS is to recruit and maintain the high-quality teachers needed to provide differentiation for this broad spectrum of students. It is especially critical that we keep our teachers now, as the new curriculum comes on board and investments are being made in professional development to ensure fidelity of implementation. If ACPS decides to make up the shortfall by reducing the pension reserves, it is the teachers that will eventually feel the squeeze.

As a parent of three children in ACPS and

member of the TAG Advisory Committee, I strongly urge you to consider
this

cut in allocation.

thanks,
Devin Reese

Jackie Henderson

From: Dung Nguyen <dnguyen_eldert@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 10:10 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: City Allocation of Funds to ACPS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri May 04, 2012 10:09:38] Message ID: [39075]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Dung
Last Name: Nguyen
Street Address: 5015 Waple Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone:
Email Address: dnguyen_eldert@hotmail.com
Subject: City Allocation of Funds to ACPS

I am extremely disappointed in the Council's decision to take back from ACPS formerly allocated funding. I find this decision to be extremely short-sighted, as I have seen first-hand that the quality of the schools in Alexandria is a priority for families who are deciding whether or not to call the city home. Last year, over 6 families moved from our neighborhood in Alexandria to Fairfax, Arlington, Falls Church, and McLean. All cited the desire for a better public school system. This year, I know of at least 5 families who are either moving to nearby cities, sending their children to private school, or home-schooling--again, they point to their concern about the quality of the public schools in Alexandria. We, ourselves, are also considering a move within the next year. Though we love our elementary school and greatly value and admire the teachers and staff there, we do question the City's commitment to education. This decision certainly colors our view of this.

