

2
4-9-07

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

City of Alexandria, Virginia



OFFICE OF THE CHAIR: PO Box 20407, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22320, USA
TEL: (703) 909-4168; FAX: (703) 684-7476. E-MAIL: PVONGRUBER@AOL.COM

April 6, 2007

To: His Honor, Mayor Eulle,
and Members of the Alexandria City Council

From: Pamela Copley, Chair,
Alexandria Emergency Medical Services Council

It has been proposed that the City of Alexandria add two Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers in 2008. The Alexandria Emergency Medical Services Council supports this proposal.

Currently, 78% of all Fire/EMS 911 calls to the City are for EMS. As the City continues to build new apartments, condominiums and houses, the residents of Alexandria will increase, thereby increasing the number of EMS calls, and Fire calls will proportionately decrease due to strict fire building codes. So an increase in EMS providers will be necessary and timely.

The Council respectfully requests that the two additional EMS providers be added to maintain Alexandria's stellar pre-hospital care to all residents, workers and visitors.



BLACK FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS OF ALEXANDRIA, INC.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS - SOUTH-EAST REGION
CHAPTER #99

Post Office Box 25483 - ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-5483

1-301-613-0468 - 1-301-613-0467



To: The Honorable Mayor Euille, The Honorable City Council, City Manager and Staff

From: Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria, Virginia

Subject: Cost of living raise

I'm John Morehead, President of the Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria Virginia. I'm here representing the Fire Department to speak in support of a cost of living raise. Someone once said, "a fair days pay for a fair days work".

We at the Fire Department have earned our cost of living raise. We continue to respond to numerous emergency incidents with significant risks to health due to modern materials that cause cancer and other illness. We have not lost one life due to fire this year. This is due to the hard work and dedication of the Fire, Emergency Medical Service, and Code Enforcement Divisions through prevention and education, the cornerstones of reducing fire fatalities. We have done this even though the city has doubled in residents in the 20 plus years I have been employed here, without increasing staff in fire suppression as our surrounding jurisdictions have. We are in a recruitment war with our surrounding neighbors for the best and brightest to continue to provide the excellent service Alexandrians have become accustomed to receiving. We will fall further behind in pay and recruitment if we do not receive a competitive cost of living raise to stay competitive with our surrounding neighbors. Our Emergency Medical Services is the best in the metro area. People from other jurisdictions are always saying if they have to get sick, they want to be in Alexandria, due to our great services.

"a fair days pay for a fair days work".

Firefighters return to the city, even though most cannot afford to live here, to do community service out of their time and pockets. We do meals on wheels, partnership with the YMCA for back to school supplies and Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas parties for kids and mentor young people as part of our off duty activities. With all this, the citizens of this great city know how we feel about them, the question is "how does the city feel about us"?

You cannot run the Fire Department as a corporation, only looking at the bottom line. When a citizen dials 911, they talk to a real person, not a recording half a world away. Within 4-6 minutes, we're on the scene to mitigate whatever emergency they are having, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

In closing, the terrorist threat is still imminent, we are still at war. We have taken specialized training, many times on our own time, to counter this threat. This pager and First Responder Authentication Credentials(FRAC)identification card I carry, as do all Fire Department members, is so we can be contacted to return to work in case of emergency. While most are at home protecting their loved ones, we diligently return to our jobs of protecting the City of

Alexandria and its citizens from harm. All we request is
“ a fair days pay for a fair days work”. Thank-you.

2
4-9-07

the Women's
GIVING CIRCLE
of Alexandria

April 9, 2007

Remarks presented to the Alexandria City Council
By Holly Sloan, President
Women's Giving Circle of Alexandria

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce you to the Women's Giving Circle of Alexandria and our commitment to ***Preparing Alexandria's Children for Success***. A commitment that we know you share and one that we hope will be on the top of your budget priorities.

Inspired by the Alexandria Community Trust, WGCA is 400 mothers, daughters, grandmothers, sisters, volunteers and Alexandrians who pool their resources – financial donations, time and expertise – and invest these resources to make a significant and sustainable difference in the lives of Alexandria's most vulnerable children and their families.

To achieve our goal of preparing Alexandria's children for success, our intuition, research and conversations with experts from the City and Alexandria's human services community has led us to an investment strategy that focuses on ***early intervention and parents or primary caregivers***. In just over two years of operation, WGCA has invested over \$180,000 and countless volunteer hours to support programs that reach overburdened parents or caregivers early in a child's life, even before birth. We support programs that work with parents to build their capacity to sustain their children's physical, emotional, intellectual and social development, and guide them to a life of success. Our investments include:

- Expanding the number of families served by Healthy Families Alexandria;

- Initiating a developmental playgroup for caregivers and their children in Arlandria, facilitated by Stop Child Abuse Now, The Hispanic Committee of Virginia and Healthy Families Alexandria, and
- We have just committed to support, evaluate and potentially expand the parent leadership programs offered by Hopkin's house.

WGCA has ambitions to continue to grow our investment in caregivers and early intervention programs focused on children. We want to thank the City Manager for recommending a 5% increase in the funds that support Alexandria's Human Service organizations – the Children's Fund, the Youth Fund and the Community Partnership fund. I am sure that the budget cuts that are required to support this increase will be difficult – we are proud to be from a city that is willing to make these hard decisions and focus on the needs of our most vulnerable children and families. We urge you to incorporate this 5% increase in the approved budget.

We do not envy the position of the City Council as you consider the budget. There are many important activities that need the City's support. As you weigh the needs with the realities of this year's revenue, remember that WGCA members' dream of a city where all children thrive and become productive contributing adults. We know that a strong and sustained commitment to children will have a tremendous long term impact on the cultural, economic and social well being of the city. We know that the investments we make today will define the quality of life for our children and grand children; we know that the wellbeing of every child in this city is linked and that for all of us to prosper we must be willing to invest in the success of every child now.

*Attachments: WGCA Highlights
WGCA Community Gift Process*

the Women's
GIVING CIRCLE
of Alexandria

WGCA Highlights
Our Collective Investment
Sustainable Change in the Community

\$100,500 Invested in Alexandria (July 2005 – Feb 2007)

Healthy Families Alexandria

HFA, a program of Northern Virginia Family Services, has received \$64,000 from the WGCA to expand services. Through frequent home visits and coaching, beginning before birth and continuing for as long as five years, HFA helps parents provide a safe and supportive home environment; gain a better understanding of their child's development; obtain access to health care and other support services; use positive forms of discipline; and nurture the bond with their child.

HFA Services are provided to Alexandria's most vulnerable families with risk factors that include poverty, unemployment, single parenting, poor education, substance abuse, domestic violence, current or past history of family violence, child abuse, mental illness, unstable housing, poor health, and crime.

HFA Results

- ▶ Families are healthier and safer;
- ▶ Families have expanded their family and community support systems;
- ▶ Improved parent/child interactions;
- ▶ Children have been assessed and referred to developmental services if indicated; and
- ▶ Most of the families have moved from a level of extreme risk to a more stable and productive situation.

The Alexandria Community Trust inspired the creation of WGCA and has generously supported our philanthropy with expertise and a \$50,000 match – magnifying the impact of our members contribution by more than 25%.

Success by 6 / Arlandria Playgroup

Since December, 2005 mothers and children have gathered weekly at St. Rita's Church in Arlandria to build their children's skills and strengthen the parent-child bond. This Success by Six Playgroup is implemented by Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN), the Hispanic Committee of Virginia and Healthy Families Alexandria and is designed to attract mothers and children who are isolated from community services and other support systems. More than 50 families have benefited from the WGCA's \$36,500 investment in the Playgroup.

Playgroup Results

- ▶ Parents and caregivers have learned strategies to interact in developmentally appropriate and stimulating ways with their young children through playgroup activities and modeling.
- ▶ Parents and children have been connected with important community resources that can improve their family's well being. 65 referrals and specific requests for assistance have been handled since July 2007.
- ▶ The children are better prepared for success in school.
- ▶ Workshops have been offered on appropriate discipline; accessing low cost health insurance pre-school opportunities and children ID kits.

"I like the way the children share with other children and at the same time, I learn how to be a better parent." Quote from a parent participant

the Women's
GIVING CIRCLE
of Alexandria

WGCA Highlights
Our Collective Efforts in
Education and Volunteerism at Work

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Informed Philanthropy

- ▶ Fall & Spring Education Forums team community leaders and experts in human and educational services to educate members regarding community needs and the barriers to children's success.
- ▶ The WGCA Gift Committee, members who volunteer their time to research and work with non-profit agencies and community leaders to identify programs and initiatives within the realm of our gift priority of parental engagement, meet regularly with leaders and service providers to inform our gift decision making process.
- ▶ Education Forums provide opportunities for community leaders and experts to network with each other to identify successful approaches and programs to address barriers to our children's success.

WGCA is committed to investing 100% of member donations into the community. To achieve this, the WGCA actively seeks underwriting for educational forums and operational costs.

Thanks to Carol Cleary and McEneaney & Associates and to Audi of Alexandria for their support of WGCA programs.

VOLUNTEERISM

Enhancing Community Connection

In the fall of 2006, WGCA began to seek out and organize volunteer opportunities for members. These opportunities are advertised in our new e-mail update: **Community Connections**. Members have contributed to the following efforts:

- ▶ Thanksgiving Dinner Service with Lazarus Ministry.
- ▶ Hopkin's House essay contest, resulting in all participants receiving \$500 in gift cards and a much need car for one family.
- ▶ Painting the new *Center for Alexandria's Children*.
- ▶ Providing weekly snacks and supplies to the Success by Six Playgroup.

Community Service Day

In partnership with the **Alexandria Volunteer Bureau**, WGCA held the first **WGCA Community Service Day** in February 2007. WGCA partnered with:

- ▶ The Campagna Center on a **Book Drive** to create summer reading packs for elementary school students in the Campagna Center's literacy programs.
- ▶ ALIVE! on its **Last Saturday Food Distribution** program, which provides a 5-day supply of needed groceries, produce, and housewares to over 600 Alexandria families each month.

the Women's GIVING CIRCLE *of* Alexandria

WGCA GIFTS

WGCA Community Financial Gifts

The Women's Giving Circle of Alexandria pools the financial contributions made by its members, and strategically invests 100% of those contributions into the community. WGCA awards financial gifts to new and existing community programs that fit our stated mission of *Preparing Alexandria's Children for Success*.

WGCA Gift Priority

Priority is given to programs that address our strategic goal of *Parental Engagement*. We believe that a child's parents, or primary caregivers, are the strongest assets a child has – and that helping parents obtain the education and support they need is the best way to establish a strong foundation for their children's success.

The Gift Decision-Making Process

The WGCA Gift Committee, comprised of member volunteers, manages a thorough decision-making process resulting in gifts intended to make a strategic and sustainable difference in the lives of children and their families. The Committee sets its sights on specific outcomes, what we want to achieve for Alexandria's children and families. A collaborative process helps zero-in on the best programs to achieve those outcomes.

The Gift Committee collaborates with ...

... Community leaders and experts. By teaming with those who work daily to address the needs of our community, as well as those who know best how to deliver human and educational services, we gain an understanding of the barriers to children's success. With their input, we are equipped to identify successful approaches to address those barriers.

... Non-profit agencies. By working with established organizations that provide essential human services in Alexandria, we are able to identify gaps, recognize opportunities for partnership, and facilitate the establishment of new programs that reach children and families who are not receiving needed services.

... Members. A critical part of the gift decision-making process is providing opportunities for WGCA members to comment on and learn about proposed gifts prior to final approval by the elected WGCA Board.

***WGCA Gift Committee
as of February 2007***

Marybeth Emson, *Co-Chair*
Ellen van Bever, *Co-Chair*

Beth Aberg
Jane Knops Downing
Kelly Donovan
Julee Gately
Maria Hopper
Libby Langworthy
Katherine Morrison
Tracey Nichkelburg
Frede Ottinger
Karen Snow
Jonelle Wallmeyer

Any current member of the WGCA may join the Gift Committee.
Contact the Committee Chair by sending an email to
info@womensgivingcircleofalexandria.org
to let her know of your interest.

Meetings of the Gift Committee are open to members.
Check the WGCA website for dates and locations,
www.womensgivingcircleofalexandria.org

2
4-9-07

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
City Budget
Public Hearing
April 2007

**(First speaker: I am Rick Dorman, City Resident,
City Business Owner, Catalyst Group and Chair of the Board of
Directors of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.**

1. The budget is the financial expression
of what we plan to do
to make our vision happen
for all the citizens of Alexandria.

2. The Chamber complements the City Manager
on the new activity-based budget process.
We appreciate that you built this budget
the way we do in our businesses—from the ground up.

We also wish to complement the City Manager
for developing a budget within the guidelines
established by the Mayor and City Council.

For at least two years,
the Chamber has encouraged you
to hold increases in the City budget within 5%.
We encouraged you to keep increases in **real estate tax bills**
to a minimum.
Thank you for listening.

The Chamber supports the Mayor and City Council's decision
to set targets for the City's budget.
We congratulate the City Manager and Staff
on your team effort
to use your professional expertise
--to develop a viable budget
--that is within our means.

3. Every budget involves choices
and this year there are more tough choices than in the past.

In the long run, expenses can only be cut so much.
We, as a community, have an appetite for services
that is tough to balance with our limited revenue.
This year's budget shows
that we must expand our tax base.

Expanding the tax base
becomes a win-win situation for the community.
It keeps our City diverse and affordable;
it provides revenues to maintain our historic buildings,
to insure our public safety,
and to provide quality education for our children.

But we should **not** expand our budget
by burdening citizens and businesses
with increasing real estate taxes,
or by creating new **types** of taxes
to levy on businesses and residents.
This makes it harder to attract businesses to our City
and puts a greater burden on our residents.

We must expand our tax base
by developing a vision and strategy for economic development.
We must and can develop our city and our resources
in a way that brings in more revenue,
revenue that will benefit every citizen of the City of Alexandria.

4. One of the key opportunities before us in the next two years is the
creation of a new vision for Alexandria's waterfront. We have an
opportunity to make the most of one of our greatest assets,
in a way that will benefit our entire City.

Our waterfront must welcome citizens and visitors
to enjoy dining and recreation
in a setting that keeps our historic atmosphere.

The waterfront can be both a tool for economic development and a place for residents to enjoy.

Our waterfront must be viewed as an asset of **all** our citizens, and it should be developed in a way that benefits **all** our citizens. At the end of the day, the Alexandria waterfront must be for **all** the citizens of Alexandria.

(Your three minutes are up)

(2nd speaker: I'm Jan Day Gravel, Acting President and CEO of the Chamber.

The Chamber looks forward to continuing its work as part of a collaborative group to develop recommendations to help the City take advantage of the opportunity National Harbor offers.

Time is of the essence in this matter and we urge the City Council to give serious consideration to the Collaborative's recommendations which will be coming to you in June. We only have less than twelve months until the launch of April 1, 2008—the clock is ticking.

The \$300,000 of supplemental funding to get ready for National Harbor is a great start and worthy of even more support.

We appreciate the City Manager's initiative to get the ball rolling and we will work with you in any way possible to beat the clock.

5. The Waterfront is the water-gateway to our city, for visitors from Washington and National Harbor and other locations.

When National Harbor visitors step off the water taxi, we must have appealing, accessible transportation to get them to our historic sites, restaurants and shops.

We must have signage and a trolley bus in place to move these visitors up and down King Street.

The trolley bus should look like the traditional trolley that is part of our City's historic heritage.

The trolley should be frequent and free.

We have limited parking, and an appealing accessible trolley would move residents and visitors

to and from the waterfront

allowing them to leave their cars behind.

Yes, the trolley should be free, because the City already heavily subsidizes the DASH bus system.

Three quarters of every DASH dollar already comes from the City.

Directing some DASH dollars to a King Street trolley would come back as additional revenue from sales tax, meals tax and business license tax.

Let's bring back the King Street Trolley.

6. Between Fairfax County and Washington D.C., Alexandria is where suburbia gives way to a more urban environment.

We want to get people out of their cars and into public transportation.

People get out of their cars when they can walk to the store and when they can walk to Metro.

The Chamber supports making the most of our existing Metro connections with mixed use development and appropriate density.

In addition, we encourage you to consider opportunities for additional connections into the current Metro system --even creating additional metro stops within the city.

As far as our DASH busses are concerned, we need to ensure that they can go where they need to go to accommodate the needs of our Citizens and visitors. If the busses don't fit our streets, redesign the bus.

(Your three minutes are up)

(3rd speaker: I'm Pam De Candio, I live and work in the City of Alexandria , and a Board Member of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

7) We have been told that our City is not considered a "business friendly" environment. It is The Chamber's belief that this not a perception, but a reality.

While the region has grown in jobs, Alexandria's job growth has stayed flat.

The thousands of new jobs brought in by PTO only made up for thousands of other jobs that were lost to neighboring jurisdictions. We must provide economic incentives not regulatory disincentives to ensure that our City is business friendly. We need to not only attract new employers

but to keep the ones we already have.

We must improve the process
of both attracting and keeping businesses.
Predictability must be ensured.
Processes must be simplified.
New businesses shouldn't have to find their way
through a City Hall process
that looks like a plate of spaghetti.

8. Over the past few years, our City has experienced
a significant amount of development
that has produced welcome tax revenue.
Since PTO came on line
we have enjoyed more than \$8 million additional revenue each year.

Why then, people ask, aren't we seeing
more tax benefit from this development?

One big answer to that question is Landmark Mall.
Over the past 15 years,
the assessed value of Landmark Mall
has declined by more than \$100 million,
dragging down our commercial real estate tax revenue.
Over this period, we have lost around \$10 million in tax revenue
from Landmark Mall's decline.

With all the good we're doing in this City,
we can't let this continue.
We urge you to do whatever possible
to encourage the three property owners
to agree upon appropriate development.
The City must be willing to trade proffers or incentives
to promote development of landmark mall
and stop the bleeding.

9) A grid system between Eisenhower and Duke would take some of the congestion off Duke Street, and help Landmark be more attractive for development. A grid system would also assist in the development of West Eisenhower.

Extending a grid system between Eisenhower and Duke **can** be done without burdening any one street or neighborhood. We must be willing to consider ways to ease the flow of traffic in the West End and make it easier to get around our City.

(Your three minutes are up.)

(4th speaker: I'm Elizabeth Chisman Moon, City Resident, City Business Owner, Focus Data Solutions and Chair-Elect of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

10) The Chamber is excited about the landscape of change and opportunity being presented to reshape economic development in our community. We support the work being done by the Mayor's blue ribbon economic sustainability task force. The preliminary findings coming out of this panel appear to be on the mark for the future of our city. We look forward to the task force's report and recommendations for our City's future economic development.

11) Economic sustainability is the future of our city, but we have no clear vision of what it looks like, and no one person or organizations in charge of making it happen.

We have city departments and nonprofit entities that promote tourism,

that help small businesses,
that attract businesses and
that promote business activity.

Each of these entities tend to work in silos.
But none of these organizations is accountable
for ensuring that our city is economically sustainable
for the long haul. We need to define the functions of economic
development and identify the organizations best suited to carry out
that function and role. Goals and benchmarks need to be set so
everyone is working collaboratively for a unified vision of a successful
economic development strategy.

The Chamber also believes that a high level position within City
Government – on the level of a deputy City Manger – reporting
directly to the City Manger be charged to champion economic
development interests on behalf of the City.

The Chamber looks forward to working with you
to develop and implement
a unified approach to economic development
so that, as a city,
we can decide what we want
and have the appropriate organizations accountable for making it
happen.

12) The concepts raised by the economic sustainability task force will
not turn into future benefit for our city
unless they are accepted by the citizens of Alexandria.

The City must develop an educational program
to provide accurate information to our Citizens
about the need for economic sustainability
and the benefits of economic development.

Our Citizens will need balanced information
in order to make good decisions.

13) For several years,
the Chamber has been encouraging measures
to increase the supply of workforce housing
for middle-income homeowners
such as office workers, teachers, police officers, firefighters and
nurses----
so that these vital members of our City's workforce,
can live in Alexandria.

In the event of an emergency,
we don't want our first responders to *first* have to jump in their cars
and begin the commute up I-95.

14) When extraordinary affordable housing is offered,
the City must weigh the needs of all our Citizens.
You owe it to our citizens to make every effort
to balance competing concerns on this issue
and Citizens must sincerely collaborate
in the best interests of the City as a whole.

When opportunity knocks,
we have to figure out a way to answer the door.

**(5th speaker: I'm Todd Ruopp, City Resident, Assistant Vice
President of ARAG, North America, Inc. and a member of the
Government Relations Committee of the Alexandria Chamber of
Commerce.**

15) Employee pay
is one of the largest components of our budget.
This year's city budget
includes no cost of living increase for city employees.

I know you realize that employees in the business sector
are not guaranteed any raise at all.
But from listening to our city employees,

we have come to understand that municipal employees depend on an inflation factor as part of their annual salary advancement.

The City's pay structure is complex because it also includes a merit pay increase totally separate from cost of living increases. Even with no cost of living increase, 8 out of 10 city employees will still receive a merit pay increase this year of between 2 and 5%.

However, there are employees at the top of their grade who can receive no further merit increases, and these are some of our most experienced workers. If there is no COLA, some of our best workers get no raise at all.

In the interest of employee morale and retention, and to provide some parity with school employees, the Chamber would support the addition of a COLA in the amount of 1%, if the City Council sees fit to add one.

For the future, we encourage you to consider whether the current compensation system needs to be changed. We encourage the Council to evaluate and revise the current pay raise system and by next budget cycle recommend action steps to combine the merit pay system and the cost of living increases into one workable system, --with merit features and inflation factors, that works for our city.

16) The Chamber supports a public safety budget that promotes a safe city.

A safe environment is important,
not only to our customers and our businesses—
but also for our homes and our families.

6th speaker: I'm Lonnie Rich, City Resident, City Business Owner and 2006 Chair of the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and most importantly, a parent of children in public schools.

18) Again, we congratulate the Mayor, City Council,
the City Manager and Staff
on your team effort
to use your professional expertise
to develop a viable budget
that is within our means.

The chamber has always supported
excellence in educational programs because our businesses must
have an educated workforce to be successful.

The Chamber recognizes Alexandria schools have a higher
enrollment of at-risk students than our surrounding jurisdictions. We
have approximately 20% at-risk students more than our neighbors in
Arlington.

However, in these extraordinary times,
everyone has to stay within their means and explore new ways of
addressing issues - even our schools.

Citizens depend on school system leadership
to provide the openness in the School budget process
that has been demonstrated in the City budget process.

Citizens expect to know how their dollars are being spent.

Citizens expect the leadership
to allocate available resources

where they are needed the most—
and keep our budget strains out of the classroom.

The money we have devoted to our schools over the past few years
has funded some big successes—
more of our schools are accredited
and our children are achieving at higher levels.
Our students are excited about the new TC that's almost complete.
We know success takes money,
but our citizens have said its time to set a limit.
This year's proposed school budget
will result in higher real estate tax bills
unless some choices are made.
This year's school budget
includes a 2 % cost of living raise for school employees
where the city budget includes none.

Although the City Council
can not control the line items within the school budget,
we sense that there is an opportunity for compromise.

One suggestion is the City could fund the school budget
at a level that would allow City employees and School employees
to share the same cost of living increase—
allowing both city and school employees
a cost of living increase of 1%.

The Chamber urges the City Council
to fund the School budget
at a level that will allow the School employees
to receive the same cost of living increase as the City employees.

We encourage a school budget
that will send the students home to their parents
with a higher report card,
but not a higher real estate tax bill.

21) In closing, business in Alexandria is not a separate class or category of citizens. Business people are also Alexandria citizens, residents, school parents, neighbors, and colleagues. We are part of the vital fabric that weaves this community together.

For more than 100 years
The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
has played an important role
in **improving our quality of life**
and **our City's economic vitality--**

Alexandria Business continues
to be an integral part of the fabric of our City **today:**

We know that

- half of our City's tax and nontax revenue comes in each year because business takes place in our city.
- Alexandria business **supports the charities** that help our community, and that
- Successful Businesses are critical to the economic success of our City

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce **looks forward** to ***continuing*** to play an important role as your partner in addressing these critical issues that are so important to making Alexandria a better place for everyone.

Thank you for your time and attention. We hope our suggestions are helpful to your deliberations.

2
4-9-07

Alexandria SBDC
City Budget
Public Hearing
April 2007

I am Nancy Belmont, City resident, co-owner with my husband of Belmont, Inc. a branding and communications firm and Belmonster, a web development company.

I'm also past chair and a current member of the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center and a long-term client of the SBDC's.

I want to thank the City Manager and Budget Staff for the recommendation to continue the SBDC's \$120,000 funding in the Budget Proposal and urge the Council to support that recommendation.

Alexandria SBDC is in its **11th year of operation** and I think all of you realize that it is an economic development engine that has always provided **significant return on the City's investment:**

- Annual surveys, that capture only a fraction of Alexandria businesses served, show:
 - SBDC client businesses have Increased Sales over \$53 million
 - They've had **over \$50 million** of New Capital Investment
 - and have created or saved over 2500 jobs - **with the help of the SBDC**

The SBDC understands small businesses and how to efficiently and effectively provide them the resources and information they need.

SBDC staff **assisted 226** business clients in **2006**. During the month of **March 2007**, for example, SBDC staff conducted **81 counseling sessions** with **48 distinct businesses**.

Topics included **preparing business plans** to obtain financing, **cash flow management**, **general marketing assistance**, **marketing to the government**, and positioning **small companies to partner with larger ones** for federal contracts.

The SBDC can and should play an even **larger economic development role**, especially supporting the recommendations of the Economic Sustainability Work Group to make this a **more business friendly city**.

The SBDC also will play an active role helping Alexandria **merchants and restaurateurs** make preparations and improve operations to seize the **maximum benefits** from **National Harbor tourism**.

On a personal note, our business has benefited greatly from the help of the SBDC. The most dramatic example of this is when a brief phone call to the SBDC helped us to win a seven-year, 3.5 million dollar contract. As you can imagine, the increase in revenue has helped us to expand our staff and our office space, as well as our tax contribution to the City.

As a resident, I am proud to have a business that contributes to my City's tax base. With the help of the SBDC, many more businesses will be better equipped to grow as well.

I thank you for your time and interest in small business success.

2
4-9-07

Greetings Mayor Euille, members of City Council and my fellow citizens, I am Marianne Hetzer, multiple property owner, ACPS alumna and current parent, and president of the Alexandria PTA Council. My comments pertain to the FY08 City allocation to ACPS. I am not going to compare Alexandria to Arlington County or Fairfax County or Loudon County this afternoon. I'm not going to plead for a particular program or benefit. I'm not going to toss around acronyms or statistics. We have heard the comparisons; we have seen the results of existing initiatives and we have read the reports. All of these components are included in the school division budget that was developed by the individuals that we elected and hired to do so – the School Board members, the Superintendent and ACPS staff. Questions have been asked and answered and no glaring mistakes or excesses have been identified. So we are left with a justifiable and reasonable budget that provides the education that our 10,000 students deserve – an education that breeds success, not merely survival; an education that acknowledges diversity and meets the demands of standardized benchmarks; an education delivered by highly qualified professionals in settings intentionally designed for student achievement; an education that serves our students well today, and will serve our City well in the future. It is very possible that the future mayor of Alexandria is an ACPS student right now. ~~If my neighbors and I are any indication, it is a certainty that~~ many future Alexandria taxpayers are working their way through the public school system as we speak.

As citizens, we should be exceedingly PROUD of our on-going progress and EAGER to provide the necessary resources to give every student the same opportunity. We must find these resources. This year, it may have to be a real estate tax rate increase. I believe that the tax rate decrease last year (combined with the cumulative decreases over the past five years) was too severe, and that precipitous decrease created this year's unfortunate predicament. Now we realize that we must create revenue alternatives that do not put undue pressure on residential property owners. This unfair burden creates an atmosphere of skepticism and doubt that leads residents to question expenses that would never be questioned on the basis of their merit alone. Judge the school budget on its merit alone, and vote accordingly.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, and your demonstrated willingness to work collaboratively to serve our children.

Greetings Mayor Euille, members of City Council and my fellow citizens, I am Marianne Hetzer, multiple property owner, ACPS alumna and current parent, and president of the Alexandria PTA Council. My comments pertain to the FY08 City allocation to ACPS. I am not going to compare Alexandria to Arlington County or Fairfax County or Loudon County this afternoon. I'm not going to plead for a particular program or benefit. I'm not going to toss around acronyms or statistics. We have heard the comparisons; we have seen the results of existing initiatives and we have read the reports. All of these components are included in the school division budget that was developed by the individuals that we elected and hired to do so – the School Board members, the Superintendent and ACPS staff. Questions have been asked and answered and no glaring mistakes or excesses have been identified. So we are left with a justifiable and reasonable budget that provides the education that our 10,000 students deserve – an education that breeds success, not merely survival; an education that acknowledges diversity and meets the demands of standardized benchmarks; an education delivered by highly qualified professionals in settings intentionally designed for student achievement; an education that serves our students well today, and will serve our City well in the future. It is very possible that the future mayor of Alexandria is an ACPS student right now. ~~If my neighbors and I are any indication, it is a certainty that~~ many future Alexandria taxpayers are working their way through the public school system as we speak.

As citizens, we should be exceedingly PROUD of our on-going progress and EAGER to provide the necessary resources to give every student the same opportunity. We must find these resources. This year, it may have to be a real estate tax rate increase. I believe that the tax rate decrease last year (combined with the cumulative decreases over the past five years) was too severe, and that precipitous decrease created this year's unfortunate predicament. Now we realize that we must create revenue alternatives that do not put undue pressure on residential property owners. This unfair burden creates an atmosphere of skepticism and doubt that leads residents to question expenses that would never be questioned on the basis of their merit alone. Judge the school budget on its merit alone, and vote accordingly.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, and your demonstrated willingness to work collaboratively to serve our children.

2

4-9-07

**ALEXANDRIA NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH SERVICES, INC. (ANHSI)
ARLANDRIA HEALTH CENTER**

TESTIMONY TONI ANNETTE THOMAS - CITY COUNCIL, April 9, 2007

My name is Toni Annette Thomas and I am a consumer Board Member of ANHSI. I currently work as a Senior Grants Specialist at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc, in Rockville, MD. The organization provides a full benefits package -- including healthcare coverage -- for full-time employees. Loosely, this means that I have the option to go elsewhere for my primary healthcare yet I choose to stay at ANHSI. I may have happened upon ANHSI by chance, but I stay by choice.

My story is less common than it should be for many working adults. For me, it happened when I changed positions and found myself without healthcare coverage. Despite being fairly well-paying, my then government contractual position did not provide full benefits. Health insurance coverage was an option, but the cost was over \$600 each month. That was not affordable for me. Like many hypertensive adults, I am asymptomatic. So, I let my treatment lapse. Although I knew I could not continue without my medication, my options were limited due to cost of treatment and prescription costs.

As a sometime federal grant reviewer for the Bureau of Primary Health Care, I was aware of Federally Qualified Health Centers and their mission. I did a search on the Bureau's website and discovered that ANHSI was only about two miles from my apartment. Even though I knew I'd have to pay according to my salary, the cost was considerably less than private care. I called the center, made an appointment and have been a client since that time.

So, maybe it wasn't necessarily "by chance" that I found ANHSI. But I continue to stay because the staff cares and my treatment is excellent. I know excellence is subjective, but the fact that many staff could leave for higher paying positions elsewhere means a lot to me. Their service is proof that quality health care services should be available despite ability to pay or health insurance status. I'll stay not because I cannot go elsewhere but because my staying is proof that quality healthcare services are not dependent on ability to pay or health insurance status.

HOPKINS HOUSE



A Center for Children and their Families

1224 Princess Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.HopkinsHouse.org

Telephone: 703/549-4232
Facsimile: 703/683-3056
E-Mail: Info@HopkinsHouse.org

April 9, 2007

The Honorable William D. Euille
Mayor, City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council:

We write to you as parents at the Hopkins House Preschool Academy to ask that \$1.1-million be added to the fiscal 2008 City budget to fund Childcare Fee Subsidies in the City and to clear the preschool waiting list.

We are working parents and residents of Alexandria. The Childcare Fee Subsidy helps us to keep our children at the Hopkins House Preschool Academy and enables us to work.

As certainly you know, quality childcare is expensive - certainly more than average working families can usually afford. We are doing the best we can and contributing what we can afford to paying the preschool tuition for our children.

The Childcare Fee Subsidy is not a handout, but a helping hand to working families with children.

We want to provide our children with the strong educational foundation they need for success in kindergarten and beyond. Please help us by allocating the necessary funding in the City's 2008 budget.

Sincerely,

Paula Gibson
Signature 1

Paula Gibson
Printed Name

3713 Edison Street
~~1224 Princess Street~~
Address

L. Kelly
Signature 2

Lawrence Kelly
Printed Name

427 Cook St.
Address

Tonya Shalek

Signature 3

Tonya L. Peake

Printed Name

C Beekman

Address

Shayna Baker

Signature 4

Shayna Baker

Printed Name

Euille St

Address

Millisa Archie

Signature 5

Millisa Archie

Printed Name

426 N. Payne St.

Address

Jessica Davis

Signature 6

Jessica Davis

Printed Name

205-TH N. Ripley St.

Address

Alyssa

Signature 7

Alyssa Morris

Printed Name

401 E. Alexander Ave

Address

Kiley Wellner

Signature 8

Kiley Wellner

Printed Name

1419 Oronoco St

Address

Jamal Koram

Signature 9

JAMAL KORAM

Printed Name

3306 Lanover

Address

Akisha Cunningham

Signature 10

Akisha Cunningham

Printed Name

2711 Arlington Dr #103

Address

Shannon Gattin

Signature 11

Shannon Gattin

Printed Name

1512 princess street

Address

Glorya Barle

Signature 12

Glorya Barle

Printed Name

820 Montgomery St

Address

P. Ad

Signature 13

Priscilla Fofana

Printed Name

1704 W. Braddock Rd.

Address

Maria Bindner

Signature 14

Maria Bindner

Printed Name

4 Canterbury Sq #302

Address

Simon Teklemariam

Signature 15

Simon Teklemariam

Printed Name

7513 Redick St #302

Address

Naketa N. Mosley

Signature 16

Naketa N. Mosley

Printed Name

7809 Beltford Dr #104

Address

Nicole Maxwell

Signature 17

Nicole Maxwell

Printed Name

Address

Lyette
Signature 18

Njeeri-Falcher
Printed Name

3822 Usher Court
Alexandria, VA 22304
Address
1202 West Braddock RD
Alexandria, VA 22302
Address

Kadi
Signature 18

Kadi Chappelle
Printed Name

Shawna
Signature 21

Shawna Green
Printed Name

817 N. Hinky St.
Address

Tinika Kelly
Signature 22

Tinika Kelly
Printed Name

123 E. Clifford
Address

Sireeta Beama
Signature 23

Sireeta Beama
Printed Name

724 N. Fayette St.
Address

Angela McCuey
Signature 24

Angela McCuey
Printed Name

225 York Dr.
Alex. VA 22314
Address

Nicole
Signature 25

Nicole Wislaet
Printed Name

3125 Lark St
Alexandria VA 22302
Address

Marguitta McCullough
Signature 26

Marguitta McCullough
Printed Name

700 Yankam Parkway #106 Alex VA
22304
Address

Tarisha Logan
Signature 27

Tarisha Logan
Printed Name

907 Madison St. alex. VA 22314
Address

Michael D. Henderson
Signature 28

Michael D. Henderson
Printed Name

3830 Cameron Hills Drive Apt. 303
Address

Adrienne Harris
Signature 29

Adrienne Harris
Printed Name

605 North Patrick St
Address

Amr Nururo
Signature 30

Amr Nururo
Printed Name

5477 Sheeffer Rd #152
Address

Melanie Nettles
Signature 31

Melanie Nettles
Printed Name

811 N. Henry St.
Address

Latoya Brandon
Signature 32

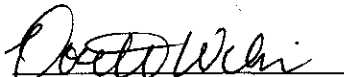
Latoya Brandon
Printed Name

3005 Manning Street
Alex, VA 22305
Address

Jawit Belay
Signature 33


JAWIT BELAY
Printed Name

124 Ellsworth St.
Address


Signature 34

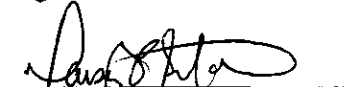
Donetta Wilkins
Printed Name

1320 madison st
Alexandria VA 22314
Address


Signature 35

Marlene Lanos
Printed Name

30 S Floyd St
Alexandria VA 22304
Address


Signature 36

DAISY SUTA
Printed Name

4718 W. Broaddock Rd
Alexandria VA 22311
Address


Signature 37

LEWIS, Christopher
Printed Name

205 D. Ripley St Apt 205
Address

Signature 38

Printed Name

Address

Signature 39

Printed Name

Address

Signature 40

Printed Name

Address



OFFICERS:
Harry "Bud" Hart
Chair
Valeria S. Henderson
Vice Chair
Clarence A. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer

Richard G. Cole, Jr.
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
J. Glenn Hopkins
President/CEO

TRUSTEES:
Robert Bogan
Mark Eisenhower
Mary Catherine Gibbs
David Gompert

Robert D. Hicks
Julie N. Jakopic
Bernice Lee
Gregory H. Leisch
Erik M. Lensch

Amy L. Maddox
Alvin Nashman
Lee Quill
Noel A. Shepherd

2
4-9-07

Testimony for Public Hearing on the City Budget
Alexandria City Hall
April 9, 2007

Good Evening Mr. Mayor, Members of Council, City Manager Hartman:

I am Bernie Schulz, a member of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission since December 2000. It is a pleasure to have a few minutes to speak in support of the budget to preservation our City's Historic Facilities.

In FY 2006, General Services commissioned a comprehensive assessment of historic facilities. The assessment identified \$3.4 million in capital needs at OHA properties to be performed, including plaster repair, painting, floor restoration, HVAC, electrical and plumbing components. \$1.2 million worth of work is currently underway, with the \$2.2 million balance proposed for funding in the FY 2008 to FY 2013 time period. This means \$370,000 per year (FY 2008 - FY 2013), representing an increase of \$220,000 per year budgeted to address facility capital maintenance at the City's historic buildings and sites managed by the Office of Historic Alexandria. This funding plan will allow for the completion of the remaining identified needs within six years.

We all know the high cost of repairs in our own homes—which more than likely are not 100+ years old. I personally would like to thank City Manager Hartman for his commitment to eradicating “deferred maintenance” within the City's inventory of properties. His strong commitment to our City's

Historic Properties has not gone unnoticed by my Commission and others in the Historic Preservation Community.

Many of you participated in the Jamestown 2007 Celebration festivities when the *Godspeed* visited Alexandria a few months ago. In May, the nation, and in fact, visitors from around the world, will gather in Jamestown to celebrate the founding of Jamestown. While Alexandria was founded some time after Jamestown, it too has a connection to the history of our country. When Americans hear the “City of Alexandria,” they inevitably think of the rich history of a place George Washington once called home. This history in many ways is rooted in our historic buildings. The budget presented by the City Manager represents a significant step forward in making sure we do all that we can to preserve these treasures of the past. I urge the Council’s adoption of the budget to support the preservation of our City’s historic facilities.

2
4-9-07

**Presentation at City Council Meeting Concerning the Budget for 2008
April 9, 2007**

Good evening City Council members:

My name is Sheryl Bell, and I am speaking on behalf of the Education Committee of the Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee. I would like to make the following recommendations for consideration in the budget of the Alexandria City Public Schools for the school year, 2007-2008.

I would like you to consider:

In the T.C. Williams class of 2005, there were 814 students at the start of 10th grade, but only 503 students graduated with standard or advance diplomas. There 561 Black and Latino students in the class, but only 298 graduated with standard or advanced diplomas.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) needs the full \$7 million of additional funding for the 2007-2008 school year budget. Unless the Superintendent receives this additional funding, ACPS cannot be expected to continue at the level of excellence and advancement that they have been for the last couple of years. When there is an achievement gap between minority students and white students, like there is now in ACPS, it is not a time to cut funding to programs and teachers that help these minority students.

All students deserve adequate college preparation, and the African-American and Latino students are not getting the same level of education as their white peers. Rejecting the \$7 million in additional funding will hit these minority students the hardest. Please approve this additional funding so that ACPS Black and Latino students are as *equally* prepared for college as their fellow students.

**Presentation at City Council Meeting Concerning the Budget for 2008
April 9, 2007**

Good evening City Council members:

My name is Sheryl Bell, and I am speaking on behalf of the Education Committee of the Tenants and Workers United. I would like to make the following recommendations for consideration in the budget of the Alexandria City Public Schools for the school year, 2007-2008.

I would like you to consider:

In the T.C. Williams class of 2005, there were 814 students at the start of 10th grade, but only 503 students graduated with standard or advance diplomas. There 561 Black and Latino students in the class, but only 298 graduated with standard or advanced diplomas.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) needs the full \$7 million of additional funding for the 2007-2008 school year budget. Unless the Superintendent receives this additional funding, ACPS cannot be expected to continue at the level of excellence and advancement that they have been for the last couple of years. When there is an achievement gap between minority students and white students, like there is now in ACPS, it is not a time to cut funding to programs and teachers that help these minority students.

All students deserve adequate college preparation, and the African-American and Latino students are not getting the same level of education as their white peers. Rejecting the \$7 million in additional funding will hit these minority students the hardest. Please approve this additional funding so that ACPS Black and Latino students are as *equally* prepared for college as their fellow students.

Christopher Bedwell

2

4-9-07

**FY 2008 Proposed Budget
April 9 Public Hearing**

**Cover Sheet of Contents for Speaker
(Christopher Bedwell)**

- PAGE 2:** ACPS Health Insurance Premiums and Employer-Employee Share (100or 99% employer share highlighted in yellow)
- PAGE 3:** City Health Insurance Premiums and Employer-Employee Share
- PAGE 4:** Comparison of ACPS, City Individual & Family Health Insurance Premiums (lowest cost plan highlighted in green)

- o School board training and software - \$49,700

These essential funding requirements bring the total FY 2008 budget to \$188.55 million, or \$4 million above the City Council's target of \$184.5 million. If we had not started from behind with a \$3.2 million decline in revenue, we would only be \$800,000 over the target, not including COLA.

9. Please provide a breakdown of health insurance coverage by employee group. (Councilman Smedberg)

Answer: The chart below provides the cost of each plan and coverage type as well as the School Board's contribution for each employee group.

TYPE OF PLAN	EMPLOYEE GROUP	INDIVIDUAL				TWO-PARTY			
		TOTAL PREMIUM COST	COST TO EMPLOYER	EMPLOYER SHARE, PERCENT	COST TO EMPLOYEE	TOTAL PREMIUM COST	COST TO EMPLOYER	EMPLOYER SHARE, PERCENT	COST TO EMPLOYEE
HMO-Mamsi	Administrators	\$369.96	\$369.96	100%	\$0.00	\$710.52	\$710.52	100%	\$0.00
	Teachers	\$369.96	\$268.24	73%	\$101.72	\$710.52	\$545.90	77%	\$164.62
	Support	\$369.96	\$369.96	100%	\$0.00	\$710.52	\$710.52	100%	\$0.00
	Support 25+	\$369.96	\$355.60	96%	\$14.36	\$710.52	\$703.14	99%	\$7.38
POS-Mamsi	Administrators	\$414.34	\$414.34	100%	\$0.00	\$795.74	\$795.74	100%	\$0.00
	Teachers	\$414.34	\$274.00	66%	\$140.34	\$795.74	\$556.00	70%	\$239.74
	Support	\$414.34	\$377.68	91%	\$36.66	\$795.74	\$725.82	91%	\$69.92
	Support 25+	\$414.34	\$361.36	87%	\$52.98	\$795.74	\$713.24	90%	\$82.50
HMO-Kaiser	Administrators	\$350.50	\$350.50	100%	\$0.00	\$672.16	\$672.16	100%	\$0.00
	Teachers	\$350.50	\$298.96	85%	\$51.54	\$672.16	\$604.82	90%	\$67.34
	Support	\$350.50	\$350.50	100%	\$0.00	\$672.16	\$672.16	100%	\$0.00
	Support 25+	\$350.50	\$350.50	100%	\$0.00	\$672.16	\$672.16	100%	\$0.00
POS-Kaiser	Administrators	\$438.12	\$438.12	100%	\$0.00	\$840.21	\$840.21	100%	\$0.00
	Teachers	\$438.12	\$312.42	71%	\$125.70	\$840.21	\$629.67	75%	\$210.54
	Support	\$438.12	\$416.06	95%	\$22.06	\$840.21	\$799.49	95%	\$40.72
	Support 25+	\$438.12	\$399.78	91%	\$38.34	\$840.21	\$786.91	94%	\$53.30
FAMILY									
TYPE OF PLAN	EMPLOYEE GROUP	TOTAL PREMIUM COST	COST TO EMPLOYER	EMPLOYER SHARE, PERCENT	COST TO EMPLOYEE				
HMO-Mamsi	Administrators	\$987.19	\$987.19	100%	\$0.00				
	Teachers	\$987.19	\$606.57	61%	\$380.62				
	Support	\$987.19	\$975.27	99%	\$11.92				
	Support 25+	\$987.19	\$871.63	88%	\$115.56				
POS-Mamsi	Administrators	\$1,105.60	\$1,105.60	100%	\$0.00				
	Teachers	\$1,105.60	\$620.20	56%	\$485.40				
	Support	\$1,105.60	\$988.90	89%	\$116.70				
	Support 25+	\$1,105.60	\$885.24	80%	\$220.36				
HMO-Kaiser	Administrators	\$935.50	\$935.50	100%	\$0.00				
	Teachers	\$935.50	\$690.40	74%	\$245.10				
	Support	\$935.50	\$935.50	100%	\$0.00				
	Support 25+	\$935.50	\$935.50	100%	\$0.00				
POS-Kaiser	Administrators	\$1,166.89	\$1,166.89	100%	\$0.00				
	Teachers	\$1,166.89	\$722.49	62%	\$444.40				
	Support	\$1,166.89	\$1,091.19	94%	\$75.70				
	Support 25+	\$1,166.89	\$987.53	85%	\$179.36				



Health Insurance for Active Employees

FY 2008 Projected Monthly Premium Cost Sharing

	Kaiser				Optimum Choice				
	HMO		POS		HMO		POS		
	Indiv	Fam	Indiv	Fam	Indiv	Fam	Indiv	Fam	
Pre 7/1/06 hire									
Employee Share	\$25	\$59	\$204	\$481	\$26	\$62	\$88	\$199	
% of Total	6.6%	6.6%	36.4%	36.5%	6.6%	6.6%	19.3%	18.6%	
City Share	\$355	\$838	\$355	\$838	\$370	\$874	\$370	\$874	
% of Total	93.4%	93.4%	63.6%	63.5%	93.4%	93.4%	80.7%	81.4%	
Post 7/1/06 hire									
Employee Share	\$38	\$90	\$217	\$511	\$40	\$94	\$102	\$231	
% of Total	10%	10%	38.8%	38.8%	10%	10%	22.2%	21.5%	
City Share	\$342	\$808	\$342	\$808	\$357	\$842	\$357	\$842	
% of Total	90.0%	90.0%	61.2%	61.2%	90.0%	90.0%	77.8%	78.5%	

* City share for part-time employees is between 34% and 50% of premium costs.

* FY 2009 plan will require 10% cost sharing for all employees.

**FY 2008 Proposed Budget
City Government, Alexandria City Public Schools
Comparison of Health Insurance Premiums**

(Lowest Cost Health Plan Highlighted in Green)



City			Optimum Choice	HMO		\$396.00	\$4,752.00
PLAN DIFFERENCE (\$)						\$26.04	\$312.48

City			Kaiser	HMO		\$380.00	\$4,560.00
PLAN DIFFERENCE (\$)						\$29.50	\$354.00

City			Optimum Choice	POS		\$458.00	\$5,496.00
PLAN DIFFERENCE (\$)						\$43.66	\$523.92

City			Kaiser	POS		\$559.00	\$6,708.00
PLAN DIFFERENCE (\$)						\$120.88	\$1,450.56

ACPS	Family		MAMSI	HMO		\$987.19	\$11,846.28
			Optimum Choice	HMO		\$936.00	\$11,232.00
PLAN DIFFERENCE (\$)						\$51.19	\$614.28

ACPS	Family		Kaiser	HMO		\$935.50	\$11,226.00
			Kaiser	HMO		\$897.00	\$10,764.00
PLAN DIFFERENCE (\$)						\$38.50	\$462.00

ACPS	Family		MAMSI	POS		\$1,105.60	\$13,267.20
City			Optimum Choice	POS		\$1,073.00	\$12,876.00
PLAN DIFFERENCE (\$)						\$32.60	\$391.20

ACPS	Family		Kaiser	POS		\$1,166.39	\$14,002.68
City			Kaiser	POS		\$1,319.00	\$15,828.00
PLAN DIFFERENCE (\$)						\$152.11	\$1,825.32

NOTE: ACPS also offer a "Two-Party" plan that the City government may wish to research

SOURCES: FY 2008 Budget Memorandum #16 (page 14 of packet)
FY 2008 Employee Compensation Work Session presentation (slide 26)

2
4-9-07



<beth@clarkmail.com>

04/09/2007 08:56 PM

Please respond to
<beth@clarkmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Budget



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 20:56:41] IP Address: [68.83.218.173]

Response requested:

First Name: Elizabeth
Last Name: Clark
Street Address: 602 Virginia Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7035497347
Email Address: beth@clarkmail.com
Subject: School Budget
Comments: I fully support an increase of the school budget.

2
4-9-07



<renee1jay@aol.com>

04/09/2007 09:09 PM

Please respond to
<renee1jay@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget cuts



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 21:09:48] IP Address: [76.21.181.157]

Response requested:

First Name: Renee
Last Name: Berman
Street Address: 604 Tennessee Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-548-5436
Email Address: renee1jay@aol.com
Subject: Budget cuts

Comments: Choosing to cut COLA will eliminate good teachers for they will go to neighboring Fairfax County schools to get a job. Please do not consider cutting Literacy coaches and TAG teachers as they provide good support for classroom teachers and help meet the needs of our diverse population. If cuts need to be made they should be made at the administrative offices first, before creating tougher situations for classroom teachers. I have a child in Elementary school and one that will be entering next year. We are always discussing moving to Fairfax County for the better school system but we would love to stay in the City of Alexandria. Cuts should not be made at the classroom and teacher level, these cuts effect the overall classroom instruction which would only hurt our children and our city.

2
4-9-07



<robert@clarkmail.com>

04/09/2007 09:13 PM

Please respond to
<robert@clarkmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Tax increase for schools



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 21:13:04] IP Address: [68.83.218.173]

Response requested:

First Name: Robert
Last Name: Clark
Street Address: 602 Virginia Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7036262366
Email Address: robert@clarkmail.com
Subject: Tax increase for schools
Just a short note to say that I support the proposed tax increase to fully fund the City School budget. Please pass this!!
Comments:
Robert

2
4-9-07



<robert@clarkmail.com>

04/09/2007 09:22 PM

Please respond to
<robert@clarkmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Turf fields



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 21:22:41] IP Address: [68.83.218.173]

Response requested:

First Name: Robert
Last Name: Clark
Street Address: 602 Virginia Ave
City: Alex
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7036262366
Email Address: robert@clarkmail.com
Subject: Turf fields

Comments: Please fund installation of the new turf playing fields so that they are ready as soon as possible. We need these fields now as the construction projects have really cramped our field use options. We need fields that can see activity all day, rain or shine.

2
21-9-07



<rainiersuazo@yahoo.com>

04/09/2007 10:14 PM

Please respond to
<rainiersuazo@yahoo.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Budget



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 22:14:57] IP Address: [69.143.57.24]

Response requested:

First Name: Rainier

Last Name: Suazo

Street Address: 6040 Edsall Rd. Apt 204

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22304

Phone: 202-577-4850

Email Address: rainiersuazo@yahoo.com

Subject: School Budget

I have been paying attention to the recent school budget discussion. I want to respectfully request the Council to consider providing enough funding to ACPS to continue with the implementation of programs such as Intersession.

Comments: I truly admire the City's intention to manage its expenses effectively; I am not comfortable with its plan to maintain the current tax rate at the expense of our school system. As a parent of children that are currently attending Tucker Elementary school I have to say that the programs implemented in this school are working. My kids and my family as a whole has benefited by the modified calendar and Intersession programs the we enjoy at Tucker Elementary school. I have talked to other parents and they assured me that they value the offering of such programs enough to consider it an important factor at the time of purchasing a home. The City of Alexandria's public school system is improving and it is up your support to keep such improving happening.

I would like to also respectfully and earnestly request other options that I have heard about. In my opinion the council should pay attention to

alternate solutions such as property tax increase to balance the budget. Inside the school system there are other options to find money, for example, instead of eliminating programs, I would like to see audits to check if the students truly live in the within the school zone.

Thanks

~Rainier Suazo



<demarco2@mindspring.com>

04/09/2007 11:29 PM

Please respond to
<demarco2@mindspring.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Fiscal 2008 budget and the schools

2

4-9-07

Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 23:29:45] IP Address: [138.88.203.225]

Response requested:

First Name: Edward and Renee
Last Name: DeMarco
Street Address: 419 North Payne Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-548-5844
Email Address: demarco2@mindspring.com
Subject: Fiscal 2008 budget and the schools
April 9, 2007

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council Members:

The temptation to hold the line on spending and to seek cuts in the budget of the Alexandria City Public Schools is no doubt great as you look at the financial demands of the entire city. Yet it is at just such moments that a community striving for a higher plane of achievement defies simple tradeoffs and calculations and makes a strategic choice: this time we take a different path.

This time we fund the schools, as fully as possible. Kennedy said we chose to go to the moon ``not because it is easy, but because it is hard." Creating world-class public schools is this city's moonshot. It is a work in progress, and it is difficult. You may not see the payoff today or the day after. And yet you must dedicate money to this cause as if every moment mattered.

Comments: What higher aim do we have than investing in the human future of this city?

You have before you a series of tax-raising options. We ask that you give strongest

consideration to a modest increase in property tax rates that will fund the school system's budget request. It will be one of the highest achievements of your time in office.

This decision is not merely about one year's spending. It also speaks to a vision for the children of this city in this new century. Where do you stand?

Regards,
Edward and Renee DeMarco
Homeowners and Mount Vernon Community
School parents

2
4-9-07



<rebeldad@gmail.com>

04/09/2007 04:12 PM

Please respond to
<rebeldad@gmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Please Support the Full School Board Budget



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 16:12:24] IP Address: [72.75.10.68]

Response requested:

First Name: Brian

Last Name: Reid

Street Address: 18 East Howell Avenue

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 7038370998

Email Address: rebeldad@gmail.com

Subject: Please Support the Full School Board Budget

Though I am not sitting with the group of parents assembled as I write for the meeting today, I stand with them and their call for your to fully fund the school board budget.

As you've heard repeatedly, the school board has done extraordinary and contentious and patient work to develop its budget, and they have shaved every bit of fat off of their request for 2008. As you've seen from the superintendent's statements, to meet your target would require painful cuts: eliminating 63 positions, most of them professionals who make a meaningful and daily impact on students, and eliminate the COLA for those who remain.

Comments: It is my fear that those cuts would quickly undo the progress that ACPS has made in the last decade. My neighborhood school -- Mount Vernon Community School, where my daughter attends kindergarten -- has become of the great jewels of our school system based largely on the strength of the teachers there.

There seems little doubt that, whatever the short-term budgetary gain may be, losing teachers will have a pernicious and long-term

effect on the children of the city.

I have said in the past that I am more than willing to forgo tax relief, or -- like this year -- pay higher taxes if it means that the city's most vital employees can work with more security.

Thanks,
Brian Reid

2
4-9-07



<snbconrad@msn.com>
04/09/2007 04:35 PM
Please respond to
<snbconrad@msn.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject COA Contact Us: Support School Budget!!



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 16:35:57] IP Address: [76.21.176.166]

Response requested:

First Name: Sarah & Roger
Last Name: Conrad
Street Address: 3516 Halcyon Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-549-5533
Email Address: snbconrad@msn.com
Subject: Support School Budget!!

Comments: Please support the proposed school budget. The future of Alexandria is only as bright as her public schools. Please do not force the Superintendent to make cuts that would hurt students and student programs. Please please take a long hard look tonight before making your final decision. I trust you to do the right thing for our city.

Thank you for all your hard work and efforts!

2
4-9-07



<thaott@msn.com>
04/10/2007 08:41 AM
Please respond to
<thaott@msn.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject COA Contact Us: Keep 7B bus Route



Time: [Tue Apr 10, 2007 08:41:05] IP Address: [68.56.19.124]

Response requested:

First Name: Thao
Last Name: Stakenborg
Street Address: 4551 Stratfield Lane
apt.4312
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22311
Phone: 707-820-1533
Email Address: thaott@msn.com
Subject: Keep 7B bus Route
Mr.Mayor and City Council'
The route 7B bus service is essential for my
commute to work; I ask your support to keep this
Comments: service in place
Thao T. Stakenborg
City of Alexandria

2
4-9-07



<tinalytle@aol.com>

04/09/2007 02:24 PM

Please respond to
<tinalytle@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: fields -- 5 by '09

Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 14:24:00] IP Address: [152.163.100.135]

Response requested:

First Name: Christina
Last Name: Lytle
Street Address: 3925 Colonel Ellis Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703.751.4004
Email Address: tinalytle@aol.com
Subject: fields -- 5 by '09

I am coaching today & carpooling my kids and am unable to attend the meeting on turf fields for Alexandria.

The City is missing an opportunity to bring people to Alexandria (for tournaments) and to compete for revenue these tournaments create.

Field use is a huge issue for anyone who plays athletics (youth or adult). There just aren't enough of them and Alexandria's fields are in abysmal condition as Council has recognized on prior occasions. The school fields are getting HUGE use that they weren't designed to withstand.

Comments: There are enormous cost savings from contracting for & building five fields at once. The field situation in Alexandria is at a crisis point as Council is well aware.

Alexandria really doesn't want to be known as having the "worst" of anything, especially something that could be remedied relatively easily and quickly.

FIVE BY '09!

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Lytle



<dgriffin@acps.k12.va.us>

04/09/2007 01:15 PM

Please respond to
<dgriffin@acps.k12.va.us>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: 2007-2008 budget

2
4-9-07

Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 13:15:50] IP Address: [206.158.3.10]

Response requested:

First Name: Deborah

Last Name: Griffin

Street Address: Mount Veron Community School

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-706-4463

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

Subject: 2007-2008 budget

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice-Mayor Macdonald and City Council Members,

Comments:

As an educator of over 25 years I have seen how cuts in teacher benefits, staff positions, and class size can effect a school. Our children deserve the best education possible by keeping the best educators possible. The drastic cuts to paraprofessional personnel, rise in health care costs and the elimination of the COLA for city employees should not even be on the table. Alexandria has done a great job in funding our schools in recent years and should continue to do so. There is money in this great city to do the right thing, which is to totally fund the proposed school budget.

Sincerely yours,
Debbie Griffin

2
4-9-07



<lmorton@fulbright.com>

04/09/2007 10:25 AM

Please respond to
<lmorton@fulbright.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Funding for City Schools



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 10:25:02] IP Address: [65.205.80.66]

Response requested:

First Name: Laura
Last Name: Morton
Street Address: 619 S. Fairfax St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703 299-9519
Email Address: lmorton@fulbright.com
Subject: Funding for City Schools

I am writing to let the Council know that I and others support a minor increase in the tax rate - one to two cents on the dollar -- in order to fully fund the budget. A one to two cent increase will result in less than a couple hundred dollars to taxpayers, and will provide the schools with much needed funds to support a continued increase in test scores. The budget will stop the momentum and limit the potential of student achievements.

Comments:

Moreover, the spectacular teachers in the city schools should be better compensated for their work.

Please support the increased budget.

Thank you.

2
4-9-07



<carriebeach@mac.com>

04/09/2007 09:41 AM

Please respond to
<carriebeach@mac.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Fully Fund the School Budget

Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 09:41:11] IP Address: [206.113.148.2]

Response requested:

First Name: Carrie
Last Name: Beach
Street Address: 305 E. Windsor Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-549-0212
Email Address: carriebeach@mac.com
Subject: Fully Fund the School Budget
Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Members of City Council:

I am writing to request that you take action to fully fund the school budget proposed by Superintendent Perry. I recognize that this means you will need to raise the tax rate, and I want to express my unabashed support for a higher tax rate if it means we can provide a free, fair, and respectable education in our City. With a 2 cent raise on the dollar, we can afford to fully fund the budget. Such an increase in the tax rate will result in negligle/if any increase in the actual amount taxpayers pay over the course of the year.

ACPS is one of the few districts in the country where test scores are going up while the number of free and reduced and ESL students are also going up. To cut the budget will limit this and other student achievements. To carve away at successful programs like the modified school calendar at Tucker and MVCS will effectively negate all the amazing progress these schools have made to date in increasing test scores. As you have probably learned by now, charging significant rates for the enrichment portion of intersessions for these schools will effectively gut

Comments:

the program just as it's getting started, when it's clear that programs like these are amazingly effective. Increasing class sizes is another way we'll drive away families who are choosing public over private education, reducing the opportunity for classroom modeling, community building, and in the end a free and fair education for all our City residents.

Please don't reverse the progress and momentum of Alexandria City Public Schools by cutting the proposed budget. A minor increase in the tax rate is the right thing to do, supporting the education of our young children with just a minor contribution from City residents -- residents who, in the end, regardless of whether or not they have children in the public school system -- benefit from a population that is educated and prepared to become active, contributing members of our economy and our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carrie S. Beach
305 E. Windsor Avenue

*

2
4-9-07



<sunnyandpaul@earthlink.net>

04/09/2007 08:14 AM

Please respond to
<sunnyandpaul@earthlink.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: turf playing fields



Time: [Mon Apr 09, 2007 08:14:35] IP Address: [68.166.69.22]

Response requested:

First Name: sunny

Last Name: stewart

Street Address: 321 kentucky ave

City: alexandria

State: va

Zip: 22305

Phone: 7035486845

Email Address: sunnyandpaul@earthlink.net

Subject: turf playing fields

Comments:

I understand you will be discussing the addition of playing fields in our area. THAT IS WONDERFUL!!! I am in favor of moving this along in a more progressive manor than it is projected. We have more than doubled our property tax since we moved here it would be nice to see some of that money improve the city , while we are still here... and our kids are young enough to appreciate it! We are currently playing all over the city- trying to search out fields, with multiple players it is a difficult task driving multiple players through the citys traffic, trying to get to these games and practices. Our coach, for example, coaches both his kids back to back, on different fields 7 miles apart!

When discussing this topic- remember that it will cost the same (maybey less because of inflation) to get the project done, than it would to spread it out over the years- make it useful for real, not just on paper.
Sunny and Paul Stewart
Faithful and willing taxpayers
and youth sports team supporters

2
4-9-07



<candjziegler@hotmail.com>

04/05/2007 09:31 AM

Please respond to
<candjziegler@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Proposed Budget



Time: [Thu Apr 05, 2007 09:31:53] IP Address: [69.143.44.181]

Response requested:

First Name: Charles
Last Name: Ziegler
Street Address: 1201 St. Stephens Road
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703 370 0648
Email Address: candjziegler@hotmail.com
Subject: Proposed Budget

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

Comments: Regarding the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, I am strongly in favor of the proposed yearly allocation (CFMP) of \$370,000 for the City-owned buildings for maintenance. It is, I believe, extremely important for maintaining the historic ambience of the City of Alexandria, which not only enhances the quality of life in the City, but also brings increased revenue by attracting tourists to the City. I therefore urge you to approve this item of the budget.

Yours sincerely,
Charles Ziegler



<wakelly@comcast.net>

04/08/2007 09:45 PM

Please respond to
<wakelly@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: SCHOOL SYSTEM PROPOSED BUDGET

2
4-9-07

Time: [Sun Apr 08, 2007 21:45:58] IP Address: [68.48.142.86]

Response requested:

First Name: William
Last Name: Kelly
Street Address: 114 E Walnut St
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703 836-5337
Email Address: wakelly@comcast.net
Subject: SCHOOL SYSTEM PROPOSED BUDGET
Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Macdonald and Council
Members,

I urge you to fully support the school board's proposed FY08 budget. Failure to fund the full budget will require ACPS and the Alexandria School Board to restart the budget process and determine which cuts are necessary to meet the city's proposed target. The proposed cuts necessary to balance the ACPS budget with the city target will directly impact the ability of ACPS to educate the children of Alexandria in the future.

Alexandria city schools have made significant progress in meeting Virginia's SOL requirements and the Federal Government's No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements. ACPS success in meeting state and federal testing requirements are due in part to the outstanding teachers and professionals that work in our schools and the efforts to maintain smaller classroom sizes.

As a parent of two Maury Elementary School students (and a third that will start in 2010), I have seen first hand the outstanding work of teachers and staff in the Alexandria City Public Schools.

When my oldest child started at Maury in 2002 many Rosemont families were leaving Maury for other ACPS schools or for private schools. Real estate agents did not want to mention the local elementary school (Maury) on houses listed in Rosemont. In the past few years the school has greatly improved by having small classroom sizes and wonderful teachers. This past school year Maury Elementary school was fully accredited and made AYP for the second year in a row. Last year's third grade class had the highest passing rate on SOLs of all ACPS elementary schools. Maury has now become a school of choice for students. Rosemont families are proud to send their children to Maury and enrollment in the school is continuing to increase.

Comments:

Maury Elementary School has been successful, but a school cannot be successful for just one year. Maury and all other ACPS schools must continue to meet increasing SOL and AYP requirements each and every year in order to meet state accreditation and AYP requirements. If the proposed budget is not fully funded, ACPS will be required to increase classroom sizes, reduce or eliminate cost of living increases for teachers and staff and several other cuts. An increase in classroom size will reduce the amount of time that can be spent with at risk students. An increase in classroom size will be detrimental to all students.

Many of our teachers commute to Alexandria from other communities in Northern VA and MD. Currently ACPS teacher salaries are competitive with surrounding school systems. On Wednesday, 4 April the Washington Post ran an article about the efforts to recruit new teachers for Loudon county school system. The online article also included a summary of starting salaries for local school system and the number of teachers needed in the surrounding school systems before the start of next school year. ACPS needs the 2% COLA in order to keep teacher salaries competitive next year (based on the teacher salary comparison tables provided to city council and posted on ACPS web site). If teachers and staff do not receive a cost of living increase for the 2008-2009 school year, ACPS will lose teachers to surrounding school systems and ACPS will not be able to attract the excellent teachers in the future.

I implore you to support full funding of the proposed ACPS budget. I would be willing to accept an increase in the tax rate to keep our excellent teachers and small class sizes. As many

property assessments went down this year I would think other home owners would be able to accept the tax rate increase as well.

Thank you for your support of the ACPS school system.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kelly

2
4-9-07



<mbindner@catholiccharitiesusa.org>

04/08/2007 05:56 PM

Please respond to
<mbindner@catholiccharitiesusa.org>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, cc bcc Subject COA Contact Us: Add 1.1M to Childcare Fee Subsidy program



Time: [Sun Apr 08, 2007 17:56:42] IP Address: [208.176.91.98]

Response requested: []

First Name: Moira
Last Name: Bindner
Street Address: 4 Canterbury Sq #302
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304-3050
Phone: 703-684-3239
Email Address: mbindner@catholiccharitiesusa.org
Subject: Add 1.1M to Childcare Fee Subsidy program
Mrs. Moira Bindner
4 Canterbury Sq #302
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 684-3239
Work email: mbindner@catholiccharitiesusa.org

April 8, 2007

Dear Member of the Alexandria City Council:

I am writing to support the addition of \$1.1 million to be added to the FY08 operating budget of the city of Alexandria and the Childcare Fee Subsidy System. I understand there have been drastic cuts to low-income, working families due to changes in the federal guidelines. As a result, 52 Alexandrian children lost eligibility for government childcare subsidies and 364 were placed on a waiting list for assistance.

As a parent of a child at Hopkins House, I am aware that this is affecting working families at Hopkins House and may affect more. I understand that guidelines are being tightened and fewer families are eligible because they make too much money. These are families who are struggling to just make ends meet and by

reducing the subsidy, you are impacting the lives of 3 and 4 year olds, not just the parent.

Comments:

Recently I have been reading Jeffrey Sachs book, "The End of Poverty". He talks about levels of poverty and the ability of those countries that are making progress in lifting people out of poverty. The concept they use is climbing the rung out of poverty. The connection with the Hopkins House parent who is losing their subsidy is your action has in fact pushed them off that rung. Just when they are making progress, working, paying taxes and contributing to the common good of Alexandria, this budget reduction tells them that they should be self-sufficient enough to provide for themselves. But the reality of living in Alexandria is challenging on a day to day basis. It's not a matter of giving up going out to eat and not going to the movie, it is about quality day care for their children and the security of knowing your child is in good hands while you work.

The reality of these cuts is stress on the parent to find affordable and quality child care. The reality is now a 3 or 4 year old child will stay with a neighbor instead of being in a quality educational facility that provides meals and snacks. The reality is that other children at Hopkins House lose out by having a member of their community evicted because of financial circumstances. The reality is that this parent misses out of financial literacy skills available at Hopkins House.

As you evaluate the entire budget for the city, please don't only think about the luxury high rise hotels or the Wilson Bridge implications – please also remember the least amongst us, who don't have powerful lobbyists and who don't own million dollar homes in the community. If we don't remember those who are struggling, we are forgetting that these people are also the future employees of that luxury high rise hotel and the domestic worker for the historic homes in Alexandria.

Please don't balance the City of Alexandria budget on the backs of 3 and 4 year olds. Please add 1.1M to the Childcare Fee Subsidy program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter
Moira Bindner
Constituent

2
4-9-07



<danellefortune@comcast.net>

04/08/2007 04:29 PM

Please respond to
<danellefortune@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Budget



Time: [Sun Apr 08, 2007 16:29:41] IP Address: [76.21.177.62]

Response requested:

First Name: Danelle
Last Name: Fortune
Street Address: 3608 Norwood Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-838-1611
Email Address: danellefortune@comcast.net
Subject: School Budget

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members,

Comments:

I am writing to urge you to please support the full ACPS budget as submitted. Our schools have made some recent strides to catch up to the surrounding districts but can't afford to fall behind now. I recently read an article about the numbers of teachers Loudoun County is looking to hire (many hundreds). We are fooling ourselves if we think our teachers will not be among those recruited by Loudoun County, particularly if we are eliminating COLA's, increasing class sizes, and reducing the resources our teachers have to help our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Danelle Fortune

2
4-9-07



<kfitzgerald55@comcast.net>

04/07/2007 07:13 PM

Please respond to
<kfitzgerald55@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Turf Fields in Alexandria

Time: [Sat Apr 07, 2007 19:13:49] IP Address: [68.48.142.94]

Response requested:

First Name: Karin

Last Name: Fitzgerald

Street Address: 427 Underhill Place

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-548-2183

Email Address: kfitzgerald55@comcast.net

Subject: Turf Fields in Alexandria

5 by '09!!!!

Please help our ASA players excel at what they do by giving them great USABLE fields!!!

Comments: It is important also for the Adult Leagues that Alexandria has!!

As a parent and adult league player I urge you to put in five turf fields by 2009.

Thank you for your consideration!

2
4-9-07



<patrick.jones44@verizon.net>
04/07/2007 08:10 AM
Please respond to
<patrick.jones44@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc
Subject COA Contact Us: Hammond PTA comments on the City Budget



Time: [Sat Apr 07, 2007 08:10:16] IP Address: [70.17.125.112]

Response requested:

First Name: Mia
Last Name: Jones
Street Address: 959 North Pegram Street
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-823-5261

Email Address: patrick.jones44@verizon.net
Subject: Hammond PTA comments on the City Budget
Hello, folks,

I am not able to attend the Monday Hearing on the City Budget. Attached are my comments on behalf of the Hammond PTA.

April 7, 2007

To: Mayor Euille, Vice-Mayor MacDonald and Members of the City Council

Re: Proposed Operating Budget/Capital Improvement Budget for the City of Alexandria, FY 2008

From: Mia Jones, PTA President, Hammond Middle School

Mayor Euille, Vice-Mayor MacDonald and Members of the City Council,

The PTA at Hammond Middle School fully supports Superintendent Perry's budget for the Alexandria City Public Schools.

Like other Alexandria school PTA's we all have a

"wish list" for the programs and projects we'd like to see implemented, whether their focus is academic or administrative. Ms. Perry's budget certainly cannot be categorized as a "blank check". The Hammond PTA has added comments to the healthy debate at the school level and we feel that Superintendent Perry has submitted a budget fully commensurate with the District's needs.

Hammond has plainly benefited from initiatives and projects funded by Ms. Perry's prior budgets. The 6th grade centers at both Hammond and GW have greatly enhanced each campus' ability to integrate younger children into the middle-school population. Hammond students have made great strides...our school has been continuously accredited.

Comments:

Our PTA fully expects ACPS to continue to strive to educate every child at our 1100+ student school. Hammond students are consistently supported by ACPS parent liaisons, ESL coordinators, and other staff who go above and beyond to make sure these families are integrated into the wider Alexandria community. We are looking forward to implementing an improved middle school curriculum and in reaping the benefits of attracting top-notch teachers to teach this particularly challenging group of students.

I invite each of you to stop by Hammond Middle School at any time to see the wonderful things are happening there. Meet great teachers who take on teens and tweens from not only Alexandria, but from all over the world and turn them into success stories of which this City can be proud.

Although we are painfully aware of the constraints the Council faces in putting together this year's budget for the entire City, we know that you know that a strong, well-funded school system is integral to our City's continued prosperity and success. Your vision has allowed ACPS to fully fund a state-of-the-art high school that will open next year...a project near and dear to middle-school parents' hearts.

Our city has much to be proud of because of past years' funding support, and we are trusting that this City Council will honor that tradition. Previous Councils have done an excellent job of continuing to fund programs that put Alexandria's students on the forefront of the nation's technology (for example, the laptop program and the use of Blackboard). In return, Alexandria students are

shining like never before: more students are taking the SAT, taking advantage of AP and honors classes, and more Alexandria students than ever are looking to further their education past high school.

In 2006, the city's school system was part of the package that allowed Alexandria to be named as one of the best cities in which to raise children. Alexandria continues to be a city that attracts new families, not in small part due to ACPS' first-rate reputation. Please continue supporting our vision for Alexandria's children by fully funding Superintendent Perry's budget.

Yours most sincerely,

Mia Jones
Hammond PTA President
703-823-5261

2
4-9-07



<snbconrad@msn.com>

03/16/2007 01:18 PM

Please respond to
<snbconrad@msn.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget



Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 12:18:52] IP Address: [76.21.176.166]

Response requested: []

First Name: Sarah & Roger

Last Name: Conrad

Street Address: 3516 Halcyon Drive

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: 703-549-5533

Email Address: snbconrad@msn.com

Subject: Budget

Comments: Just wanted to be yet another voice to say Please Support The Budget!!! We're watching you!!! So far so good. Don't let us down now!!!

2
4-9-07



<jschmidt001@comcast.net>

03/16/2007 12:48 PM

Please respond to
<jschmidt001@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Board funding



Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 11:48:41] IP Address: [76.21.179.229]

Response requested:

First Name: John
Last Name: Schmidt
Street Address: 710 S Overlook Dr
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 7035184401
Email Address: jschmidt001@comcast.net
Subject: School Board funding

Comments:

Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

John and Elisabeth Schmidt

2

4-9-07



<4coburns@comcast.net>

03/16/2007 12:14 PM

Please respond to
<4coburns@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: City Budget



Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 11:14:43] IP Address: [76.21.207.170]

Response requested:

First Name: Julie
Last Name: Coburn
Street Address: 3302 Carolina Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-549-3316
Email Address: 4coburns@comcast.net
Subject: City Budget

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor and Council Members,

Comments:

Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in, and so that Alexandrians like us will continue to choose ACPS for our children. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Brad and Julie Coburn
Parents of Peter and Caroline, Kindergarteners at Charles Barrett



<jhoholik@gmail.com>

03/16/2007 11:56 AM

Please respond to
<jhoholik@gmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Please Keep ACPS School Budget Fully Funded

2
4-9-07

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 10:56:58] IP Address: [162.6.240.142]

Response requested:

First Name: JoMarie
Last Name: Hoholik
Street Address: 13 Ancell Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703.200.3837
Email Address: jhoholik@gmail.com
Subject: Please Keep ACPS School Budget Fully Funded
Mayor Euille, Vice-Mayor Macdonald, and
Members of the City Council -

Last night I testified before the School Board, asking them to fully fund the school budget – including intersessions for our schools with a modified calendar. 17 other individuals and groups also addressed the board – many about the importance of keeping our school budget, and intersessions fully funded.

As a mom who works two jobs – I fully understand the need to cut spending, and to keep a balanced budget. However, I also understand the need to prioritize and to put our children first. The city has a responsibility to our community and our children, and as members of the City Council, I ask you to be advocates for our children when you are looking at City and School budgets.

My name is JoMarie Hoholik, and I have a 6 year old son, Cameron, who attends kindergarten at Mt. Vernon Community School. I moved to Alexandria 8 years ago – and 6 years ago when I had my son, I assumed that when the time came for him to go to school, we would move to Arlington or Falls Church, where the schools were

perceived as being much better. However, over the last few years I have been delighted to discover the positive and notable changes in our community and in our schools, and I made the conscious decision to commit to investing in my community, to stay in Alexandria, and to send Cameron to our local school – to Mt. Vernon. I am what someone on the School Board previously referred to as “one of the few” homeowners who send their children to Alexandria City Public Schools. I’ve even fought a hard-won battle with my son’s father, who advocated other school systems but was convinced when I educated him on the virtues of the new Alexandria system.

I am proud to live in a very diverse neighborhood, both economically and culturally. 64% of students at Mt. Vernon are on free and reduced lunches – and as parents, we have been told that those families will not be asked to pay increased fees for intersession. On the other end of the spectrum there are some parents who can afford to - and will pay any price – to send their children to enrichment classes during intersession.

My concern is for what will happen to the rest of us in the middle – those of us who don’t qualify for free/reduced lunches but yet can’t afford to simply write a check for a few hundred dollars a few times a year. What about the middle class who can’t afford \$300 more to send our children to intersession, and have no cost-relief programs to support our needs?

If you allow an increase in the tuition for intersession to \$300 it will preclude participation by many families such as my own who are on an extremely tight budget, and already make so many sacrifices to give our children what we can. Missing out on this kind of an education is financial discrimination in its worst form. Is nothing sacred? The beauty of public education is that it is not built on the “ability to pay” – and yet, we are being asked to pay for our children to be included in this essential portion of their education.

My family does not qualify for free or reduced lunches, and yet I work two jobs to make ends meet. I work for both a nonprofit organization and a local retail shop, I raise a wonderful son, and during the week, I’m a single parent. My husband is in the military, and because of a custody agreement for my son, we can’t move to be with him – so we are forced to maintain two households, our home here in Alexandria, and his

Comments:

apartment where he is stationed. We don't drive expensive cars or go on expensive vacations, and my husband is enlisted, so we also don't have two nice big paychecks. Right now I do not have an extra \$900 a year to send my son to something I believe is such an integral part of his academic experience and his experience of attending a school with a modified calendar.

And the problem is that it's not only the children who can't afford to pay that will suffer – ESL students who are learning a second language, who need to be in school longer will also suffer, because there will not be as many children, both native English and native Spanish speakers in their intersession classes in the afternoons.

I have heard some in our community refer to enrichment intersessions simply as “babysitting” – and that we shouldn't use taxpayers' money for its funding. As the School Board heard last night from both parents and children, that could not be further from the truth. Enrichment classes during intersession are just as much a part of learning as the rest of the school year. Intersessions not only help to give ESL students the tools they need to succeed, but they increase student's enthusiasm and motivation for learning. It gives them an opportunity to learn in a way that is different from the other 183 days of classroom learning – a proven tactic for getting the most out of education.

There are so many benefits to both the modified calendar year and to enrichment intersessions. But if we build financial discrimination into this process, it will take away a large portion of the benefits of having an integrated intersession. If those in the middle class do not send their children to intersession because they cannot afford to do so – the entire school community suffers. This is not an isolated decision that you are making – it affects everything else.

Modified school calendars in Alexandria are only a few years old, but it is a program that works and is thriving. The modified school year does not work without intersessions – and intersessions do not work without all of our students having equal and fair access to intersession programs. We owe it to the community not only to keep this program, but to avoid devastating cuts to such a successful program.

I have heard the School Board say and have read in the city's strategic plan that our goal is to have

Alexandria City Public Schools to be among the best in Northern Virginia – to be on par with Arlington and Fairfax, and I honestly feel they are well on their way. But Arlington and Fairfax have FULLY FUNDED intersessions – they have recognized the importance of having a fully funded intersession, and they are investing in it. If you truly want ACPS to be among the best, nickel and diming our children's education is not the way to achieve that.

Members of the City Council, please be the advocates for our children that they need and deserve – and despite hard decisions, please do what is in the best interest of our children and their futures, and ultimately the future of our community. Please allow everyone equal and fair access to our intersession programs by keeping them fully funded.

Thank you,

JoMarie Hoholik
jhoholik@gmail.com



<sbnewton@comcast.net>

03/16/2007 10:01 AM

Please respond to
<sbnewton@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS budget

2
4-9-07

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 09:01:34] IP Address: [76.21.176.61]

Response requested:

First Name: Sandy
Last Name: Newton
Street Address: 505 Tennessee Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703.299.8917
Email Address: sbnewton@comcast.net
Subject: ACPS budget

Dear Mr. Euille, Mr. Macdonald, and Council Members:

Comments:

I am writing to ask that you fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Sandy Newton

2

4-9-07



<awingfie@gmu.edu>

03/16/2007 10:13 AM

Please respond to
<awingfie@gmu.edu>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS budget

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 09:13:58] IP Address: [69.140.65.57]

Response requested: []

First Name: Andrew

Last Name: Wingfield

Street Address: 201 Hume Avenue

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 703.535.8259

Email Address: awingfie@gmu.edu

Subject: ACPS budget

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and City Council
Members:

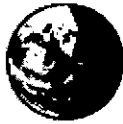
Comments:

Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Andrew Wingfield

2
4-9-07



<driley@recaptureconsulting.com>

03/16/2007 11:09 AM

Please respond to
<driley@recaptureconsulting.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 10:09:54] IP Address: [76.21.206.31]

Response requested:

First Name: Deb
Last Name: Riley
Street Address: 702 S. Overlook
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-683-8893
Email Address: driley@recaptureconsulting.com
Subject: ACPS

I am writing to urge the council to fully fund the requested amount from the school board. This is not only an issue of providing a good education to our students but an issue of pride for our city. There are few places in the country where one can purchase a home for \$1 million and yet have angst over whether or not to send one's child to the local public schools.

Comments: Alexandria is an exceptional place to live. We have location, history, community, beautiful neighborhoods and parks. The single item we lack is an excellent school system. The perception of Alexandria compared to our neighbors in Arlington, McLean Fairfax and Bethesda needs to be part of your consideration.

Thank you,

Deb Rilye



<maristull@verizon.net>

11/15/2006 05:06 PM

Please respond to
<maristull@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Rain Tax????

2
4-9-07

Time: [Wed Nov 15, 2006 17:06:36] IP Address: [70.21.107.201]

Response requested:

First Name: Mari
Last Name: STULL
Street Address: 205 Cameron Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703.835.9055
Email Address: maristull@verizon.net
Subject: Rain Tax????

Dear Mr Mayor
Mr Vice Mayor and Council Members:

Councilman Krupicka was kind enough to inform many of a potential "rain tax" in his recent newsletter. First, I want to thank him for his proactive and honest communications to his constituency. I think it is a terrific idea and would encourage you all to take a more active dialogue with the voters.

Comments: But to the crux of my email -
Please...NO MORE TAXES! I have a family of four - and my husband and I bought our home just 7 years ago before our first child was born. We scraped all of our savings together to buy our home because we wanted our children to grow up in Old Town and experience all the history and fun this great town offers. We purchased this home for \$365,000 and I just paid my assessment tax which has nearly DOUBLED. This would be great if we were selling - but, we are not now or ever. The only way we would move out of Old Town is if our tax burden forces us to. Each year is becoming more and more financially burdensome to live in our beloved home. But, we will continue to scrape to pay our ever increasing taxes!

Please. No more taxes. Give us all a little break!

Sincerely,

Mari and Kevin Stull
and Family

2
RECEIVED 4-9-07

JAN 31 2007

Dear City Council Member,

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Heather Madden
5th grade
MacArthur

Resident of
Alex.

Dear City Council member,

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Norma Norma
5th grade
Norma Arthur

Resident of
alex.

Dear _____

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Carol Marie Randolph
Douglas MacArthur Elem.
Alex, Va. 22312

Dear _____

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

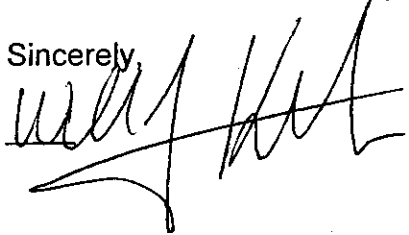
I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wally Hill', written over a horizontal line.

Dear _____

~~The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.~~

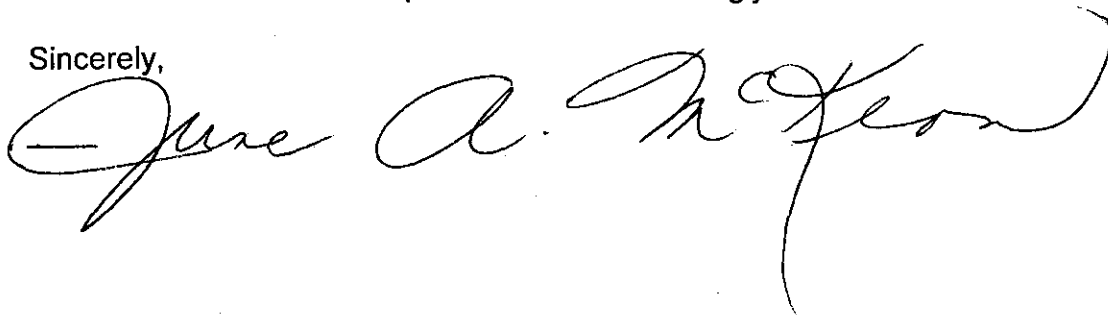
I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "June A. McKeon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n".

Resident
of Alexandria

Dear _____

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Angelle Jackson
Douglas Mac Arthur Elementary
Alexandria Va, 22312

Jan. 29, 2007

Dear City Council Members,

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Janie E. Olmstead,
Second Grade Teacher
Douglas Mac Arthur Elementary School

Alexandria
Resident

Dear Honorable Peabody,

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Randolph
Douglas MacArthur Elementary
Alex, Va. 22312

* Teaching since 1988 with ACPS.

Dear City Council members,

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Travis Kanning
2nd grade teacher
Douglas MacArthur Elem

January 29, 2007

Dear City Council Members,

~~The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.~~

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Yates

Second Grade Teacher

Douglas MacArthur Elementary School

Dear _____

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

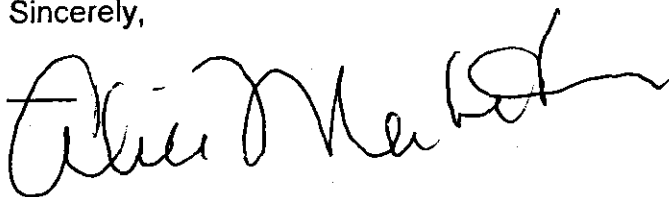
I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Alexandria
Resident

Dear _____

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

____ Lottie L. Baker
ESL teacher, Douglas MacArthur

Dear _____

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

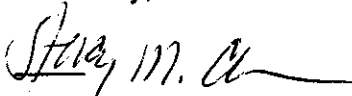
I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

 Stacy M. C.

Dear City Council Member,

~~The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.~~

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

J. Lette Fletcher
L.D. Resource Teacher
Douglas MacArthur Elementary

Dear _____

~~The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.~~

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Nicole B. Stagner

Dear _____

~~The Alexandria City Public Schools~~ have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Resident of
Alexandria

Dear Whom it May Concern,

1/29/07

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Allison MacMahon
Special Ed 415
Douglas MacArthur Elem.

2
4-9-07



<david2@ericreader.net>

02/15/2007 12:21 PM

Please respond to
<david2@ericreader.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: 2008 Budget



Time: [Thu Feb 15, 2007 12:21:51] IP Address: [206.113.148.2]

Response requested:

First Name: David
Last Name: Lord
Street Address: 706A King Street #2A
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22314
Phone: 2024466490
Email Address: david2@ericreader.net
Subject: 2008 Budget

I am a City employee, resident and voter who was deeply troubled to receive James Hartmann's memorandum from February 13th discussing the 2008 proposed budget. The memorandum attempted to soft pedal the news that employees would be denied a COLA increase under the budget, while simultaneously having their health premiums double. This means that middle-class employees of the City are not only going to have to absorb inflation within their existing pay, but they will also have to absorb higher health care costs. The manager attempts to justify this by saying that employees are still receiving merit increases. This is a complete fiction. If my merit increase has to be used to cover the impacts of inflation and higher health insurance premiums than it is a cost of living adjustment, no matter what it is called. A merit increase that has to be used to fund these items is not rewarding an employee for length of service or quality of work, but is merely keeping him or her at the same level that they were in the previous year.

Comments: How can this action possibly be justified when the city constantly bemoans the fact that only 10% of its employees live in the jurisdiction? I hope that I will never hear this complaint again from any

politician who supports the manager's budget because it will ring of empty hypocrisy. The City Council cannot keep wages down while claiming that they want more middle class workers to move into the City.

In the end this move will only increase the already high attrition rate for City employees. High-quality, educated employees will move into the private sector, creating significant turnover. If the City Council isn't willing to take employee's concern's seriously because only 10% are eligible voters, than perhaps it will take seriously the fact that this budget will result in a significant brain/talent-drain from the City's workforce. This will have a significant impact on the quality of services that are provided to residents and voters.

I encourage the City Council to restore the full COLA increase and look to the budget for real and substantial cuts elsewhere. We should not balance this budget on the backs of middle class City employees unless there is truly no other option or expendable waste in the City's budget.

2
4-9-07



<uwe007@hotmail.com>

02/11/2007 02:23 PM

Please respond to
<uwe007@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget 2008



Time: [Sun Feb 11, 2007 14:23:17] IP Address: [68.167.147.246]

Response requested:

First Name: Uwe
Last Name: Dotzauer
Street Address: 708 N.Howard Street#301
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 7035661915
Email Address: uwe007@hotmail.com
Subject: ACPS Budget 2008

Dear Council Members,

I am writing this email to voice my concerns about the proposed ACPS budget for the next school year. As an Alexandria City tax payer it is my duty to let you know about the mis- and over-spending that is going on.

As a former ACPS ITS department employee and current Fairfax County Public School IT administrator, I see the tremendous difference between these to school systems in terms of efficiency in IT spending. During my time at ACPS, I tried to tell the IT administration of better more economical ways to do certain IT related work procedures. My proposals were always denied.

I left there because of these rejections and could not stand the fact that there was so much WASTE of TAXPAYERS money!!!

To cut straight to the point the ACPS IT department spends a huge chunk of their money on outside consultants to do work ITS employees

could do!!! This amount is in the \$300,000 range.

Comments:

Also the yearly proposal of certain IT hardware related purchase in order to renew Computers in schools is way too high. Current open-source operating systems technology increases the annual PC replacement cycle by several years. Even with Microsoft software this can be achieved.

Most of the school computers are only be used for Internet surfing, word processing and some low level application processing. High powered state of the art Computers is not needed.

Last point is our favorite subject which is the Laptop initiative for TC Williams and Minnie Howard. \$1.8 million per year for Laptops that are not used efficiently and when there are used again only for Internet research and word processing.

These topics are only the top of the iceberg. Please help me to stop wasting City resources and money for so called 21st century education!!!

Let's get a budget going that will spend money wisely, so that the students of Alexandria get education and skills the can later use in the working world.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I will be glad to meet or reply with an email to go into detail.

Sincerely,

uwe Dotzauer

2
4-9-07



<mdanforth2@comcast.net>

02/09/2007 08:17 AM

Please respond to
<mdanforth2@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget



Time: [Fri Feb 09, 2007 08:17:48] IP Address: [76.21.194.188]

Response requested:

First Name: Mollie
Last Name: Danforth
Street Address: 4016 Harris
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-370-9454
Email Address: mdanforth2@comcast.net
Subject: Budget
Comments: I find it interesting that community meetings to provide information on the budget were scheduled on the same night as school board worksessions.



<mdanforth2@comcast.net>

02/05/2007 08:51 PM

Please respond to
<mdanforth2@comcast.net>

2
4-9-07

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget



Time: [Mon Feb 05, 2007 20:51:12] IP Address: [76.21.194.188]

Response requested:

First Name: Mollie
Last Name: Danforth
Street Address: 4016 Harris Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-370-9454
Email Address: mdanforth2@comcast.net
Subject: Budget

The Alexandria Community has opposed development around Metro and elsewhere, made the process for planning approval Kafkaish, made the permitting process inimicable to developers and in other ways inhibited the growth of a commerical base in the City. This is something that the public seemed to want. What they forgot is that they would have to pay for lack of a commerical tax base by bearing the full burden of city government and good schools through the real estate tax on residential property.

The cap that you have placed on both city and schools spending is draconian. I'm not sure what programs will need to be cut at the City level, but to meet the proposed target for the schools would be disastrous in terms of maintaining a school system that can serve both the needs of very educated middle class parents and at rish children in need of tremendous extra support in order to succeed. Good teachers are critical to good schools and giving a STEP increase and a COLA are important to keeping good teachers.

Comments: Perhaps the City and the schools do need to reduce spending (although I can't really agree that the schools are spending too much), but shouldn't

adjustments been phased in over time instead of in the very first year when the real estate market goes flat?

In top school districts in urban areas, per pupil expenditures are in the \$20,000 range. Northern New Jersey and districts outside of NYC are spending this much. Forget the amounts that are being spent in Henrico County or other lower cost areas. That doesn't tell us what we must spend to get the teachers who can do the job. There is research that says to attract really good teachers to teach at risk students you must pay a premium of 30% more than what suburban districts pay. Don't let us fall behind in this very competitive market.

Let the citizens know that it was their choice to turn away commercial development and now they must pay for it. Raise the tax rate to accommodate STEP and COLA increases for employees. Adopt a multi-year plan to shrink City government and support schools so they can meet NCLB and SOL standards.



<carraway@comcast.net>

01/28/2007 10:04 AM

Please respond to
<carraway@comcast.net>

2
4-9-07

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Proposed Budget Cuts for Mount Vernon Community School

COA Contact Us: Proposed Budget Cuts for Mount Vernon Community School

Time: [Sun Jan 28, 2007 10:04:14] IP Address: [76.21.199.164]

Response requested:

First Name: Katherine and Rob
Last Name: Carraway
Street Address: 209 E. Bellefonte Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-684-9051
Email Address: carraway@comcast.net
Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts for Mount Vernon Community School

We are writing to voice our strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts at Mount Vernon Community School with regard to the paraprofessionals in the classroom.

Both of our children attend the school and are in the dual-language program. They (and we) have had a wonderful experience at this school and we are thrilled with the program. Because of the nature of the program and the demands on the teachers, it is imperative that the paraprofessionals remain on staff. Our son's class has 25 students and the partner dual-language class has a similar number (if not equal). Most of the English-speaking children in this class do not receive support at home in Spanish, nor do most of the Spanish-speaking children receive support at home in English. These teachers are responsible for teaching over 40 children in two languages. Possibly relating the obvious, each teacher in the class not only is required to cover the required material, but also faces the challenge of overcoming language barriers in the process.

Comments: The paraprofessionals are an integral part of this program and provide the teachers with the support they need to teach our children.

We cannot imagine how much more demanding it would be on our teachers not to have classroom support, nor do we believe it appropriate to expect more from them than the already excellent education they are providing our children.

If continued achievements and progress in meeting federal accreditation standards are expected, then you really need to consider the impact this change will have.

We understand that there are challenges with regard to funding all of the important programs in our city's schools; however, we fervently believe that eliminating the positions for the paraprofessionals in the classroom is extremely detrimental to the program and extremely important to the success of our children.

Respectfully,

Katherine and Rob Carraway

2
4-9-07



<laura.sanford@acps.k12.va.us>

01/25/2007 07:57 PM

Please respond to
<laura.sanford@acps.k12.va.us>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget/Teacher Step Increase

COA Contact Us: Budget/Teacher Step Increase

Time: [Thu Jan 25, 2007 19:57:33] IP Address: [69.143.56.168]

Response requested:

First Name: Laura
Last Name: Sanford
Street Address: 3336 Martha Custis Drive
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7038246750
Email Address: laura.sanford@acps.k12.va.us
Subject: Budget/Teacher Step Increase

Dear City Council Members,

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

As a resident of and a teacher in Alexandria City, I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

Comments: The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Laura Sanford
Minnie Howard School
Alexandria

2

4-9-07



<peter.balas@acps.k12.va.us>

01/25/2007 04:45 PM

Please respond to
<peter.balas@acps.k12.va.us>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS and the Budget

COA Contact Us: ACPS and the Budget

Time: [Thu Jan 25, 2007 16:45:44] IP Address: [206.158.3.10]

Response requested:

First Name: Peter
Last Name: Balas
Street Address: 142 Bates St NW
City: Washington
State: DC
Zip: 20001
Phone: 202-257-0895
Email Address: peter.balas@acps.k12.va.us
Subject: ACPS and the Budget

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

Comments:

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Peter Balas
Teacher
Minnie Howard School



<julie.westcott@acps.k12.va.us>

01/25/2007 09:16 AM

Please respond to
<julie.westcott@acps.k12.va.us>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Teacher Salary Scale/Step Increases

2

4-9-07

COA Contact Us: Teacher Salary Scale/Step Increases

Time: [Thu Jan 25, 2007 09:16:10] IP Address: [206.158.3.10]

Response requested:

First Name: Julie
Last Name: Westcott
Street Address: 5701 Dunster Court
Apt. A
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22311
Phone: 7034064482
Email Address: julie.westcott@acps.k12.va.us
Subject: Teacher Salary Scale/Step Increases
Dear Alexandria City Council,

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The Superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

Comments:

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the Superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Julie Westcott
Elementary School Teacher, Alexandria City
Public Schools



<bill.walsh@newhouse.com>

01/29/2007 05:50 PM

Please respond to
<bill.walsh@newhouse.com>

2
4-9-07

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Proposed staff cuts at Mt. Vernon Elementary

COA Contact Us: Proposed staff cuts at Mt. Vernon Elementary

Time: [Mon Jan 29, 2007 17:50:26] IP Address: [65.201.152.131]

Response requested:

First Name: Bill
Last Name: Walsh
Street Address: 504 E. Windsor Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301-1230
Phone: 7038389867
Email Address: bill.walsh@newhouse.com

Subject: Proposed staff cuts at Mt. Vernon Elementary

I write to oppose the elimination of 4 teaching assistants at Mt. Vernon Elementary School's dual-language program.

A number of us with young children in Del Ray were excited about the immersion program, but are becoming increasingly dismayed.

When we waited outside (overnight) two years ago to get in, we were told the class size would be small. That proved true in kindergarten. Now our child is in 1st grade and there are 25 students for one teacher. The ratio is actually higher since each teacher must deal with two sets of 25 youngsters. How is a lone teacher expected to contend with fifty 6-7 years olds? It's less a matter of education than crowd control.

Comments: More than 150 of us have signed a petition opposing these cuts, but I wanted to offer a personal view. We're already worried our son isn't getting the attention he needs. And he is one of the lucky ones. We speak English and Spanish in our house. Friends of ours who speak only English at home are struggling (and seeing their kids struggle) with the curriculum. Taking away assistant positions will only exacerbate this.

Some suggestions:

1. Reduce the technology budget. I'm told Alexandria has far more computers per student than Fairfax Cty.
2. Require top administrators to pay deductibles on their health insurance.
3. Charge MVCS families a fee on a sliding scale for intercession. I know we would be willing to pay something.

The dual language program is a gem in a fast-growing neighborhood. Don't tarnish it with needless cutbacks.

Best,

Bill Walsh

2
4-9-07



<mesukolsky@verizon.net>

01/31/2007 09:44 AM

Please respond to
<mesukolsky@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Tonight's School Budget Talks



Time: [Wed Jan 31, 2007 09:44:54] IP Address: [141.116.142.28]

Response requested:

First Name: Marc
Last Name: Sukolsky
Street Address: 201 East Randolph Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-548-1228
Email Address: mesukolsky@verizon.net
Subject: Tonight's School Budget Talks

I apologize for such a late inquiry and set of observations. Under separate cover, I sent this to all the members of the ACPS School Board and the Superintendent of Schools as well. However, in preparation for this evening's 6:15 PM's Budget, Human Resources and Administration Committee and the 7:30 PM's School Board's Budget Approval meeting, I offer the following.

I would like to offer comments, observations and implore the ACPS School Board to aggressively find more resources for the district and stop relying on draconian measures to intercede a stop gap measure and do some deep soul searching regarding what the priorities and functioning of a school system should be versus apparent misdirected placations to a few and a burgeoning administrative albatross (central administration).

The proposed measures (a modicum of COLA growth, staff layoffs, etc.) mean not only a loss in confidence of the administration by the staff and teachers where the rubber meets the road, but also by the silent majority of taxpayers who have entrusted wise and sage decision-making that are amiss in this unwise and perilous venture under

consideration. Look one year down the road to fathom the effects of morale, quality teacher flight to other districts that respect and compensate their employees appropriately, and make the tough choices to meet both the educational needs of the students and the need for financial exigency.

This year's budget crunch follows years of belt tightening. In addition, district projections show that budget cuts are expected to get worse in coming years as expenses increase significantly in areas such as health care and fuel costs for transportation.

Some of the hardest hit programs are district-wide initiatives designed to help students who have difficulty achieving in traditional school settings. What bothers me is coupled in this fashion - I do not feel that the measures being considered take into consideration the effect they will have with the needs of the kids that are served. If the School Board is serious about reform, they need to provide these needed services and do an introspective search on the revenue sources and waste from within.

Paraprofessional, music, art, and gym positions are in the target sights I fear. It is my understanding that throughout the ACPS, many paraprofessional educational assistants who diligently serve the school system at terribly woeful pay may be cut severely hampering an already stressed class size teacher-student ratio.

A number of local school councils sent in letters with their schools' budgets, calling upon the School Board to help find more money and warning how the budget cuts are affecting educational quality.

Here's the core issue:

ACPS receives a set amount per pupil every year. The city's education budget last year mandated the ACPS cap the spending/funding forcing the School Board to provide creative answers to a decrease in the revenue stream. These funds, and the cuts thereof, are tied to personal property taxes (revenue for the city and in turn, the ACPS) are not new for ACPS or for that matter anywhere else in the nation. What I find amazing is the blatant misuse of the Central Administration's turning a blind eye to the growing number of students attending the schools from out of district locations. On any day, students are being

dropped off by parents or relatives in cars with out of state license plates. The "official" registration of these students list local addresses (grand-parents, aunts, brothers, and friends) to circumvent the legal residency requirements. Here is a sleeping issue that your ACPS Central Office administration should be aggressively cracking down, not accepting this! practice passively, and not depriving good teachers a decent and respectful gesture of the district's confidence. This point may sound like an 'apple and oranges' issue to my points above but it is directly tied to the revenue stream from which you are forced to make financial considerations based on less coming into the city's coffers. Aggressively pursue these 'free-loaders' and you will miraculously see enrollment decrease, teachers being less stressed, a more productive and well rounded school administration and student populace, etc.

Comments:

By the way, this problem of spending caps (also known as revenue limits) has affected districts across the nation. School Board members say there is little they can do to resolve the funding crisis and have blamed it on the city council. At the same time, the Board has done little to lobby city council for more money.

Many parents and teachers have complained that the School Board does not seem to sufficiently recognize the severity of the district's funding problems. In the School Board's strategic vision there is no mention of finding more resources for the ACPS. Instead the strategic plan focuses on "financial management" of the district's money.

From what I have read, and maybe misunderstand, this year's budget crunch coincides with a decentralization plan by the School Board, in which schools are given set amounts per pupil, and then "charged" for certain services provided by the central administration or, for other services, given the option of "buying them back." These "charge backs," are mandatory..."buybacks" are optional.

Suggested academic investments:

1. Place a major focus on teacher hiring, development and retention.
2. Establish throughout the district a curriculum consistency and rigor, focused on math, science, reading and writing, with added emphasis on music and language.

3. Invest in targeted class-size reductions and improved student-teacher ratios.
4. Build strong high schools by paying for six periods per day and boosting graduation requirements.
5. Provide adequate remedial help to students not meeting academic standards.
6. Improve the use of the power of family and community involvement.

Suggestions for fiscal viability:

1. Close schools to eliminate wasteful spending on buildings that are not full and not fill them with students that actually reside outside of the district).
2. Become the cheerleader for the school system to fore the City Council to maximize the revenue from surplus real estate.
3. Reduce the gap between transportation services provided by the district and transportation funding allocated by the state by charging reasonable fees for some options.
4. Reduce expenses on infrastructure and Central Administration staff(s). Do we really need the plethora of retired, former ACPS employees sitting in high paying jobs at the Central Administration whilst denying adequate and commensurate pay to the teaching staffs throughout the system (even laying some off)?
5. Reallocate teacher-development resources to align with curriculum priorities.
6. Maintain special-education services while improving operational efficiencies.
7. Improve services for bilingual students while achieving program efficiencies.
8. Support alternative school programs while bringing costs into balance.
9. Call upon the state and the city council to meet its constitutional duty to fully fund basic education.

This is not about the money for our personal situation. My letter is truly one of a concerned citizen, taxpayer, and father of three grown

children who each cherish the rich experiences offered by various school districts throughout the US and overseas. I have seen this work, and fear that the slippery road that the ACPS School Board is considering embarking upon is short sighted and simply trying to stop-gap a leaking hull of a ship when indeed the rudder is amiss as well. Look beyond the horizon and I hope better and wiser minds will see and prevail.

Cordially,

Mr. Marc Sukolsky
201 East Randolph Avenue
Alexandria VA 22301
mesukolsky@verizon.net
703-548-1228 (Home)
703-944-3527 (Cellular)

2
4-9-07



<alana.adamson@acps.k12.va.us
>

01/29/2007 04:14 PM

Please respond to
<alana.adamson@acps.k12.va.us>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc
bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS Teacher Salary

COA Contact Us: ACPS Teacher Salary

Time: [Mon Jan 29, 2007 16:14:37] IP Address: [206.158.3.10]

Response requested:

First Name: Alana
Last Name: Adamson
Street Address: 4646 Seminary Road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 202-360-6995
Email Address: alana.adamson@acps.k12.va.us
Subject: ACPS Teacher Salary

Dear Alexandria City Council,

The Alexandria City Public Schools have long been a source of pride in Alexandria. More of our schools are accredited each year and our students are benefiting from some of the most technologically advanced schools in the nation. Most important, we have highly qualified and dedicated teachers and principals.

I am writing today to ask for your full support of a step increase in the teacher salary scale when considering next year's budget. This is essential to not only retain the best teachers, but also to recruit the most qualified applicants. Your commitment to competitive teacher salaries will ensure that our school division will remain competitive and result in the best education for our students

The superintendent is making every effort to cut everything that she can that does not directly affect K-12 instruction. Please do not allow cuts to damage valuable programs that are working.

Comments:

We understand that this year's reality is grim. However, ACPS is getting less funding from the

state than in previous years, forcing ACPS to depend more on city funding than in some years. Should the superintendent be required meet the target 3.75% increase, teachers will suffer. The proposed budget, 86% of which is for salaries and benefits, reflects no new initiatives or programs and leaves the Superintendent with little choice but to look towards teachers' salaries for large cuts.

Teachers are hoping that the city council members will remember that the schools are a vital part of the Alexandria community and competitive salaries will allow ACPS to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

---Alana Adamson
8th Grade Civics Teacher
Francis C. Hammond Middle School

2
4-9-07



<ann_ohanlon@yahoo.com>

04/03/2007 10:54 AM

Please respond to
<ann_ohanlon@yahoo.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject: COA Contact Us: school habitats/gardens

Time: [Tue Apr 03, 2007 10:54:54] IP Address: [216.73.149.222]

Response requested:

First Name: Ann
Last Name: O'Hanlon
Street Address: 2810 Farm Road
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-795-1239
Email Address: ann_ohanlon@yahoo.com
Subject: school habitats/gardens

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for a program at George Mason Elementary School and throughout ACPS – the system of gardens in the elementary schools that significantly aids students' understanding of biology, temperature, agriculture and climate, all of which are key parts of the SOLs in early grades.

I am a parent of three children, the elder two of whom are George Mason students. Two years ago, I expressed interest in doing something to improve the grounds at George Mason Elementary School, which look tired and, in my mind, less inviting to prospective or current students as would be ideal.

I was referred to Wendy Sparrow, the Habitat Coordinator for ACPS, and she suggested starting a children's garden like those at numerous other elementary schools. Working with PTA support, and with strong and innovative guidance from Wendy Sparrow, we have created a simple but creative program at George Mason that includes all kindergartners, first graders and second graders, and may include even more in

the future.

Among the garden's educational aspects are the following:

Comments:

- It is both a "literary garden" that parallels books the students read and a butterfly garden, creating a habitat for butterflies (second grade classrooms each brought a caterpillar in this fall to watch it develop in their room);
- Students read about a particular plant, feel the seed, listen to an explanation of that plant's agricultural, historical or economic significance, and then plant it and harvest it (and often eat it);
- Second graders take part in an online nationwide program of tulip planting, in which they mark their planting of a tulip bulb (after dissecting one in the classroom) and then note the spring emergence and blossoming of the bulb, and note those milestones online in an interactive map that makes climate zones interesting and understandable;
- Art students take part in the garden as well, creating signs and painting benches;
- In addition to the garden's important, hands-on parallels to the SOLs, it is an attractive part of the grounds that broadcasts to passers-by that things are happening at this school.

Wendy Sparrow has been creative and diligent with the garden, and just two years into its existence, the garden has become a significant and even beloved part of the school. And while parent volunteers would try to carry it on, the truth is that such a system would not work well without an ACPS staff person – especially one as able as Wendy – leading the charge.

I hope in this era of budget constraints that the Habitat Program will remain healthy and secure, not just at George Mason but throughout the school system. Thank you for your consideration of this.

Sincerely,
Ann O'Hanlon
703-795-1239

2
4-9-07



<abra_admin@verizon.net>

04/02/2007 01:21 PM

Please respond to
<abra_admin@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc
bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: funding for child care



Time: [Mon Apr 02, 2007 13:21:33] IP Address: [71.252.104.109]

Response requested:

First Name: Carol
Last Name: Keller
Street Address: 821 N. Latham St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-370-8200
Email Address: abra_admin@verizon.net
Subject: funding for child care

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor, and City Council Members:

Comments:

I am writing as both a citizen of Alexandria and as co chair of the Early Childhood Directors Association of Alexandria to request that funding to the Children's fund be increased as well as funding to get families off the waiting list for subsidized child care. We as Alexandrians know how important quality child care is to children and families. There are not enough slots in the City for families who need child care and can afford to pay for it as well as the fact that our most needy and vulnerable children and families are without quality child care as there is not enough money in the City budget to subsidize care for those who cannot afford it. The Children's Fund funding has remained level, but the needs for use of those funds have grown - a lot.

I and my fellow directors encourage you to increase funding for Alexandria's youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you.
Carol Keller

Director, Abracadabra Child Care and
Development Center
Co-Chair, ECDAA

2
4-9-07



<mwhetzer@comcast.net>

03/30/2007 02:07 PM

Please respond to
<mwhetzer@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Funding



Time: [Fri Mar 30, 2007 13:07:55] IP Address: [76.21.171.243]

Response requested:

First Name: Marianne
Last Name: Hetzer
Street Address: 604 N Mansfield St
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-823-3367
Email Address: mwhetzer@comcast.net
Subject: School Funding

I attended the budget work session on Wednesday, March 28. I thought the school division's position was well presented and that all questions were answered clearly and decisively. The items that received the most scrutiny -- 21st century literacy coaches and middle school rigor training -- actually have very little budgetary impact. The opportunities for the greatest cost savings -- eliminating teacher positions and reducing or eliminating pay increases -- are by far the most risky. If salaries and benefits are less competitive than those of surrounding jurisdictions for even ONE year, teachers and administrators will leave Alexandria, and they will not come running back if we try to play catch up a few years down the road. The same must be said of families shopping for homes and schools in the area.

I was proud and heartened to hear council members indicating their desire to find funding for COLAs for all city employees, including those in ACPS. Thank you!

I agree with Mayor Euille and Councilman Krupicka that the school board should review every method and venue we have for delivering education services to determine if the methods

and venues will continue to serve our students well in the next several years. I will urge them to boldly and unapologetically consider alternatives for long-term planning, even if it means jettisoning some well-liked or politically charged programs.

Comments:

It is undeniable that the money we are spending is paying for results. The results that we are seeing are not necessarily flashy or USA Today-worthy, but we are steadily bringing our neediest students (ESL, low-income, special ed) closer to their less needy classmates and closer to federally mandated achievement levels. This is not glamorous work, but it is challenging and rewarding. As citizens, we should be very PROUD of our progress and EAGER to provide the necessary resources to continue on toward division-wide accreditation and consistent achievement of AYP.

We need to spend less time nickel and diming our well-constructed, fully justifiable expense budgets and spend more time identifying and developing additional revenue sources. It may have to be a real estate tax rate increase this year, but we must not rely on this as our only source of additional revenue ever again. We must create alternatives that do not involve sacrificing the well-being of our youngest, most vulnerable citizens. Remember that we are responsible today for preparing the adults that will be in charge tomorrow when we revert to vulnerability.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, your receptiveness and your overt willingness to work collaboratively to serve our children.

2
4-9-07



<lpearson@acps.k12.va.us>

03/30/2007 01:41 PM

Please respond to
<lpearson@acps.k12.va.us>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Board Budget, 2007-2008

Time: [Fri Mar 30, 2007 12:41:32] IP Address: [206.158.3.10]

Response requested:

First Name: Lynda
Last Name: Pearson
Street Address: 1018 Beverley Drive
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703548-7642
Email Address: lpearson@acps.k12.va.us
Subject: School Board Budget, 2007-2008

As a resident of Alexandria, VA and teacher in the Alexandria City Public Schools, I am requesting the City Council to fully fund the Alexandria City Public Schools budget.

Comments: The latest thing that the School Board wants to cut is our health benefits, both medical and dental. There are several options to propose cuts which can be found online followed by a school board survey. We really don't want any cuts to our medical benefits. Please take a look at it this at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/news2007/nr20070326b.php>

Thank you for your continuous support of the Alexandria City Public School Teachers,
Lynda Pearson
Vocal Music Specialist
Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy

2
4-9-07



<pjmillerpj@yahoo.com>

03/29/2007 04:50 PM

Please respond to
<pjmillerpj@yahoo.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Proposed School Board Budget - Please Pass



Time: [Thu Mar 29, 2007 15:50:17] IP Address: [63.84.34.22]

Response requested:

First Name: Paul

Last Name: Miller

Street Address: 800 South Lee Street

City: Alexandria

State: va

Zip: 22314

Phone: 703-469-1252

Email Address: pjmillerpj@yahoo.com

Subject: Proposed School Board Budget - Please Pass

Comments:

I support the School Board's proposed budget, and hope City Council will do the same. I currently have a 6 year old boy in Kindergarten at Lyles Crouch with two younger sons that will be starting school in the next 2 to 4 years. That's right, I have three boys under 6 yrs old and my wife hates me (just joking). As our first son was reaching school age we where seriously thinking of going to a private school. However, given the fact that others in the neighborhood where using the Lyles Crouch gave us confidence in the City school system. We want to send our kids to public schools. especially ones in the neighborhood, and are very committed to the City school system so long we feel the City Council remains committed to the City school system. Forcing the School Board to reduce its proposed budget would shake the confidence of myself and my wife, as well as other families throughout our neighborhood that are workin! g hard to make Alexandria's schools successful. Please pass the current School Board's proposed budget! Thanks for your support.



City of Alexandria, Virginia
Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission
P. O. Box 178
Alexandria, Virginia 22313



March 26, 2007

Honorable Mayor William Euille and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
Suite 2300, City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314



Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

Re: Proposed Alexandria City Budget for FY2008

The Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) would like to submit comments on the City Manager's proposed FY 2008 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Operating Budget items related to environmental quality.

In particular, the EPC would like to commend the City Manager for including the following budget items in the CIP, and recommend that these be approved for FY2008:

1. Continued support funding for maintaining infrastructure for sanitary, combined, and storm sewer systems.
2. Funding for the City's share for increased transit costs.
3. Funding for the storm sewer capacity analysis and the storm water utility study that is being initiated.
4. Continued funding for open space, channel restoration, stream maintenance and environmental restoration.

The EPC also strongly supports the City's effort to meet LEED requirements for City projects. The EPC believes the City should lead by example when it comes to green building design and sustainable development.

In the Operating Budget, the EPC concurs with the City Manager that it is important to hire an Energy Manager to spearhead the City's energy conservation efforts. In addition, the EPC recommends that this position also be responsible for pursuing the purchase of clean renewable energy such as wind power. The EPC also supports continued funding for the City's efforts to address air quality in the City, especially with respect to Mirant and Virginia Paving.

As you know, the EPC is currently working with VA Tech on Phase I of the development for an Environmental Action Plan for the City. The EPC supports complete funding for Phases II and III. Part of the ongoing research on Best Management Practices in other jurisdictions is identifying the resources needed to implement them. The EPC anticipates that additional fiscal resources and staff will be necessary to implement the Environmental Action Plan once it is finalized and would like the Council and City Manager to keep this in mind with respect to the development of FY 2009 Budget and into the future.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed FY 2008 budget and for your consideration of our recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle Fidler', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Danielle Fidler
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

Cc: EPC Members
James Hartmann, City Manager
Rich Baier, Director, T&ES
William Skrabak, Div. Chief Environmental Quality, T&ES



<cbdrankin@hotmail.com>

03/27/2007 09:22 AM

Please respond to
<cbdrankin@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Budget Funding

2
4-9-07



Time: [Tue Mar 27, 2007 08:22:26] IP Address: [68.239.125.218]

Response requested:

First Name: Dianna
Last Name: Rankin
Street Address: 111 East Spring St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 7035481178
Email Address: cbdrankin@hotmail.com
Subject: School Budget Funding
Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members,

I am contacting you once again concerning the funding of the school budget. After reviewing the new list of possible cuts by the school system if the budget is not funded I felt I had to speak out.

If you persist in forcing these cuts on the school board, then you will be doing harm to the very people you pretend to care about. I don't care about the politics of this situation. I cannot and will never believe that this city is so "poor" that you cannot give the school system what it needs. I care about the those children and families who either cannot speak up or do not know how to speak up. These are the children you will be harming. And yes I mean harming. Those who have the money will not be hurt by this. They will just spend the money to make sure their children get their educational needs meet. Those that do not have money will suffer. I do mean suffer.

Comments: Your actions do nothing but prove what I personally have believed for a long time. There are no differences between republicans and democrats. You all just care about the bottom line and no matter who you hurt in the process well, it

just doesn't matter. Those people don't give you campaign money and those people probably don't vote. The rich are taken care of as usual and the poor stay poor. So, what kind of democrats are you?

Please don't tell me about your "budget guidelines" that you adopted. Not only are you talking about harming innocent children and poor families, you are also willing to harm folks at the bottom of the pay scale.

I just can't believe with the obscene wealth in the city that you are willing to cut people's jobs, take money away from middle and low income workers and harm children. But, right now you all seem hell bent on doing just that.

From a disgusted voter,
Dianna Rankin

2
4-9-07



<pastore9@msn.com>

03/26/2007 10:11 AM

Please respond to
<pastore9@msn.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: school budget



Time: [Mon Mar 26, 2007 09:11:06] IP Address: [65.129.188.167]

Response requested:

First Name: lisa
Last Name: pastore
Street Address: 411 east mason avenue va
City: alexandria
State: va
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703 836-4002
Email Address: pastore9@msn.com
Subject: school budget

Comments: My children are students in the ACPS system. I am pleased overall with the education and attention my girls have received thus far. We have taken advantage of what the city has to offer with no regrets. We feel privileged to be able to send our daughters to a school where they are receiving the time and attention that they need and deserve. When we moved to this area 15 years ago we were concerned about the school system, and realized that many neighbors moved to Fairfax county or Arlington due to the "better schools" in those areas. We determined to stay here and navigate the system looking at all available options. We were impressed that there were so many good choices available to us. With the magnet and traditional education options all over the city, each child can find a school to meet their needs. Our oldest child was diagnosed with ALL-Leukemia. Again, we found that the school system was able to meet her needs via the IEP and still is helping her to overcome the disadvantages that have come with the toxic albeit life saving treatments. We have been a part of the Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy family and can not emphasize how critical the small classroom and special science and music and PE programs are to the educational experience we

have enjoyed. Spending time in any school will clarify how necessary it is to pass the school budget. We need to give our children every opportunity to achieve excellence in the future. Please think carefully as you vote. Thank you Lisa Pastore Parent of 3rd grader at LCTA and 6th grader at GWMS

2
4-9-07



<amywolf123@hotmail.com>

03/23/2007 08:59 PM

Please respond to
<amywolf123@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Public School Funding

Time: [Fri Mar 23, 2007 19:59:28] IP Address: [199.233.178.253]

Response requested:

First Name: Amy
Last Name: Schulwolf
Street Address: 102 West Howell Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-836-6434
Email Address: amywolf123@hotmail.com
Subject: Public School Funding

Comments: My name is Amy Schulwolf and I am writing as a concerned parent of a first-grader at Mt. Vernon Community School. Overall, I am concerned that the City Council is not fully funding the school board's budget. The most important duty that you have as a City Council is to ensure that our children have bright futures. By cutting the School Board budget, you send the message that the children of Alexandria are not the top priority. Your duty is to find the funds, so that Alexandria's children get the quality education they deserve. As the parent of a MVCS student, I am floored that the School Board has suggested that parents pay up to \$300 for Intersession Enrichment programs. First, if this is a step that you take as a School Board and as a City Council, then you are creating a slippery slope, where all parents will be expected to fund other "extras". I chose to send my daughter to our neighborhood school, so that she would reap all the benefits of a Modified School Calendar, and she has. During Intersession, she learned to break a board with her hand in Tae Kwon Do, she learned to play soccer, she is learning French AND she made friends with a little girl who is in "Life Skills" class. Had it not been for Intersession, she never would have had these experiences. And you cannot put

a price tag on this. Intersession is as much a part of her education as Math, Social Studies and Art are.

As a city resident and tax payer, I do not expect to pay for my child's public education out of my own pocket. I expect that I will pay taxes to cover public education. I do expect that City Council will think creatively to fund the schools, however. Why not raise property taxes? Why not give yourselves a full COLA? Other areas of the city should be cut before the School Board budget is cut. Do the right thing and make Alexandria's children YOUR top priority.

Thank you, Amy Schulwolf

2
4-9-07



<jlennon04@comcast.net>

03/22/2007 10:59 AM

Please respond to
<jlennon04@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget



Time: [Thu Mar 22, 2007 09:59:25] IP Address: [152.75.85.18]

Response requested:

First Name: John E.
Last Name: Lennon
Street Address: 244 Murtha Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304-8601
Phone: 703-888-1255
Email Address: jlennon04@comcast.net
Subject: ACPS Budget

I have been reading, in the Post and the Alexandria newspaper, about the Alexandria Public School budget considerations - and have been alarmed at the apparent willingness on the part of some elected officials to cut school programs as a means of solving a fiscal problem. Nothing that I'm aware of - on national, state, or local agendas - would seem to support such a solution.

Comments: Of particular interest to our family is the Intersession Program at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, where our two children currently attend. They have benefitted substantially from these programs - which are carefully designed by Alexandria Public School professionals, and staffed by qualified specialists on contract or through the school system. On a wider scale, I have noted the widely diversified attendance at these Intersession classes; these programs are attended by a cross-section of citizens from Tucker's school zone. There is no doubt - none - that reduction or elimination of these programs, or any effort to charge substantial fees for attendance, will have two principal, negative effects: First, the children who are now able to extend their learning experience

into areas not offered longer-term through the ACPS curricula will be severely limited or potentially denied in their families' efforts to benefit by those experiences; and, second, an economic hardship of measurable proportions will be imposed on most of the families who use this program. Therefore - please avoid fiscal solutions that damage any aspect of Alexandria's public educational programs. As short-term managers of the city's public schools, I would urge you to consider favorably any investment in the long-term success of ACPS students - success that will extend over the lifetimes of children who will be affected by your decisions.

I would be pleased to discuss these matters further, if there would be any interest in doing so. Thank you.



<eewallace@verizon.net>

03/22/2007 08:30 AM

Please respond to
<eewallace@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget

2
4-9-07

Time: [Thu Mar 22, 2007 07:30:47] IP Address: [70.21.75.77]

Response requested:

First Name: Eileen
Last Name: Wallace
Street Address: 613 S. Saint Asaph Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-836-2014
Email Address: eewallace@verizon.net
Subject: ACPS Budget
Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor and Members of City Council,

We urge you to fund the budget submitted by ACPS.

Our daughters attend Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, an outstanding school.

LCTA is a true neighborhood school. 4 families on our block send their children there.

If you would like to visit LCTA, either one of us would be happy to set up a tour. And if you would like to talk to LCTA parents, just stop by the playground after school. Of course, you can reach either one of us by phone or email.

Comments: We value the high-quality education and the community involvement at LCTA.

Superb public education makes Alexandria City a thriving, vital city.

We have voted for all of you...most of you several

times. We supported you
because of your values and standards.

Please support the ACPS budget.

Sincerely,

Eileen Wallace and Jim Benbow
parents of Ella (2nd grade) and Ava
(kindergarten)

2
4-9-07



<tkandrous@gmail.com>

03/20/2007 01:29 PM

Please respond to
<tkandrous@gmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS FULL Funding



Time: [Tue Mar 20, 2007 12:29:04] IP Address: [68.83.216.146]

Response requested:

First Name: Terry
Last Name: Androus
Street Address: 702 Enderby Dr.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7036845588
Email Address: tkandrous@gmail.com
Subject: ACPS FULL Funding
Dear Council:

Comments:

Please fully fund the ACPS budget. It is my opinion that the school system has been on a downward spiral for several years. Cutting their budget would almost be putting a nail in the coffin. We are very close to leaving the public schools along with many other families with high-performing children. Cutting their budget would make it very difficult for the school system to get things back on track. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. I want to support the schools and Alexandria. Please don't drive me out of the school system and ultimately the city by poor allocation of funds. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Terry Androus

2
4-9-07



<mauramc@verizon.net>

03/19/2007 09:13 PM

Please respond to
<mauramc@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Please fund the school budget



Time: [Mon Mar 19, 2007 20:13:47] IP Address: [70.17.67.139]

Response requested:

First Name: Maura & Chase
Last Name: Nelson
Street Address: 500 Commonwealth Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-836-0209
Email Address: mauramc@verizon.net
Subject: Please fund the school budget

Hello,

Our sons attend Kindergarten and 4th grade at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, and we are very keenly observing the fate of the upcoming proposed school budget.

Comments: We understand the difficulties and challenges of meeting so many of Alexandria's needs, but hope you agree that adequately funding the school budget for our city is the most important investment in the future success of our city. We are very proud of the progress that has been made in improving the schools in Alexandria and are concerned that any reductions in funding will compromise the good work and accomplishments so many have strived for.

Please, we encourage you to do the right thing by our city's children and let the budget stand!

Sincerely,

Maura & Chase Nelson

2
4-9-07



<keirdlc@comcast.net>

03/16/2007 03:03 PM

Please respond to
<keirdlc@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School budget



Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 14:03:05] IP Address: [76.21.177.12]

Response requested:

First Name: Lorraine and David
Last Name: Keir
Street Address: 3307 Elmore Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-549-3924
Email Address: keirdlc@comcast.net
Subject: School budget

Comments: Please fully fund the ACPS budget. Our daughter will be entering kindergarten and we want to ensure that she will have a quality experience in the Alexandria schools. I have volunteered in the elementary schools for 3 years and know that to keep good teachers, the schools must be adequately staffed and funded and salaries must rival those in Arlington and Falls Church. It is critical that we do not fall behind! Thanks for listening!

2
4-9-07



<karenmcmanis@aol.com>

03/16/2007 04:04 PM

Please respond to
<karenmcmanis@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS School Budget



Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 15:04:58] IP Address: [152.163.100.202]

Response requested:

First Name: Karen
Last Name: McManis
Street Address: 308 Kentucky Ave
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-549-7770
Email Address: karenmcmanis@aol.com
Subject: ACPS School Budget

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Macdonald, and members of the Alexandria City Council:

Comments:

Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Karen A. McManis
Parent of a first-grader in Charles Barrett

2
4-9-07



<Lauradev@comcast.net>

03/16/2007 04:26 PM

Please respond to
<Lauradev@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: School Budget



Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 15:26:08] IP Address: [68.48.142.104]

Response requested:

First Name: Laura and Nick
Last Name: Devereux
Street Address: 418 E. Howell Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 7036848957
Email Address: Lauradev@comcast.net
Subject: School Budget

Dear City Council:

Comments:

Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Laura and Nick Devereux

2
4-9-07



<ebseline@mac.om>

03/16/2007 04:49 PM

Please respond to
<ebseline@mac.om>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangainesi@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget should be fully funded

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 15:49:15] IP Address: [76.21.177.136]

Response requested:

First Name: Eleanor
Last Name: Seline
Street Address: 711 Chalfonte Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-549-7067
Email Address: ebseline@mac. om
Subject: ACPS Budget should be fully funded
Mayor Euille and All Council Members

Comments:

Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Eleanor and Richard Seline
Charles Barrett Parents

2
4-9-07



<hallberens@erols.com>

03/16/2007 05:06 PM

Please respond to
<hallberens@erols.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: school budget

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 16:06:45] IP Address: [66.44.104.52]

Response requested:

First Name: Nancy

Last Name: Hall-Berens

Street Address: 3208 Wellington Road

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22302

Phone: 703-671-0575

Email Address: hallberens@erols.com

Subject: school budget

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor and members of City Council,

My husband and I are parents of a second grader at Charles Barrett Elementary School. We have had such a positive experience in the Alexandria City Public School system so far and look forward to many more years. We ask that you fully fund the ACPS budget for the next fiscal year. The future leaders of our city depend on the school system to provide an educational environment where every child can achieve his or her full potential. One of the best ways to create such an environment is to employ the highest quality teachers and to maintain small class size. The proposed budget will make both of those things possible. You need to provide competitive salaries in order to recruit and retain top teachers.

Comments:

In addition, the entire city benefits from a strong school system, whether or not every family currently has school age children. A strong school system leads to productive citizens who respect their city and have increased economic resources which in turn helps to reduce crime rates. It would be short-sighted not to fund the educational needs of our most vulnerable, young citizens.

They - and their parents - look to the current leadership of the city to make wise decisions for our schools.

Thank you for your time reading our concerns.

Nancy Hall-Berens

Thomas J. Berens



<dolsfamily4@yahoo.com>

03/16/2007 05:29 PM

Please respond to
<dolsfamily4@yahoo.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS budget

2
4-9-07

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 16:29:52] IP Address: [151.200.141.54]

Response requested:

First Name: Lisa
Last Name: Dols
Street Address: 3602 Orlando Place
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22305
Phone: (703)837-8365
Email Address: dolsfamily4@yahoo.com
Subject: ACPS budget

Dear All :

I am sure you are receiving many of the following e mail, as many of us in the community feel strongly about this issue. We just wanted to be counted and let you know how we feel, too.

Comments: Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Thank you, also, for all that you have done thus far. It is appreciated!

Sincerely, The Dols Family

2
4-9-07



<jreese3286@aol.com>

03/16/2007 05:37 PM

Please respond to
<jreese3286@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 16:37:54] IP Address: [205.188.117.67]

Response requested:

First Name: Janet
Last Name: Reese
Street Address: 921 N. Overlook Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: (703) 578-3149
Email Address: jreese3286@aol.com
Subject: ACPS Budget

Dear City Officials and Council Members:

As the parent of three children enrolled in the Alexandria City Public Schools, I would like to urge you to fully fund the ACPS budget. I have always been a big supporter of public education, and I would like for my children to get the best education possible in the Alexandria Public School System. I feel that the full funding of the ACPS budget is essential to achieve this goal.

Comments: Our city's schools have improved, but we must continue to allocate funds to maintain low class size, adequate teacher pay and the many programs needed to meet the needs of all students within the ACPS system.

Good schools are an essential component of good neighborhoods.

Thanks you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Janet Glore Reese

2
4-9-07



<nancylorentz@yahoo.com>

03/16/2007 07:32 PM

Please respond to
<nancylorentz@yahoo.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: City Budget/School Budget

Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 18:32:20] IP Address: [76.21.205.219]

Response requested:

First Name: Nancy

Last Name: Lorentz

Street Address: 805 North Overlook Drive

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22305

Phone: (703) 519-0024

Email Address: nancylorentz@yahoo.com

Subject: City Budget/School Budget

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor and distinguished Council Members:

Comments: Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lorentz

2
4-9-07



<khicks@csis.org>

03/16/2007 08:33 PM

Please respond to
<khicks@csis.org>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS Budget



Time: [Fri Mar 16, 2007 19:33:28] IP Address: [68.55.39.153]

Response requested:

First Name: Kathleen
Last Name: Hicks
Street Address: 3505 Old Dominion Blvd
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-683-1074
Email Address: khicks@csis.org
Subject: ACPS Budget

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice-Mayor Macdonald, and Alexandria City Council Members:

Comments: Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hicks

2
4-9-07



<barbaraglomb@comcast.net>

03/18/2007 04:40 PM

Please respond to
<barbaraglomb@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Funding the schools



Time: [Sun Mar 18, 2007 15:40:26] IP Address: [76.21.193.150]

Response requested:

First Name: Barbara
Last Name: Glomb
Street Address: 403 Tennessee Ave.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-706-5795
Email Address: barbaraglomb@comcast.net
Subject: Funding the schools

Dear Sir/Madam:

Comments:

Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We have made great strides in improving Alexandria City schools in recent years and we must continue to make that investment. Among other things, cuts in the budget would likely affect teacher pay and class size, areas that had been cornerstones of our commitment to quality. To stay competitive with other school districts and meet the needs of all our students, we cannot let our support slip now. Strong schools do affect everyone in the city, not just those currently in the system. Please maintain our schools so Alexandria continues to be a community people want to live in. Thank you for your support!

Sinceely,

Barbara Glomb

2
4-9-07



<abigail.freeman@inova.org>

03/19/2007 09:41 AM

Please respond to
<abigail.freeman@inova.org>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS Programs and Budget

Time: [Mon Mar 19, 2007 08:41:58] IP Address: [141.156.99.2]

Response requested: []

First Name: Abbie
Last Name: Freeman
Street Address: 4908 Gardner Dr.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-567-9150
Email Address: abigail.freeman@inova.org
Subject: ACPS Programs and Budget

Comments:

Since I am a big supporter of cost containment and stable tax rates and vote accordingly, I am somewhat surprised to find myself writing to you about raising taxes and spending money. However, the continued funding of ACPS's carefully designed academic programs, particularly Samuel W. Tucker's modified school calendar (MSC) with Intersession, is extremely important to maintaining and, hopefully, continually improving the outlook for the city's youth. In a time where the United States is falling behind other developed countries in educational success and so much is being said about improving our educational system and "No Child Left Behind", it makes no sense to cut programs that are proving to be successful for our children such as Tucker's MSC with Intersession. ACPS has an extremely diverse student population, with greater than half of students being identified as being at-risk, having special needs, and requiring supplemental services. My own daughter received special services as a preschooler and her first years in grade school and is benefiting greatly from the consistent reinforcement the MSC with Intersession provides. Fulfilling the educational needs of children at risk is a challenging endeavor. To

eliminate funding from successful academic programs like Tucker's MSC with Intercession is to place a higher priority on short term financial gain than the educational needs of some of the City's most vulnerable residents. It is the Council's responsibility to make the hard decisions, providing and strengthening the development of necessary programs to achieve academic success for the City's children in the public schools and providing the foundation for these young citizens to have successful lives beyond public education.!

2
4-9-07



<tkolish@comcast.net>

03/13/2007 08:33 AM

Please respond to
<tkolish@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: budget and schools



Time: [Tue Mar 13, 2007 07:33:56] IP Address: [68.83.212.63]

Response requested:

First Name: Theresa
Last Name: Kolish
Street Address: 5024 Waple Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 7038230617
Email Address: tkolish@comcast.net
Subject: budget and schools

Comments: I realize that tax revenues are not at historic levels this year, but nonetheless I would encourage full funding of the ACPS because without full funding, successful programs, like the modified school calendar at Tucker elementary, are vulnerable to dismantling. Tucker adopted a modified school calendar to serve its large at risk and highly mobile student population. The program uses shorter breaks throughout the school year instead of the traditional long summer break. This gets the kids into school sooner and lessens the summer brain drain. The shorter breaks, intersession, are used to straighten the skills of all students by offering a variety of classes tied to the SOLS or core curriculum and contain a specific remedial function. The program is a huge success as demonstrated recent test scores and the other objective data. The Tucker community is proud of its school and believes all city residents should be ! too because it is the type of school that draws and retains residents to Alexandria. With that in mind, I would encourage you to look for ways, including tax increases, to ensure that our schools are funded. I am happy to arrange a meeting for you with other parents who are concerned about Tucker and education in the city at your convenience to further explain the program and

our concerns. We are meeting currently with individual school board members but welcome the opportunity to have a conversation with council members. Thank you.

Theresa Kolish

5024 Waple Lane

Alexandria, Va 22304

703 823 0617

2
4-9-07



<Stephanie456@att.net>

03/11/2007 09:22 PM

Please respond to
<Stephanie456@att.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: 2007-2008 Proposed Budget



Time: [Sun Mar 11, 2007 20:22:59] IP Address: [68.55.5.87]

Response requested:

First Name: Stephanie
Last Name: Scharnweber
Street Address: 400 Ashford Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703 3700005
Email Address: Stephanie456@att.net
Subject: 2007-2008 Proposed Budget

While I admire the City's intention to manage its expenses effectively, I am not comfortable with its plan to maintain the current tax rate at the expense of our school system. In a tight budget year it makes sense to carefully review how funds are spent. It does not make sense to eliminate so much funding to ACPS that it is unable to sustain its support of carefully designed academic programs with a successful track record, like Tucker's modified school calendar (MSC) with Intersession. The City must continue to fully fund ACPS so that it can maintain these efforts and continue to improve and strengthen programs that ensure all children within the City of Alexandria's public school system are able to achieve academic success

Comments:

ACPS has an extremely diverse student population, with over fifty percent of the students identified as being at-risk, having special needs, and requiring supplemental services. Fulfilling the educational needs of children at risk is a challenging endeavor. To eliminate funding for proven academic

programs like Tucker Elementary's MSC with Intercession, a program developed and implemented in part to address and mitigate the specific challenges faced by its large population of at risk students, is to place a higher priority on short term financial gain than the educational needs of some of the City's most vulnerable residents.

2
4-9-07



<jgriepentrog@comcast.net>

03/11/2007 11:45 PM

Please respond to
<jgriepentrog@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Property Tax Rate and ACPS Budget



Time: [Sun Mar 11, 2007 22:45:45] IP Address: [69.143.59.118]

Response requested:

First Name: James
Last Name: Griepentrog
Street Address: 235 Gretna Green Court
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-823-3562
Email Address: jgriepentrog@comcast.net
Subject: Property Tax Rate and ACPS Budget

My son, Nicolas, and all five of the neighborhood children in our community attending Samuel Tucker Elementary participate in the Intersession program every quarter of their schooling.

I wanted to voice my support for a property tax increase so that ACPS may sustain its support of academic programs with a successful track record, like Tucker's modified school calendar (MSC) with Intersession. The City must continue to fully fund ACPS so that it can maintain these efforts that ensure all children within the City of Alexandria's public school system are able to achieve academic success.

Comments: Meeting the \$7M shortfall required to fully fund the ACPS budget would add approximately 2 more cents to the current property tax rate (81.5 to 83.5 cents). This 2 cent increase would cause the average homeowner to incur a tax payment increase of only \$30 per year! Surely this is money well spent, considering the unique scheduling requirements of Tucker parents and supporters of alternative curriculae in Alexandria.

With other school districts considering options of

grade- school International Baccalaureate programs, subject-matter specialty magnet schools, charter schools, language immersion schools, etc. I consider the modified school calendar utilized by Samuel Tucker to be a option far less extreme than these other experimental programs. Funding the intersessions, what has allowed the MCS to perform smoothly to-date, will allow this ACPS program to be a workable model for the district and potentially for all of Northern VA. to convert to.

Jim Griepentrog
11 March 2007

2
4-9-07



<ssg0@nreca.coop>

11/14/2006 08:07 AM

Please respond to
<ssg0@nreca.coop>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: New Tax rate



Time: [Tue Nov 14, 2006 08:07:22] IP Address: [4.21.120.135]

Response requested:

First Name: Sylvia
Last Name: Gordon
Street Address: 37 Herbert ST
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-73-2383
Email Address: ssg0@nreca.coop
Subject: New Tax rate

Given this statistic from Mr. Krupicka's email to us, and the fact that so many of us struggle to maintain lifestyle in spite of previous years' cost of housing increases and assessments, I am in favor of maintaining the current tax rate.

Comments: "Total new City revenues are on track for a modest three-percentage point increase."

Let us try to keep the new budget within this limit of increase.

Sylvia S. Gordon



Alexandria Taxpayers United

2
4-9-07

December 19, 2006

Mayor and City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Alexandria City Council,

On behalf of the members of Alexandria Taxpayers United, I would like to share a policy proposal that could greatly improve the transparency surrounding the grants and contracts given out by the City of Alexandria and funded by the local taxpayer.

Essentially, I propose that you implement a local version of a bill (S. 2590, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act) cosponsored by Senator Tom Coburn, Senator John McCain, Senator Barack Obama, and Senator Tom Carper in the 109th Congress that **created a publicly-available website listing every entity receiving federal grants or contracts and the totals awarded for the last ten fiscal years.** We believe that creating a similar website on a local scale would entail very little cost and would greatly increase transparency in the distribution of Alexandria's precious tax dollars.

Advocates from across the opinion spectrum share the common notion that transparency of and public access to government information is vital to the health of our political system. As Senator Obama noted, "whether you're on the left or right, there is no worthy argument against transparency." We also agree with Senator Carper when he said "If we're going to hold the federal government accountable for its performance, then we need to empower the public with basic information about who's receiving federal dollars and what they're doing with them."

As you may know, a bipartisan majority in both the Senate and the House passed this common-sense bill, and the President signed it into law. Starting next year, Americans will not be forced to navigate the treacherous waters of bureaucracy just to find out who is receiving their tax dollars. Alexandria residents deserve the same. Please consider creating a "google-government" website that will allow Alexandrians easy access to information on grant and contract spending. I look forward to working with you on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Bud Miller
President



<paddybowman@verizon.net>

12/05/2006 07:05 PM

Please respond to
<paddybowman@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Balancing Budgets at Home and City Hall

2
4-9-07

COA Contact Us: Balancing Budgets at Home and City Hall

Time: [Tue Dec 05, 2006 19:05:16] IP Address: [141.156.148.117]

Response requested:

First Name: Paddy
Last Name: Bowman
Street Address: 609 Johnston Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-836-7499
Email Address: paddybowman@verizon.net
Subject: Balancing Budgets at Home and City Hall

Comments: As I sit down to calculate what pitiful donations I can give to cultural and social service organizations this year, I am saddened that I can afford to give less than last year, yet again, because my monthly mortgage payment has already gone up because of my real estate assessment. This annual financial crunch usually doesn't occur until February. Each year it's a shock. If I can't afford to live here, what about working-class people? If I have to slash my personal budget, why don't city departments have to slash theirs? We need an economic czar to find some creative, practical ways to reduce city spending. Reward department heads who can cut spending \$5,000 a year without reducing services. Freeze salaries. Raise health insurance costs personnel have to pay. Stop paving so many streets--they just get dug up again by sewer and cable people.

I want a rebate for Christmas.

Paddy Bowman

2
4-9-07



<mark.webster@cahavi.us>

12/10/2006 06:58 PM

Please respond to
<mark.webster@cahavi.us>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Tax Increase

COA Contact Us: Tax Increase

Time: [Sun Dec 10, 2006 18:58:55] IP Address: [141.156.37.209]

Response requested:

First Name: Mark
Last Name: Webster
Street Address: 1208 Princess Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 7035820070
Email Address: mark.webster@cahavi.us
Subject: Tax Increase

Comments: I sincerely hope that City Council will not rely on tax increases to balance the city's budget in future years as the value of real estate stabilizes. As the City's general fund spending has increased by 60% over the past seven years, City Council should instead look at budget cuts to balance the books.
Sincerely,
Mark Webster



<seesaw8@hotmail.com>

11/14/2006 06:26 AM

Please respond to
<seesaw8@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Opposition To Real Estate Tax Rate Increase

2
4-9-07

COA Contact Us: Opposition To Real Estate Tax Rate Increase

Time: [Tue Nov 14, 2006 06:26:55] IP Address: [68.33.111.44]

Response requested:

First Name: Jim
Last Name: Rapp
Street Address: Roberts Lane
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22314
Phone: 7038361501
Email Address: seesaw8@hotmail.com
Subject: Opposition To Real Estate Tax Rate Increase
Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Council Members,

Since 2000 the real outlay for property taxes on the property I reside in has increased by a whopping 174 percent, which works out to a 29 percent tax increase per year!

In real terms, tax rate reductions have done nothing to stave off this huge increase.

I was hoping I might see 'modest' tax relief in 2007 due to a slight decline in property valuation.

But now I read in the Washington Post, Council may give consideration to raising the tax rate, effectively doing away with well deserved 'modest' tax relief.

It is my belief that Alexandria and other local governments have gone overboard in adding new staff, funding programs, and perhaps overfunding pensions (a huge problem for San Diego, and other localities in future years) during the past six year real estate tax windfall.

My advice is to get in and cut fat from the budget, and not to raise tax rates on real estate. In fact, I

would like to see additional tax relief in terms of real estate taxes paid.

Not allowing modest real estate tax relief in 2007 by raising rates is wrong!

Comments: I strongly urge that real estate tax rates not be raised, and in fact a method be found to lower what we pay in real estate taxes.

Thank you.

Jim Rapp
City of Alexandria Resident

Excerpt From The Washington Post
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/13/AR2006111301242.html>

"The vice mayor of Alexandria, which is facing a budget gap of about \$18 million, said the city could resort to raising the real estate tax rate or changing the tax rate on personal property for cars next year. Residential property values increased nearly 20 percent last year in Alexandria, but officials said they expect a decline of 2 percent next year.

Vice Mayor Andrew H. Macdonald (D) said of bridging the shortfall, "we can do that either by finding some more efficient way in making cuts or find a new source of revenue by slightly raising the tax rate. . . . My view is that we may have to change the tax rate slightly."

Alexandria's City Council cut the tax rate last year to 81.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, although residents still had bigger tax bills because of higher assessments."

2
4-9-07



<eintz@comcast.net>

11/13/2006 05:07 PM

Please respond to
<eintz@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: property tax rate

COA Contact Us: property tax rate

Time: [Mon Nov 13, 2006 17:07:57] IP Address: [69.255.210.2]

Response requested:

First Name: Marcus
Last Name: Rarick
Street Address: 11 South Floyd Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 461-8386
Email Address: eintz@comcast.net
Subject: property tax rate

Comments: Instead of thinking about raising the property tax rate (or any other taxes for that matter) the city needs to start reducing the size of the budget. If revenue declines because of declining housing values so be it - cut back spending. One of the first areas to look at is unfunded federal programs. If the Federal gov't wants a program it should pay for it. Even if the city believes the program to be worthwhile, if the Federal gov't won't fully fund (no child left behind comes to mind), then the city should implement only to the extent federal funds are available. The same should be done for State programs as well.

There would likely be threats from the State and Feds, but I'm sure many, if not most, city taxpayers would agree with me that I'd much rather you raise my taxes to fight having to implement unfunded programs than to implement them and send a clear signal to both the Federal and State gov'ts that they can dictate whatever they want and local taxes will be raised to foot the bill!

Marcus Rarick

2

4-9-07



<jejeniii@aol.com>

11/13/2006 09:11 AM

Please respond to
<jejeniii@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Va. Paving AND real estate taxes

COA Contact Us: Va. Paving AND real estate taxes

Time: [Mon Nov 13, 2006 09:11:34] IP Address: [152.163.100.136]

Response requested:

First Name: Jim
Last Name: Nissley
Street Address: 5265 colonel johnson lane
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22304
Phone: 7033708992

Email Address: jejeniii@aol.com

Subject: Va. Paving AND real estate taxes

We are pleased to see that the virginia paving issue was referred for additional study. It certainly cries out for that. We are, however, under no misperception that this means that the issue is dead.

Comments:

I understand that you are now considering the annual budget and its impact on real estate taxes. We here in Cameron Station hope that you will be prudent regarding expenses. Especially where the school board budget is concerned. A lot of city residents do NOT attend public schools any longer.

I write as a private resident, however I am also the Secty/treas of the Cameron Station HOA.

J. E. Nissley, III

2
4-9-07



<jejeniii@aol.com>

11/20/2006 01:17 PM

Please respond to
<jejeniii@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: The budget



Time: [Mon Nov 20, 2006 13:17:33] IP Address: [64.12.116.204]

Response requested: []

First Name: Jim
Last Name: Nissley
Street Address: 5265 Colonel Johnson lane
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22304
Phone: 7033708992
Email Address: jejeniii@aol.com
Subject: The budget
From reading the local press, it appears that you folks are going to exercise fiscal restraint with this year's budget.
Comments: If that is correct- we all here in Cameron Station appreciate that.

Thanks, Jim Nissley



<mimicarter01@gmail.com>

11/15/2006 09:02 PM

Please respond to
<mimicarter01@gmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: school funding

2
4-9-07

COA Contact Us: school funding

Time: [Wed Nov 15, 2006 21:02:50] IP Address: [72.66.60.186]

Response requested:

First Name: Mimi
Last Name: Carter
Street Address: 106 East Cliff Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703 836 4536
Email Address: mimicarter01@gmail.com
Subject: school funding
Dear Mayor Euille and City Council:

I know I speak for many of us who are committed to being part of the Alexandria School System when I ask that you please continue to support the schools financially as we move forward this year and the next few years.

As you know, the school system is under increasing pressure to raise standards and raise test scores. With the increasing need of bringing ACPS into the 21st century technologically, we must also remain competitive with other school districts when it comes to teacher salaries and benefits, if we are to remain a draw for metro area.

Comments: Please, please do your best to fund ACPS to your to budget's capacity. We are still competing with private schools who believe they can educate children better. I know we can do better if we prioritize, get class sizes smaller (this is very important) and we hire the best teachers we can.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Best,
Mimi Carter
PTA President
Mount Vernon Community School

2
4-9-07



<PKDavies@worldnet.att.net>

11/14/2006 09:07 PM

Please respond to
<PKDavies@worldnet.att.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget - real estate taxes

COA Contact Us: Budget - real estate taxes

Time: [Tue Nov 14, 2006 21:07:01] IP Address: [12.77.116.72]

Response requested:

First Name: Patricia Kay
Last Name: Davies
Street Address: 606 Crestwood Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 683-1170
Email Address: PKDavies@worldnet.att.net
Subject: Budget - real estate taxes

Comments:

It is laudatory the Council has created a program budget; it is long overdue. Hopefully, full implementation will not take several years to achieve. It should come as no surprise that eventually real estate property values would stagnate or decline. As reflected in today's "Washington Post," numerous options are being considered to offset any revenue shortfall. While tempting to raise the real estate tax rate, I certainly join other concerned citizens that my budget cannot sustain these double digit increases -- whether by property valuation or higher tax rates. It is imperative the Council analyze each budget request and deny increased funding levels over the rate of inflation, just as we must with our household budgets. For far too long homeowners have carried a disproportionate share of the revenue-raising options and this burden cannot continue. It is now time for the city to consider other options -- per! haps user fees where applicable, or delaying initiation of new programs or projects, etc. We have to prioritize, particularly with our infrastructure improvements, but we may well have to say "no" to everyone's ultimate (or penultimate) wish list. I will add that while raising the automobile tax may have merit in distributing the tax burden more equitably, most

homeowners are also car owners too, so we will still have the sting of higher taxes. I hope, therefore, that this year and in the years ahead the Council will be far more circumspect as it balances the existing basic needs of the community with the tendency to approve each new well-meaning but far too expensive initiative. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views. Patricia Kay Davies



<cmacindy@aol.com>

11/14/2006 05:42 PM

Please respond to
<cmacindy@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: budget targets

2
4-9-07

COA Contact Us: budget targets

Time: [Tue Nov 14, 2006 17:42:56] IP Address: [205.188.117.67]

Response requested:

First Name: Cindy
Last Name: Anderson
Street Address: 2709 Valley Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-836-8378
Email Address: cmacindy@aol.com
Subject: budget targets

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor McDonald and Councilmembers Gaines, Krupricka, Lovain, Pepper and Smedburg:

I understand and appreciate your desire to be fiscally responsible. I applaud your efforts to examine existing programs in order to evaluate their effectiveness.

However, I'd like to say that raising the tax rate should be part of next year's budget scenario. I think the City survey shows people appreciate the wonderful services we have here in Alexandria. Although some will be unhappy if they have to pay more for those services next year, more people will be unhappy if you choose to be too frugal.

Comments: Regarding ACPS, I am hopeful you will continue to be generous. Our school system provides a wonderful education for the children of Alexandria. The health of the City depends on having a quality system and you cannot have a quality system without sufficient funding. The school budget is heavily personnel oriented and I especially don't want to be cheap in this area. I wish you could have attended parent/teacher conferences with me last week. I continue to be

amazed at the quality and level of dedication of our teaching staff. I realize some people express concern and lack of confidence in our system. Some may be justified in their concerns but many do so without any personal experience.

I wish you the best of luck in finding the correct formula for next year's budget and I thank you for your service to the City of Alexandria.

Cindy Anderson

2
4-9-07



<none@none.com>
03/01/2007 07:06 PM
Please respond to
<none@none.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,
cc
bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: 53% increase in assessment requires a tax cut



Time: [Thu Mar 01, 2007 19:06:39] IP Address: [72.66.55.239]

Response requested:

First Name: Lance and Kimberly
Last Name: Barry
Street Address: 1011 Crestwood Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-000-0000
Email Address: none@none.com
Subject: 53% increase in assessment requires a tax cut
Comments: Please help! With the 53% increase in assessment of our home since we bought it in 2003, we are in need of a deep tax cut. Please reduce the residential real estate tax rate by a dime. Thanks!



<kamabed@aol.com>

03/01/2007 04:09 PM

Please respond to
<kamabed@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: ACPS budget

2
4-9-07

Time: [Thu Mar 01, 2007 16:09:05] IP Address: [152.163.100.202]

Response requested:

First Name: Maggie
Last Name: Williams
Street Address: Yoakum Parkway
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-823-5424
Email Address: kamabed@aol.com
Subject: ACPS budget

Mr. Mayor & Honorable City Council Members - I appeal to you on behalf of the ACPS budget. We, the school community, had hoped that this would be the city council to take ACPS to the high achieving capacity we know it can reach. Please do not be the city council remembered for the beginning of a downfall. Great strides have been made in SAT performance, # of students taking AP courses & performing well on them, athletic excellence, & so much more. We have 2 outstanding modified school calendars that serve as models to other communities. The modified school calendar will only be a burden to families if the enrichment classes are cut or there is a fee (which working poor can't pay). This is not the time to ask our students to sacrifice their futures to save wealthy property owners a few dollars. Our children, & I know most of you agree with this in your hearts & minds, will give back so much more than we can imagine. The dollars saved can be counted from teen pregnancies, crime, juvenile & adult delinquencies. Education is the key. Our students must remain engaged in academic, artistic, & athletic activities w mentors helping them on the road to adult success so that they can give back. We have an excellent administrative team w Superintendent Perry,

Comments:

Cathy David, John Porter, Kerry Donley, to name a few. These folks would cut if there was anything to cut! There is no fat, only the meat from our programs & teachers, & many successful academic & athletic programs will be cut if the budget isn't met. Ultimately, the integrity of our system will deteriorate if we do not care for it. Alexandria schools are expensive to operate since we have chosen a host of small neighborhood schools. Minnie Howard, as a separate facility, is expensive. It costs 2x as much to educate a child at Lyles-Crouch as Tucker. Unless we consolidate schools, which would cause a community upheaval, there is no avoiding a costly public school system. The taxpayers who live here should understand that reality & be prepared to support children & families, the backbone of our community. If the system bleeds significantly from this budget there will be a roar throughout this city that pales next to any other. We have to stand with our children which makes us a GREAT city or will break us as a social disaster. Please stand with us & support the ACPS budget. I would suggest that we could save money & be more efficient if the school board was comprised of 3 reps (rather than 9) one from each district - maybe the Council can ponder that one. We are a small district & 3 members would be adequate representation. Thank you for your attention to this lengthy message.

Regards,
Maggie Williams



<susan@rford.net>

02/23/2007 10:13 PM

Please respond to
<susan@rford.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Funding for Schools in Budget

2
4-9-07

Time: [Fri Feb 23, 2007 22:13:15] IP Address: [68.48.106.150]

Response requested:

First Name: Susan
Last Name: Rutherford
Street Address: 100 West Bellefonte Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22301
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-535-6522
Email Address: susan@rford.net
Subject: Funding for Schools in Budget
Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

I appreciate that you are facing tough decisions in this tight budget year. At the same time, I strongly urge you to fully fund the proposed Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) budget at \$162.3 million because it's good for our children and good for our city as a whole.

ACPS student population includes approximately 22 percent English as a Second Language (ESL) students, 62 percent receiving free or reduced lunch and 31 percent in special education – groups that require more intensive, individualized (and more expensive) attention. Even with this diverse student population, ACPS has made great strides in student achievement over the last several years. In 2000, only two schools were accredited; now 14 of the 16 schools are accredited. ACPS success makes Alexandria an attractive play to live. This success makes Alexandria an attractive place to do business.

This success helped Alexandria to be named one of America's 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2007 by America's Promise – The

Alliance for Youth. As Mayor Euille stated in the press release for this award, "As a diverse and caring community, our mission is to provide all our young people with opportunities to maximize their potential and overcome whatever obstacles they may encounter." To repeat: our mission is to provide all our young people with opportunities to maximize their potential... ACPS is at the core of helping our children maximize their potential.

To continue to help children maximize their potential and to continue to increase the levels of student achievement, ACPS needs to have an appropriate and competitive level of funding.

Comments:

If the City does not fund our schools at the School Board's proposed level, then, I believe, we are really short-changing our kids. We are putting the schools in danger of back-sliding to an era when schools weren't accredited, student achievement was down, and middle income families were leaving. No one wants that.

At the same time, the economic situation of the city has changed. The residential tax base has declined. If the real estate tax rate remains the same, the average homeowner's tax bill would decline by \$124.

Clearly, there must be some sensible alternatives that will allow us to continue to invest in our children and the future. What if the real estate tax rate was increased to the point where the average homeowner's taxes did not decline, but remained stable? What if the real estate tax rate increased two or three percent (a level still below other major Northern Virginia jurisdictions)? What if other sources of revenues – such as taxes on cigarettes, meals, hotels or business licenses – were increased?

I urge you to carefully examine all other revenue alternatives in order to fund the schools budget at the level requested by the School Board.

As stated in *Brown v. Board of Education*, "Education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments."

Continued investment in our schools and in our city's future is one definitely worth making. I think most caring citizens in Alexandria would agree.

Sincerely,
Susan Rutherford

2
4-9-07



<cbdrankin@hotmail.com>

02/21/2007 08:50 AM

Please respond to
<cbdrankin@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delperpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Budget-Raises



Time: [Wed Feb 21, 2007 08:50:04] IP Address: [206.158.3.10]

Response requested:

First Name: Dianna
Last Name: Rankin
Street Address: 111 East Spring St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 7035481178
Email Address: cbdrankin@hotmail.com
Subject: Budget-Raises

Comments:
To all City Council members and Mayor,
I am contacting you today to ask that you fund raises for your city employees and your school system employees. I find it very distressing that the City Manager stated that there isn't funding for these raises in the budget. To be honest if we lived in a very depressed area where just keeping the city operating was a huge issue I would understand this budget. However, that is just not the case in Alexandria. So many people purchase houses that cost well above \$500,000 and live a very privledged life in this city. I think that's great. I'm not one of them but more power to them! However, the majority of employees in the city and in the school system earn less money every month than many peoples mortgages are every month! If you can afford a \$700,000 home (or more) then believe me you can afford to give a little 2% cost of living raise. Most of these folks cannot even live here because of the cost of housing. Quite honestly I am very distuberd and ashamed that this city is even saying this! Who do you care more about? I don't care that

the majority of residents don't have children in this city. (I'm referring to the school budget now) Any and all children need to be taken care of period. And if that means more money for the schools, then that is what it means. Children come before dogs !!!!!!! (I am a dog owner)
Please let me know what your intentions are concerning this budget.
Thank you ,
Dianna Rankin

2

4-9-07



"Bovey Office"
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

04/04/2007 09:53 AM

To "Councilman Paul C. Smedberg" <Smedbergpc@aol.com>, "Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper" <delpepper@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, cc <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject The volunteers at Carlyle House appreciate your support of our parent, The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Mayor Euille, Members of City Council and City Manager Hartman,

During this budget season, I want you to know that the taxpayers are getting their money's worth from the support that you allocate to Carlyle House Historic Park through the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

Carlyle House Historic Park is now free for all Alexandria and Northern Virginia public and private school tours. In 2006, 1500 school children were given tours by our specially trained docents, some of whom are retired educators. These tours meet the SOL requirements. We have conducted extensive outreach efforts to the Alexandria City Public Schools and are working on similar efforts to reach private schools. So far in 2007 booking of schools has risen dramatically in response to our outreach efforts and the free admission. Our adult visitation is holding steady at about 20,000 for daily tours, special events and family programs. *Two new programs are in the works: an early-childhood education program, "Read, See, Do!" and a high school-level program integrating mathematics, science, and history curriculum.*

Please stop by the Friends of Carlyle House Annual Herb sale on Saturday, April 21 from 9-4. Our theme this year is "Herbs of Shakespeare". The sale features herbs from the Mount Vernon Greenhouses, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia Plant Clinic, The Irish Breakfast Band, the Girl Scout bake sale, herbal cooking demonstrations and the Alexandria Pipe and Drum Corps.

Our Docents Association has over 60 dedicated volunteers who give tours of the museum. Most are Alexandria residents. Our Friends group has over 300 families and an active dedicated board.

Our staff is professional and energetic. Carlyle House collaborates with City owned museums as a part of the block ticket program, candlelight tours and other events. The museum was a sponsor of the Jamestown Lecture Series. Our Friends group helped sponsor Discover Historic Alexandria, a children's activity book.

Carlyle House is a wonderful educational resource. We hope you will fund NVRPA as requested. We look forward to seeing you at the Herb Sale and other 2007 events. I am attaching a calendar of our Spring and Summer events.

Thank you for your support,
Rosalind Bovey
President, Friends of Carlyle House



Calendar Spring Summer 2007.doc

Carlyle House Historic Park

A Property of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Spring & Summer Events 2007

French & Indian War Re-enactment of the "Grandest Congress"

Sunday, April 15: Noon to 4 p.m.

Spring, 1755: Major General Edward Braddock, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America convened a meeting of five colonial governors at John Carlyle's Alexandria home. One of Braddock's objectives was to secure funding for his upcoming campaign against the French. Carlyle called this gathering "*the Grandest Congress ... ever known on the Continent.*"

Friends of Carlyle House Annual Herb Sale

Saturday, April 21: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The sale features herbs and perennials from the gardens and greenhouses of *George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens*. Master Gardeners will be available to answer your horticultural questions. Enjoy a tour of Alexandria's most historic house, hands-on activities for kids, bake sale and herbs mentioned in the works of Shakespeare.

Hands on History Program

Colonial Plants

Thursday, June 28: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free Admission

Hands-on activities for children associated with the cultivation and use of 18th-century plants and herbs.

Housewarming - 1753: A Re-enactment of the Day the Carlyles Moved into Their New Alexandria Home

Sunday, August 5: Noon to 4 p.m.

On August 1, 1753, John and Sarah Carlyle finally moved into their new stone house in Alexandria, Virginia. Begun in 1751, the house was the grandest residence in the growing port. Later that same day, Sarah gave birth to a son, William Carlyle. As John penned in a letter home to England "It's A fine beginning." Tour the house with costumed interpreters and experience this important event in Carlyle House history firsthand.

150 years before the Beatles took the D.C. Armory by storm, the British had already invaded Alexandria!

Saturday, August 18: Noon to 4 p.m.

Join us as the Carlyle House recreates that tense day in August 1814, when Mayor Charles Simms, John Carlyle's son-in-law William Herbert and the citizens of Alexandria negotiate the surrender of our city to His Royal Majesty's Forces.

Museum Hours

Tuesday – Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Admission

\$4 Adults ♦ \$2 Children (11-17)

Free Admission for school groups from Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax City, Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties

121 North Fairfax Street • Alexandria, VA 22314

703-549-2997 • www.carlylehouse.com



Northern Virginia
Regional Park Authority

www.nvrpa.org

2
4-10-07



<dacaval@yahoo.com>

04/04/2007 10:29 PM

Please respond to
<dacaval@yahoo.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Comments FY 2008 Budget-Operating and CIB



Time: [Wed Apr 04, 2007 22:29:27] IP Address: [76.21.194.182]

Response requested:

First Name: Dave
Last Name: Cavanaugh
Street Address: 4008 Fort Worth Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703.461.3310
Email Address: dacava1@yahoo.com

Subject: Comments FY 2008 Budget-Operating and CIB
I hope the following observations and suggestions are constructive.

I do not mean to be overly presumptuous in any way. As a retired Federal employee, I know that the budget process is complicated and involves customary practices that are not easily understood or appreciated by an interested observer.

Respectfully
Dave Cavanaugh

Maintaining a quality workforce in a competitive regional labor market
An increase in the COLA for ACPS employees instead of the 2% approved by the School Board would allow A 1% COLA would allow ACPS to remain at or above the rankings for local school salaries.

It would be unfair to eliminate the COLA for City employees. We should not ask City employees to take a cut in salary purchasing power and at the same time absorb an increase in healthcare costs.

Good City employees are a valuable asset. More importantly, Alexandria must be an excellent place to learn, be productive and provide the level of excellence that citizens have come to expect. If we are going to attract and maintain a productive work staff, we cannot expect employees to be the first to stand in line and asked to sacrifice. The City's fiscal constraints should not be laid on the shoulders of the staff.

City employees are faced with a difficult economic reality.

- Residential assessments had increased at an average annual rate of 15 percent for single-family and 20 percent for condominiums during the six-year period 2001 to 2006. These increases could not be sustained leading to level or declining assessments for CY 2007. (This is good news for property owners)
- The Washington Post 2006 Real Estate Housing Outlook reported the median home purchase price in Alexandria was \$585,000.
- Delta Associates reported that the average rent for a two bedroom apartment was \$1,578.
- Per capita income increase to \$50, 123 (Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, ESRI Business Analyst, 2005).
- Median Family Income is reported at \$70, 799. With a Proposed FY 2008 Budget of \$508.9 million, a \$192 million proposed ACPS and \$64.9 million in the Capital Improvement Program Budget, sufficient funding should be reallocated to provide a 1% COLA.

If there is a problem with the City's system for managing and incentivizing staff, management and employees should review and evaluate the current pay system, training, health and retirement benefits package. Again, this should occur in the context of being a good, rewarding, and productive place to work and provide public service. Pay is part of the overall equation for retaining good employees.

Traffic Calming

The Traffic Management Operating Budget includes \$2,611,511 for Signals, Signs and Markings and an additional \$158,030 (1.5FTE) for traffic calming. This program should be consolidated with traffic management (Signals, Signs and Markings). Traffic calming should not be a separate line item, but should be an integral part of transportation management efforts to ensure efficient and safe flow of cars, bicycles, and buses, and facilitate pedestrian safety on streets and sidewalks as well as at bus crossings

and intersections.

A total of \$4.0 million (\$200,000 in prior year unallocated funds; \$300,000 in FY 2008; \$900,000 in FY 2009; and \$600,000 in FY 2010-2013) has been budgeted for this project. The \$4.0 million should be reduced to \$1.0 million from FY 2008 to 2013.

Funds in the CIP Budget should be reallocated as part of the Operating Budget. If not, the funding for the FTE included in the Operating Budget should be incorporated into the CIP Budget.

Traffic calming has been beneficial in areas near schools and local high traffic neighborhoods. However, the proliferation of "humps and bumps" has increased cut through traffic in neighborhoods, inconvenienced neighbors who had no voice in their installation, and poor design has resulted in cars going to the center of the street to straddle the "humps". I suggest the program be reevaluated and better criteria and design standards be developed for installing the traffic calming devices.

CIP FY 2008 Savings: \$500,000

Recreation, Parks and Open Space

The locally funded FY2008-FY 2013 includes \$9.7 million over (\$6.8 million in FY 2009 and \$2.9 in FY 2010 of which \$5.0 million will be funded by private fund raising, for the design and construction of an All City sports complex.

The fundamental issue is the shortage of convenient, well maintained public playing fields for soccer, softball and lacrosse. Until existing fields can be improved to handle demand, \$5-10 million for a sports facility may not be inkeeping with a bare-bones budget.

Construction of the new T.C. Williams includes funding to rebuild the Parker-Gray sports facility. This should be sufficient for the short term until an attractive alternative and funding plan emerges.

Consideration should be given to placing a sports facility in an area that is convenient to families and the schools that would use them. The Eisenhower All-Sports facility is located next to the Beltway on the very south end of the City. This is not a desirable location and will increase congestion and trips to a out of the way facility.

The George Washington Middle School on Mount

Comments: Vernon probably has sufficient area for a sport facility. It is centrally located and next to Metro. This is a reasonable alternative and should be explored further before appropriating any additional funds for the Eisenhower Avenue "All Sports Facility."

Increased Revenues

The City Manager should be directed to review all City fees in 2008 to ensure they are reasonable and adequately reimburse the City for services provided in the application and plan review processes.

Economic Development Activities

- The waterfront and Alexandria as a colonial and 19th century seaport city will be important in attracting tourist to the Old Town and King Street, Washington Street corridors. The FY 2008 Budget request includes \$300,000 for improved Old Town transit and other initiatives related to the April 2008 opening of the National Harbor complex. Additional funds are necessary to begin preparing plans and holding public meetings to discuss alternatives for public use of the waterfront along with ferries and tourist boats visiting Alexandria. I suggest the City initiate funding to begin the planning process.

- The FY 2008 Budget includes \$2,855,144 for economic development. The challenge for the Mayor and City Council is to ensure that the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (ACVA) and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP) possess the innovation and ingenuity to produce tangible results in a tight real estate, job and tourist market.

Alexandria Public City Schools Budget Request

1. The FY 2008 School Board requested budget is \$191.33 million or is it \$188.55 million?
2. The FY 2008 City target is \$155,500,000 or \$5,626,379 more than the previous year. This is a 3.75% increase
3. The decline in revenue of over \$3.2 million is not well explained. Is the lower "beginning balance" a result of overspending in the previous year?

The ACPS budget describes the beginning balance as the unspent allocation over two fiscal years. In this case does the lower "beginning balance" mean expenditures that exceeded the City approved budget. Unless previously approved or justified, the Alexandria Public City

Schools administration should not expect an automatic advance from the City to cover expenses.

4. What is the nature of the identified problem in student achievement requiring funding \$690,000 including 4.0 FTE Literacy coaches for Literacy for the 21st Century? What was being done earlier to improve reading literacy, can we isolate those program costs, and what measures would be used to measure progress in the future?

5. The Superintendent list of potential increases in class size is not consistent with earlier reported class sizes (see response to FY 2008 Budget Question #3)

Background

Alexandria has the highest cost per student (\$18,232), 1.5% higher than Arlington, smaller class sizes, and a higher percentage of highly educated teachers. The School Board's FY 2008 budget includes a City appropriation that would fund 84.8% of the budget, an increase from a low of 80.1% in 2001. The annual rate of expenditure growth adjusted for inflation is 3.9%. The bulk of the increase in the adjusted cost per student measure is attributed to merit-based salary (step) increases (\$3.8 million for eligible employees) plus salary market scale adjustments (\$628,000) to make ACPS salaries competitive with other Northern Virginian jurisdictions and increase in operating costs. Given the City's past support and contributions to the APCS, a more modest increase than recommended by the School Board is warranted.

Alexandria Public City Schools Capital Improvement Budget

In FY 2008-09, the Parker Gray football stadium will be completely upgraded with an artificial turf field, track restoration, and bleacher renovations. In FY 2009, installation of an irrigation system for the extensive landscaping around the new facility is proposed. Funding in FY 2009 is also provided for the construction of six tennis courts. The exact location will be determined after the construction of the new T. C. Williams facility and after the proposed addition to the City's Chinguapin Recreation Center, which is adjacent to the T. C. Williams site.

The 2008 CIP includes \$800,000 for a new artificial turf field, \$200,000 for track resurfacing. The bleacher renovation cost of \$300,000 is budgeted for FY 2009.

Recommendation(s)

The School Board approved 2008 Budget request supports 1,907.81 full time equivalent (FTE) positions. In September 2006, ACPS had 10,057 students in Average Daily Membership (ADM, state definition) and served an additional 274 non-membership students (special education students in special placements and those under five or over 20 years of age) for a total student population of 10,331 children. This equates to 5.41 FTE per student.

1. The COLA increase should be reduced to 1% resulting in a savings of \$1,393,131. The School Board approved budget would still have sufficient flexibility to provide merit-based salary (step) increases (\$3.8 million for eligible employees) plus salary market scale adjustments (\$628,000).
2. The Alexandria City Public School Superintendent should be directed to produce a annual report that identifies goals and objectives relevant to Alexandria City schools and a strategy to identify measureable progress in achieving those goals. There is too much emphasis on input (organization, resources) and not enough on output (how do students benefit?).
3. The Mayor and City Council should create a mechanism for an independent, no-nonsense review of the 2008 City approved budget, staffing and incentive programs and recommend improvements in reporting and measuring results.