

McLean Citizens Association
FY 2008 Fairfax County School Budget Resolution

WHEREAS, the School Board of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has proposed a FY 2008 School Operating Budget of about \$2.2 billion, an increase of about \$89.7 million, or 4.3%, over the FY 2007 approved budget, and about \$36.6 million, or 1.7%, over the FY 2007 estimated budget; and

WHEREAS, total students for FY 2008 are expected to be about 164,490 versus in FY 2007 it is about 164,700; and

WHEREAS, there is a desire to provide quality education for the children in Fairfax County; and

WHEREAS, there is a desire to avoid burdensome increases in residential property taxes; and

WHEREAS, approval of the proposed budget would result in a county transfer increase of about 4.6% plus \$8 million for the Initiatives for Excellence-Teacher Salary Enhancements, and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has proposed a county transfer increase of about 3.5% plus the \$8 million for the Initiatives for Teacher Excellence, for a difference of about \$17 million; and

WHEREAS, \$5.6 million is for expanding full-day kindergarten to an additional 21 elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, a proposal for \$1 million for Preventive Maintenance was left unfunded; and

WHEREAS, FCPS receive proffers from real estate developers that are inadequate to cover FCPS costs incurred due to additional students from new development, and such amounts are less than the amounts generally proffered in nearby jurisdictions, thus creating a further burden on residential property taxes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association that:

1. We recognize and appreciate that the Superintendent and School Board have a proposed budget so close to the BOS guideline on the increase in county transfer.
2. We support the 4.6% increase in the county transfer to the extent it is feasible in terms of the overall county budget needs and projected county revenue.
3. We commend the Superintendent, the School Board and BOS for having the Teacher Excellence Initiatives.
4. If funds become available, we encourage additional initiatives to recruit, retain and develop

teachers.

5. We support full-day kindergarten, but request that the additional schools be chosen by lottery or by a pro-rata allocation by cluster.
6. We urge that the \$1 million for Preventive Maintenance be funded.
7. We urge the BOS and School Board to take the required steps to increase the proffer for schools to a level that more appropriately recovers forward-looking costs incurred due to additional students from new development.
8. We recommend reducing funds allocated to step increases to create a bonus pool for exceptional employees. We recommend that the number of employees receiving bonuses be limited, and that a group be set up to develop methods to implement the bonus pool in practice.
9. Regarding the format of the budget, we commend FCPS for including in its budget presentation:
 - Long-term statistics and tables showing trends over time.
 - FY 2007 Washington Area Board of Education Guide.

We also appreciate the inclusion of the School Board Strategic Governance including the areas on vision, student achievement goals and operational expectations and encourage you to keep improving this section.

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