



Mustang Message

December 4, 2009
Franconia Elementary School



Franconia is going even greener! It all started last year with Recycle Raiders. This school year, we are going to go *paperless* in January 2010. In these tight financial times, we are looking for ways to save money and trees by sending as much communication home electronically. No worries, if your family would prefer to keep getting school communications such as the *Mustang Message* and the PTA *Mustang Express* via paper delivery. You will have that option. More information about our paperless initiative will be sent home on Friday, December 11.

From the Principal

The community meeting on December 1, 2009, with Lee District School Board Representative, Brad Center, Cluster V Assistant Superintendent, Betsy Fenske, Cluster V Director, Judy Matlock, and Capital Projects Coordinator, Dave Printz, was attended not only by parents, but also by school staff. Here's what we learned...

As you know, Franconia received funds from IDEA/ARRA Stimulus to remain on the calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. This money was for one year only. With the budget deficit over 170 million dollars, Mr. Center talked with families and staff about the dire need for an increased transfer of money from the Board of Supervisors to be able to keep worthy programs like the modified/extended learning calendar viable in the years to come.

With this reality, Mr. Center informed the Franconia community that Dr. Dale was going to propose that the School Board not continue the funding for the modified calendar at Franconia when he releases his proposed budget on January 7, 2010. While he would not like to cut any program, Mr. Center plans to support Dr. Dale's recommendation as many programs will have to be cut in these tight financial times. The cost of the modified/extended learning calendar for Franconia is \$356,297—over \$2 million for all seven schools on the calendar.

Mr. Center also discussed special circumstances that have an impact on this decision. Unlike its modified/extended learning counterparts, Franconia does not receive additional funding through Title I funds. To receive such funds, schools need to have a poverty level of over 40%. (Franconia's is 26.32%.) Additional Stimulus funding is available for Title I schools for one more year. Other Title I, modified/extended learning schools may choose to use those funds to continue the calendar for one more year or for staffing to reduce class size.

In addition to the lack of Title I funding, Franconia has an added challenge of the impending renovation. Mr. Printz shared that Design and Construction has not renovated a modified/extended learning calendar school to date. He expressed how necessary it is to complete large projects during the 2-month summer break. If the modified/extended learning calendar continues at Franconia, the renovation could take about a year longer and increase cost up to 25%-30%. He also stated that plans for renovation are on hold until the calendar for Franconia is decided as it has an impact on the phasing and design of the project. Thus, the pending bid date for the project is March, with an anticipated construction start date sometime in April.

In conclusion, Mr. Center urged the attendees to contact the Board of Supervisors to ask for or more transfer funds to support all programs in FCPS.

Merrell V. Dade

For Your Information

Important dates for Intersession

- Brochures went home with students on Friday, November 20, 2009.
- Registration takes place December 7-11, 2009.
- The last day to register is Friday, December 11, 2009.
- Confirmation letters will be sent home on Friday, December 18, 2009.
- The intersession is January 4-8, 2010

If your child's intersession brochure has been misplaced, you can access additional forms on the website at <http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/intersession.html> or on Blackboard.

Donations needed: old "toe" shoes for an art project.

Franconia Elementary School

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