

! FCPS Budget Alert!

Fairfax County Public Schools is in a severe budget crisis, which, in the words of School Board member Janie Strauss – is the worst since the Great Depression. All parents need to be aware of this situation, and recognize how it will affect their children, as well as the school system as a whole.

There are several factors impacting the budget situation including decreased commercial and residential real estate values, lower revenue projections by the County, and the State formula for calculating state aid to Fairfax County & other Northern Virginia school districts.

Some of the direct impact to our HHS students will be:

- *Increase in class sizes*
- *Elimination of summer school*
- *Fees for AP, IB and PSAT tests will no longer be paid by the County*
- *Elimination of all Freshman Sports*
- *Elimination of Indoor Track and winter cheerleading*
- *\$100 per season fee for participation on a sports team*
- *Elimination of Dance Team*
- *50% reduction of practice time provided for Swim & Dive teams*

Proposed cuts indirectly impacting several high school programs include:

- *Elimination of band and strings instruction in elementary school*
- *Elimination of 594 positions, including 81 in central office support for schools (while servicing an additional 1,760 new students to FCPS)*
- *Freeze on textbook purchases and other supplies*
- *Salary freeze (second year) and reduced benefits for teaching staff*

Once programs are eliminated, they are unlikely to be brought back. The reputation of our school system is at risk. It is well known that businesses are drawn to Fairfax County because of our school system, and the caliber of its students and graduates. **And now, is when parents' voices must be heard.**

Of immediate concern is recent action taken by the State. The Local Composite Index (LCI), the measure by which the state allocates public education funds to the local (county) level, **should** provide **\$61 million** to Fairfax County this year. However, these funds have been frozen by the previous state administration, and Fairfax County may not receive its **fair share** of state funding.

It is imperative that Fairfax County residents contact the office of Governor Robert McDonnell requesting these much-needed funds be allocated to Fairfax County in his budget. Click here to contact the Governor's office by email:

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/Contact.cfm>.

Or contact Gov. McDonnell at the following address/phone:

Office of the Governor
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Phone: (804) 786-2211
Fax: (804) 371-6351

In addition to contacting Governor McDonnell, parents are urged to contact our elected representatives for the following:

Contact your Fairfax County School Board representative to express your opinion on proposed budget cuts. Be specific! Prioritize your concerns and programs you support! Don't forget to write/phone the At-Large Board members:

HHS community School Board Representatives:

Dranesville District Rep: Jane Strauss, jane.strauss@fcps.edu 571-423-1087
Hunter Mill District Rep: Stuart Gibson, stuart.gibson@fcps.edu 571-423-1082
At Large Member Kathy L. Smith (Chair) 571-423-1085, Kathy.L.Smith@fcps.edu
At-large Member Martina A. Hone, 571-423-1089, Martina.Hone@fcps.edu
At-large Member Ilryong Moon, 571-423-1090, ilryong.moon@fcps.edu
At-large Member James L. Raney, 571-423-1091, james.raney@fcps.edu

Contact your Fairfax County Supervisor to voice your support for full funding of the school budget.

HHS community County elected representatives:

Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-356-0551
Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov 703-478-0283

Contact your State Delegate and Senator to express your concerns about the LCI – and its negative impact on Fairfax County. The Northern Virginia delegation is working to alleviate this inequity, but your support will help.

Herndon High School community state elected representatives:

Delegate Tom Rust trust@tomrust.org 703-437-9400
Delegate Ken Plum DelKPlum@house.virginia.gov 703-758-9733
Delegate Barbara J. Comstock DelBComstock@house.virginia.gov (804) 698-1034
Senator Janet Howell SenHowell@aol.com (703) 709-8283

Keep informed! Check the FCPS budget website regularly. Register to receive updates from the County. Register to speak at School Board hearings on the budget. All this information can be found on the FCPS website:

FCPS Budget website:<http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>.