

McLean Citizens Association
FY 2006 Fairfax County School Budget Resolution

WHEREAS, the School Board of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has a proposed FY 2006 School Operating Budget of about \$1.927 billion, an increase of about \$122 million, or 6.8%, over the FY 2005 approved budget, and about \$44 million, or 2.4%, over the FY 2005 estimated budget; and

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

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

WHEREAS, approval of the proposed budget would result in a county transfer increase of 9.2% and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has proposed a county transfer increase of 6.8%, resulting in a difference of about \$32 million;

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

1. We urge a compromise between the 9.2% county transfer increase proposed by the School Board and the 6.8% increase proposed by the Board of Supervisors. The compromise should try to appropriately balance the reasonable needs of the schools and the real estate tax burden imposed on our citizens.
2. We urge the Board of Supervisors and School Board to take needed 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.
3. We recommend reducing funds allocated to step increases in order to create a bonus pool for exceptional employees. We recommend that the number of employees receiving bonuses be limited. We recommend that a group be set up to develop methods to implement the bonus pool in practice.
4. Regarding the format of the budget, we commend FCPS for including in its budget presentation:
 - Easy-to-follow expenditure impacts under various county transfer scenarios.
 - Strategic goals and targets and related achievements.
 - Long-term statistics and tables showing trends over time.
 - Detailed and easy-to-follow program budget information.
 - FY 2005 Washington Area Board of Education Guide.

March 2, 2005

Distribute to:

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