



Mantua Elementary School PTA

Special Message Regarding the FCPS FY2011 Budget Challenges

Dear Mantua Parents,

As many of you may have heard, the Fairfax County Public Schools administration is currently working on their proposed budget for the fiscal school year of 2010-2011, which is referred to as "FY2011". Our county schools receive about 75% of their funds from the County of Fairfax (largely funded through our own real estate property taxes) and about 18% from the Virginia state government.

However, as it currently stands, the FY2011 county school budget is due to be under-funded by over \$175 million dollars by the County of Fairfax, which will cause SIGNIFICANT impact to all FCPS schools, including Mantua Elementary and its students. (This shortfall is before any potential further under-funding by the Commonwealth of Virginia.)

SOME of the more serious cuts that are slated to impact Mantua Elementary are:

> **Another increase in class sizes by 1-2 students.** Please keep in mind these are **average** class sizes, so some of our K-3 classes could approach 30 students, and some of our 4-6 grade classes may approach 35 students. The Advanced Academics classrooms are slated to increase **double** the amount of the base-school classrooms.

> **The retreat of full-day Kindergarten back to half-day Kindergarten.** Mantua Elementary would likely not see a full-day Kindergarten program return for many years. Please note that many U.S. states that have acknowledged that full-day Kindergarten is a **necessity** to keeping our educational standards high are now moving to required *preschool*.

> **The complete removal of the Band & Strings and FLES (foreign language) programs at the elementary level.**

> **Another year of salary and cost-of-living-adjustment freezes for our teachers and staff.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

We as concerned parents and citizens should make sure the decision-makers hear our

voices. Even if cuts must be made, **YOU** can help them prioritize the cuts, or influence which programs get added back as quickly as possible in the future.

Please consider **writing** the following people to let them know how you feel about these proposed changes and their impact to our children, our schools, and our communities.

The Fairfax County School Board (These people decide how the money is spent):

You can copy/paste these addresses into an email address line:

Jack.Dale@fcps.edu, Richard.Moniuszko@fcps.edu, patty.reed@fcps.edu,
Kathy.L.Smith@fcps.edu, tessie.wilson@fcps.edu, elizabeth.bradsher@fcps.edu,
brad.center@fcps.edu, stuart.gibson@fcps.edu, daniel.storck@fcps.edu,
jane.strauss@fcps.edu, Kaye.Kory@fcps.edu, james.raney@fcps.edu,
ilryong.moon@fcps.edu, Martina.Hone@fcps.edu, cluster1admin@fcps.edu,
cluster2admin@fcps.edu, cluster3admin@fcps.edu, cluster4admin@fcps.edu,
cluster5admin@fcps.edu, cluster6admin@fcps.edu, cluster7admin@fcps.edu,
cluster8admin@fcps.edu

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (These people govern the County of Fairfax and decide how much money to provide to the FCPS, but not necessarily how the money will be spent):

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov, braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov, dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov,
hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov, lee@fairfaxcounty.gov, mason@fairfaxcounty.gov,
Linda.Smyth@fairfaxcounty.gov, springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov, sully@fairfaxcounty.gov

WHERE YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION:

- See the complete list of potential cuts:

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/possiblecuts1119.pdf>

- Look on the FCPS website for current and historical budget information:

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

- Look on our Mantua PTA website to find advocacy group efforts and other information that impacts Mantua Elementary: <http://www.mantuapta.org/parents/currentissues.php>

Thank you,
The Mantua Elementary School PTA

Mantua Elementary School

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