

Verbal Testimony on Superintendent's FY10 Proposed Budget as adopted by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association's Executive Board for presentation to the Fairfax County School Board on January 27, 2009

Good evening! My remarks are presented on behalf of the Federation's Executive Board. I will be brief, so I ask that you carefully read our extensive written testimony. In our testimony we offer specific support, concerns, and ideas.

We appreciate the Superintendent's delineation of specific items in his expanded Program Budget and in the documents listing the various reduction Tiers.

However, we are concerned that the review of four documents was necessary, especially to identify those programs proposed to be continued.

We recognize the major 6% increase in student enrollment in 2008, 2009, and projected in 2010 that amounts to about 9,850 students or 394 classrooms, using an average of 25 students per classroom.

We ask the School Board to focus on the core programs, and we have identified some non-core programs for cuts or elimination. We recognize and agree with the statement about no new programs in this budget. However, we question the expansion of FLES at existing schools, and offer a possible alternative.

We support the proposed increase in class size, and would reluctantly support additional class size increases, in order to maintain some of the programs we have indicated.

We would also support, IF absolutely necessary, the elimination of some of the summer school programs, but not all.

We support an increase in some fees and offer an alternative way of implementing some of these.

Among those programs and activities proposed for reduction or elimination, we oppose any reduction in counselors or social workers in this difficult economic climate.

We support the cross-jurisdictional effort to identify and hopefully consolidate County and FCPS functions when efficiencies can be achieved, and we explain why we think there should be additional reductions in the central office.

We express a strong concern for the lack of support for our most experienced teachers, especially those who will have received a total salary increase of only 4% in 3 years under this proposed budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.