

**Remarks by Ed Saperstein on Proposed FY 2012 FCPS School Budget on behalf of Fairfax Federation Education Committee—January 24, 2011 Fairfax County School Board Meeting**

I am Ed Saperstein. Tonight I am speaking on behalf of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations. \*

I'll focus on 3 points: 1) Compensation Models including salary and pension, 2) Class Size and 3) Full Day Kindergarten.

As to #1, for FY 2012 to the extent it is possible to have a compensation increase, we recommend that these funds be targeted to school based employees making less than \$100,000 per year, and to non-school based employees making less than \$60,000 per year. Due to budget uncertainties for FY 2013 and beyond, we wonder whether all or a substantial part of any FY 2012 compensation increase should be in the form of a one-time bonus. Looking longer term, and understanding there is a concern about the relationship of pensions to salaries, we recommend the school board and administration have discussions with different stakeholders, including teacher associations, to explore different compensation models of salary and pension.

On Class Size, although we are concerned about current levels, we recommend, as proposed, that current class sizes be maintained for FY 2012. Because of various class size pressures, we recommend considering expanded use of on-line learning technology, and also that the following experiment be tried in some high schools which might require a waiver or discussion with state authorities.

The experiment is to ask each high school principal to choose 1 or 2 courses to have much larger class sizes than normal, and use the related cost savings to have reduced class sizes in some other courses or to add an elective. These larger classes could be, for example, in rooms with portable dividers or an auditorium. Teachers teaching the larger classes could perhaps get a bonus or reduced number of teaching periods, but this should be done in a way to lower the overall cost for teaching that course.

As to #3, Full Day Kindergarten, this has turned out to be a very long "3-year" phase-in period. Such a long delay in implementing the 3rd year of this 3-year phase-in can be divisive, and foster a sense of unfairness. People from school areas that still do not have Full Day Kindergarten may feel that the implementation promise has been broken. We recommend that it should be a very high priority to have Full Day Kindergarten in all our elementary schools.

Thanks for your patience in these public sessions and for your collective service to the children in our communities.

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\* The 3 Co-Chairs of the Education Committee are: Leonard Bumbaca, Tim Thompson and Ed Saperstein.