

**Remarks by Ed Saperstein to the Fairfax County School Board**

**May 15, 2012**

**RE: FY 2013 FCPS School Budget on behalf of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations**

I am Ed Saperstein. Tonight, I'm speaking on behalf of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. \*

I'll focus on 2 points: 1) timing of the mandatory shift from FCPS to employees in the 5% Virginia Retirement System ("VRS") payment, and 2) online learning.

As to #1, the timing of the 5% VRS payment change, it seems preferable that this is implemented entirely in FY 2013 rather than phased in over a period of years. Doing this all in one year appears administratively easier to do, gets the disruption over with sooner and allows FCPS to return to the "regular" pay structure earlier.

As to #2, we support the use of online learning. Online learning could provide flexibility for students to work at their own pace, and over time online learning could allow for larger online classes. The related cost savings hopefully could be used for smaller class sizes in other courses and to help fund salary increases. Online learning does have the issue of ensuring online access for all our FCPS students.

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.