

On January 7, Superintendent Jack Dale presented to the School Board a \$2.3 billion **FY 2011 proposed budget** that includes \$104.8 million in program cuts and cost avoidances and \$3.4 million in increased and new fees. In his presentation, Dale noted that the cuts and fees reflected community and employee feedback, as well as School Board priorities.

“These cuts will have a long-term and far-reaching impact on maintaining our high student achievement and the excellence for which FCPS is widely known and respected,” said Dale. “Unfortunately, this is the third straight year I have had to submit a budget with major cuts due to dismal local and state economic conditions.”

The proposed budget:

- includes a class size increase of one student.
- eliminates foreign language in the elementary school (FLES).
- eliminates summer school for general education students.
- eliminates all freshman sports.
- eliminates 594 positions, including 81 in central office support for schools.
- includes new fees for athletic participation.
- includes new fees for AP and IB tests.
- includes no salary increases for employees for the second year in a row.
- closes one of three alternative high schools.
- cuts central office departments that provide support to schools (such as human resources, facilities and transportation, and information technology) approximately 5 percent.

More programs may be at risk. Dale has recommended a county transfer increase of \$57.8 million to preserve programs, such as full-day kindergarten, elementary band and strings, foreign language immersion, and further increases to class sizes for all classes except special education with additional increases to advanced academics, including Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

The FY 2011 proposed budget was developed based on the current fiscal realities. The Superintendent noted that if he presented a needs-based budget—a budget that would allow FCPS to continue to maintain high student achievement and excellence at the level at which Fairfax County residents expect—it would require an increase in the county transfer of \$248.4 million.

We invite parents, employees, and other Fairfax County residents to become familiar with the budget and take opportunities to provide input as the budget process continues. More details on the budget and the schedule of work sessions, public hearings, and other activities through which the budget will reach its final form can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>.

In his budget presentation, Superintendent Dale noted that “FCPS is at a crossroads. Student achievement, of course, is our highest priority, but we are also concerned with losing the many innovative programs that meet individual student needs and make Fairfax County a magnet for individuals and businesses alike.”

We invite you to stay informed and read upcoming issues of *The Bottom Line* as the budget process continues.

### **Upcoming Important Dates**

- January 7—Superintendent Releases FY 2011 Proposed Budget.
- January 11—School Board Budget Work Session (Gatehouse Administration Center, room 1600).
- January 25 and 26—School Board Budget Public Hearings (Jackson Middle School).
- January 28—School Board Budget Work Session (Jackson Middle School).
- February 4—School Board Adopts FY 2011 Advertised Budget.
- February 23—County Executive Releases FY 2011 Advertised County Budget.
- March 9—County Board of Supervisors Advertises Tax Rate.
- April 6—School Board Presents Budget to County Board of Supervisors.
- April 6 through 8—County Board of Supervisors Budget Public Hearings.
- April 27—County Board of Supervisors Approves County Budget, Tax Rate Resolution, and Transfer Amount to Schools.
- May 11 and 12—School Board Budget Public Hearings (Jackson Middle School).
- May 13—School Board Budget Work Session (Gatehouse Administration Center, room 1600).
- May 20—School Board Adopts Approved Budget.

### **Want to Get Involved?**

- Learn more at the FCPS budget web site at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>.
- Attend School Board meetings.
- Speak at a School Board public hearing ([www.fcps.edu/schlbld/requestspeak.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld/requestspeak.htm)).
- Speak at a Board of Supervisors public hearing ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker\\_bos.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm)).