



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

2010 Council Members

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Braddock District

Michael D. Champness
Dranesville District

Harold Leff
Vice Chairman
Hunter Mill District

Michael Rodgers
Lee District

Barbara R. Lowrey
Mason District

Jonathan Willmott
Mount Vernon District

Stephen McLaughlin
Secretary
Providence District

Michael Thompson, Jr.
Springfield District

David L. Lacey
Sully District

Vacant
Member-At-Large

Clement Chan
Diversity-At-Large

Town Representatives:

Jeffrey E. Stein
Town of Clifton

Gerald W. Carter
Town of Herndon

Sam Althoff
Town of Vienna

Sports-Specific Representatives:

Rob Hahne
Baseball Council

William Minto
Fast Pitch Softball Council

Carl A. S. Coan, III
Adult Softball Council

E. J. Thomas
Basketball Council

Mark Meana, Chairman
Football Council

Bret Bailey
Lacrosse Council

Lisa Cherubini
Soccer Council

Jill Fitzgerald
Volleyball Council

William J. Stephens
Women's Sports

Non-Voting Members:

George Lovelace
Park Authority

William Curran
School Board

Executive Agency:

Christopher A. Leonard
Acting Director
Community and Recreation Services

January 22, 2010

Dear Members of the Fairfax County School Board:

As you know, the Fairfax County Athletic Council (FCAC) is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to provide advice on community athletic issues. As such, we have studied the Fairfax County Public Schools' FY 2011 advertised budget and are deeply concerned with its potential adverse impact on student athletes and their families. At our January 20, 2010, meeting, the FCAC unanimously adopted the following position:

Athletic fees should pay for athletics, not general student costs.

We are sensitive to the overall budget issues facing the County. We understand that cuts are necessary and that difficult and painful decisions must be made. With these concerns in mind, we propose a simple and reasonable solution to our temporary financial situation.

While we do not support the proposed cuts in athletic programs and we do not support the imposition of fees for participation in athletics, we recognize that some adjustments are required to get the county through the current financial crisis. Therefore, we propose that, if athletics fees are imposed, that they should be imposed only for the coming fiscal year and that the proceeds be placed in the Student Athletics and Activities Program fund to offset the proposed cuts in athletic programs. They should not be placed in the General Fund and used for other purposes.

The benefits of a varied and inclusive sports program are well-documented. Eliminating athletic opportunities will have detrimental effects on academic performance, school attachment, attendance, and social and emotional development, especially during the critical transition from middle to high school. We understand that many of your proposed cuts will also have negative impacts; however, the ability to recover revenue from athletics should be used to preserve those specific opportunities.

Fairfax County Athletic Council
12011 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
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We also hope you consider the cascading effect of cuts to athletics and other after-school activities. Particularly when combined with anticipated county cuts and decreased service capacity of (and increased fees for) community organizations, families' abilities to find safe and positive activities for their children decline. The impact of cutting sports extends much farther than your fields and gyms.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to our county's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark Meana".

Mark Meana
Chairman

MM/JE/MMM