

Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: What are the costs associated with eight assistant superintendents housed at the Gatehouse facility and what opportunities are there for consolidation of staff?

Response: Fairfax County Public Schools have provided the following information:

FCPS schools are divided into eight clusters, and each cluster has an assistant superintendent, a cluster director, and an executive administrative assistant. The cost of personnel, excluding benefits, for the eight cluster offices is budgeted at \$3.8 million in the FY 2009 advertised budget. Cluster offices provide direction and support to the principals who manage FCPS' 197 schools and centers. On average, each cluster office supports schools serving a total of more than 20,000 students. Primary cluster assistant superintendent responsibilities are:

- Monitor and support instruction and student achievement
- Evaluate principals, oversee the principal selection process, and make recommendations regarding new principals
- Broker resources for schools
- Serve as the liaison between the parent community and the school system
- Perform other duties as assigned such as redesigning summer programs, teacher leadership, elementary scheduling, school improvement planning, project management associated with school board goals, high schools of the future, etc.

FCPS has considered opportunities for consolidation of staff including having staff serve more than one function (dual hatting). Dual hatting is not feasible without severely limiting the scope of responsibilities of the various positions and doing so would put FCPS at severe risk of not maintaining a quality school system.