

Response to Questions on the FY 2018 Budget

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: Please describe the funding process for safety equipment in the context that the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides a small amount of funds to each of the high schools to recondition helmets and other safety equipment with the bulk of dollars used coming from athletic boosters, ticket sales, and fundraisers held by each respective school throughout the year. If this is truly the way important safety equipment is being financed, some parts of the County would be able to do this significantly faster than others. In addition, there are large differences in the student populations among the high and secondary schools which clearly have an impact on ticket sales volume. This policy may create challenges, the first of which is ensuring the safety of the students. Also address whether this funding need would make a good candidate for review as part of the One Fairfax policy.

Response: The following response has been prepared in response to similar questions from School Board member Derenak Kaufax. Staff from the Schools and County as well as the Athletic Council, will develop a work plan to review this funding approach in the context of the One Fairfax policy and equipment replacement information by school, and report back to both the County Board and School Board.

CD# TDK-01

FY 2018

Response to Questions of the FY 2018 Budget

School Board Member Requesting Information: Tamara Derenak Kaufax

Answer Prepared By: Bill Curran

Date Prepared: March 12, 2017

Question:

What regulations outline FCPS budgeted costs for high school sports vs. what the booster clubs are responsible for? What does FCPS pay for? What do boosters pay for?

What are the budget figures for distribution allocations across the Fairfax County high schools for a) personnel b) safety replacement equipment c) any other miscellaneous costs. Please include position titles and number of employees holding these positions.

Is it true that football boosters have to buy safety equipment such as football helmets and pads but that FCPS pays for safety equipment “replacement.” What does this mean and how does this work? If new

types of helmets are required by law, is it the booster responsibility to pay for these or is this a safety equipment replacement cost?

Please provide a comprehensive listing, sport by sport, of what safety equipment is required to be paid from FCPS central funds.

Response:

The FY 2017 budget for Student Activities and Athletics program totals \$23.5 million and includes 91.5 positions. Activities at the elementary and middle school levels are provided through organized sponsored clubs providing students opportunities beyond their classrooms. At the high school level, both activities and athletics are offered to all students. Positions provided at each high school include a 1.0 director of student activities, 0.5 assistant director of student activities, 1.0 certified athletic trainer, and 1.0 student activities administrative assistant. This formula generates 25.0 directors of student activities, 12.5 assistant directors of student activities, 25.0 certified athletic trainers, and 25.0 student activities administrative assistants. Central office staff supporting the Student Activities and Athletics program includes a 1.0 director, 2.0 specialists, and a 1.0 office position. Additionally, funding is allocated for athletic coaching supplements, transportation for VHSL trips, extra duty supplements, official fees, postseason activities, police services, funding for the AED program, and limited funding for equipment replacement and maintenance.

The Office of Student Activities and Athletics Programs ensures that equipment is evaluated each season to verify that these items meet or exceed safety requirements. Approximately \$4,000 is provided to each high school annually for equipment replacement and maintenance. Funding allocated to each school for maintenance of safety equipment is also used to replace safety equipment. This allows schools to establish a rotating stock of equipment and maintain safety equipment above National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) standards. For example, a school may have a total of 100 football helmets in inventory. Each year all 100 helmets are sent for evaluation and recertification. Through this process any defective helmets are pulled out of inventory and schools will purchase additional helmets as part of the maintenance process.

Additional funding for the replacement and maintenance of equipment may be provided through gate receipts from sporting events and contributions from booster organizations. These funds are managed and accounted for in local school activity funds. The mission and function of sports booster organizations vary according to their individual bylaws. The degree of fundraising activities and other supports by booster organizations also vary across schools.

If conditions exist where the funding allocated from the Office of Student Activities and Athletics combined with local school and/or the booster organization funding cannot meet the schedule demands and student safety requirements for needed equipment replacement, the Office of Student Activities and Athletics Program evaluates the circumstances and works with that program to help find a resolution. When the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) requires new safety equipment or upgrades to existing equipment, or FCPS determines it is in the best interest of our students to change equipment, FCPS adjusts the funding available to provide funds to the schools to replace the equipment and ensure that all schools are within the NFHS and NOCSAE standards. Recent examples include: a lacrosse helmet was suddenly taken out of stock by the manufacturer and was not eligible for recertification. Since several schools (Stuart, Lee, and Marshall) had this helmet in stock, funding was provided to these schools to replace the helmet; a rule change in gymnastics impacted the crash mat configuration and funding was provided to schools to meet this requirement; and girls field hockey implemented a new rule requirement mandating goggles which required funding for 70 pairs of goggles for each school.

Fairfax County Public Schools currently sets standards above the NOCSAE standards related to equipment reconditioning, inventory maintenance and fitting. The Office of Student Activities and

Athletics receives the inventory from each school in late spring and this information is used annually to determine if any schools need additional allocations to replace equipment in order to meet all safety standards.

School Board [Policy](#) and [Regulation](#) 3860 includes guidelines for financing the extracurricular program at the middle and high school levels. The policy indicates that subject to available funds, the School Board shall provide and maintain the facilities, transportation, and coaching supplements required in conducting the interscholastic activity program. When the School Board approves a new VHSL interscholastic sport, it shall be responsible for start-up costs for that sport as funds are available. These costs would include an initial outlay for uniforms, equipment, and supplies as identified by the director of student activities and athletic programs and approved by the Superintendent. Continuing costs of VHSL interscholastic programs shall be the responsibility of local schools. Financing of a VHSL high school activity or sport identified as a club sport is the responsibility of the participants. Required safety equipment includes: football helmets and pads, field hockey goggles, baseball helmets, catcher's gear, softball helmets catcher's gear, boys lacrosse helmets, shoulder pads, goalie gear, girl's lacrosse goggles, and goalie gear.

School Board [Policy](#) 5820 provides guidelines regarding equipment for school activities for new schools in order to lessen the burden of fundraising on newly formed student organizations, parents, and community groups and to help existing schools provide equipment for school activities under special circumstances.

When a new FCPS high school is opened, initial field, infrastructure and equipment needs required to meet Virginia High School League (VHSL) requirements and National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCASE) expectations are included within the schools' renovation funding.