

January 27, 2009

Dear Robious Middle School EBO Parents,

Chesterfield County Public School System is in the process of developing a budget for the 2009-2010 academic year; and \$52 million has to be cut as a result of state and county budgets. Although there are no specific plans to cut gifted programs, we strongly encourage all of you to contact the Superintendent and the *entire* CCPS School Board to let them know how important Center Based Gifted Programming is to your families and to the school system as a whole. Your voice is important. If enough of us make contact, we can affect the final budget. To facilitate your participation, we are providing you with the budget time line, critical contact information, and a sample letter.

As you prepare your communication with the School Board and Superintendent, keep in mind that, while it is good to include some details about your family's experience with the program, it is best to also include generalizations about the advantages of maintaining the CBG program to strengthen the school district as a whole. It is beneficial to be brief, and letters are best kept to less than one page.

Timing is critical. Make contact today!

**For more information on the budget and how to be an advocate for our school system as a whole, visit: <http://www.ccpsnet.net/budget/index.htm>**

**Table 1: Time Line of the 2009-2010 CCPS Budget Process**

<b>Date</b>	<b>What CCPS Is Doing</b>	<b>What Parents Can Do</b>
Jan. 27	Proposed budget presented to School Board by Superintendent and posted on <a href="http://www.ccpsnet.net">www.ccpsnet.net</a>	Email/Call/Write the Board of Supervisors and elected legislators to support Chesterfield County Public Schools.  Email/Call/Write the CCPS Superintendent and School Board to support gifted education programming.
Between Jan. 27 and Feb.10		Review proposed budget
Feb. 10	Public Hearing on proposed budget	Sign up to speak and attend the Hearing <sup>1</sup>
Between Feb. 10 and Feb. 23		Email/Call/Write School Board to comment on budget proposal
Feb. 24	School Board votes	

<sup>1</sup>Note: According to CCPS website, [http://www.ccpsnet.net/CCPS/school\\_board/meetings.htm](http://www.ccpsnet.net/CCPS/school_board/meetings.htm): School Board Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the county public meeting room at 10001 Iron Bridge Road. Persons wishing to be heard should notify the School Board Clerk's office --- (804) 748-1497 --- by 2:00 p.m. on day of meeting. Individual testimony limited to three minutes.

**Table 2: Contact Information**

Name	Email	Telephone	Address
Superintendent Marcus J. Newsome, Ed.D.	<a href="mailto:superintendent@ccpsnet.net">superintendent@ccpsnet.net</a>	(804) 748-1405	Office of the Superintendent P.O. Box 10 Chesterfield, VA 23832
School Board (Patty Carpenter – Midlothian )	<a href="mailto:CCPSschoolboard@ccpsnet.net">CCPSschoolboard@ccpsnet.net</a> (goes to all 5 members of the School Board)	(804) 748-1405 Patty Carpenter (804) 379-5242	CCPS School Board 9900 Krause Rd. Chesterfield, VA 23832
Midlothian Board of Supervisors (Dan Gecker)	<a href="mailto:geckerd@chesterfield.gov">geckerd@chesterfield.gov</a>	(804) 768-7397	Board of Supervisors PO Box 40 Chesterfield, VA 23832
Delegate Manoli Loupassi	<a href="mailto:DelMLoupassi@house.virginia.gov">DelMLoupassi@house.virginia.gov</a>	(804) 698-1068	PO Box 406 General Assembly Building Richmond, VA 23218
Senator John Watkins	<a href="mailto:district11@sov.state.va.us">district11@sov.state.va.us</a>	(804) 698-7510	PO Box 396 General Assembly Building Richmond, VA 23218

Link to listing of elected officials: <http://www.co.chesterfield.va.us/Registrar/electedoff.asp>

**Table 3: Sample Letter for School Board and CCPS Administration**

*We are residents in the Midlothian district (Robious) and are grateful for your service to our community. We are writing to express our concerns about the future of our schools and specifically the Center-Based Gifted Program.*

*Our son attends the CBG Program at Robious Middle School. He has benefited greatly from this program, both currently and in the past at the elementary school level. The outstanding teachers, coordinators, and program challenge him. They provide a vital and rigorous academic curriculum that meets his needs and the needs of other students like him. CCPS's mission, to "ensure that each student acquires the knowledge, skills and core values necessary to achieve personal success and to enrich the community," is exemplified and fulfilled by programs like the CBG Program. Helping academically gifted students achieve at high levels through such a targeted program is part of what makes CCPS such a strong school system. We are extremely fortunate to have our son attend such a fine program at Robious Middle School. We understand that the current economic downturn and subsequent budget shortfalls are causing CCPS to look at ways to reduce expenses, but we strongly urge the entire School Board and Board of Supervisors to preserve and protect the CBG Program and the Gifted Office. These programs provide crucial services for the many gifted students in our community.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

