

**To:** Alexandria City Public School Board  
**From:** Susan Jones, John Adams PTA President  
**Date:** December 4, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** Advocacy for John Adams Budget for 2015-16

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight on behalf of the John Adams PTA. I wanted to start by thanking you and the division for all of the work planning and approval of adding 28 parking spaces to our school parking lot this summer. This will be a big help because, as you know, there are a lot of transportation and parking challenges at our school. And now that we have more students than ever, it is truly needed.

I am also here this evening to talk to you about the needs and issues at our school in these challenging financial times. You will hear, or have heard, about the needs of our school from several representatives of John Adams. I would like to highlight these budget priorities that the PTA supports:

- 1) We currently have roughly 980 students in our school, and that number is still increasing. As such, the school has to be very creative in finding the space to accommodate these students and have space for instruction. The principal would like to have 6 additional classrooms available for ELL instruction from the existing space at our school. We'd like to work with the school, division and board on making the decisions necessary to find that space for our students.
- 2) We would like to improve our stage and cafetorium so that it can better meet the needs of our various programs. Another parent is speaking about that specifically tonight.
- 3) 50% of our students are ELL and we need to support those students. We want to see the Summer Academy be available again, and for there to be funding support for materials and teachers for our ELL students.
- 4) We would like to see our Dual Language program grow at John Adams, with the possibility of adding preschool classrooms and expanding the program to more students in our school and the city. Another parent is speaking about this as well tonight.
- 5) We support our principal in her request for funding for professional development for our teachers. We want our children to be lifelong learners, and the teachers need to be as well.
- 6) We are concerned about the possible loss of Title 1 status in the coming year, and the loss of over \$300,000 in our budget, even though our student population receiving free and reduce price lunch remains relatively high. We support the principal's request to make up those funds in our budget so that we can continue to improve all students' scores in reading and math.
- 7) Finally, we support the principal's school improvement plan goals in relation to English/Language Arts, Math and Science.

Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this evening. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have, now or in the future. My contact information is below.

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