

RESOLUTION NO. 109

WHEREAS, the Alexandria School Board has requested a total of \$20,639,685 for school operations in FY 72-73, and this request represents an increase over last year of \$1,226,660 or 5.94%; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the School Budget request and has held three public hearings at which citizens have expressed themselves concerning the school budget and programs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed with the City Manager his recommendation that the school budget be cut by \$150,000; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has also reviewed and is taking into account letters from the Chairman of the School Board dated April 10 and April 20, 1972, which comment on cuts recommended by the City Manager and enumerate certain expenditure needs that have arisen since the School Board prepared its original request and the City Manager completed the proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Council's power concerning the school budget is limited to setting the total amount and the School Board has full authority and responsibility for allocating that total amount among competing school programs and other needs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to minimize any misunderstandings concerning its actions in setting the total school budget figure but believes that it would be helpful to the community and the School Board if the City Council sets forth the basis of its decision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City Council finds the School Board's FY 72-73 budget request to be a good budget in the overall sense and generally tighter than recent earlier budgets;

2. That the City Council commends the School Board and Superintendent of Schools for identifying at this first opportunity savings that can be made because of the 6-2-2-2 secondary schools reorganization and because of slightly declining elementary school enrollments, which causes taken together have allowed the elimination of 30 positions;

3. That the City Council believes certain budget cuts identified earlier by the City Manager to be potentially meritorious and therefore urges the School Board to give the following cuts serious consideration:

(a) Pension Contribution Adjustment--Downward adjustment in appropriation through recalculation of covered payroll.

(b) Personnel Turnover Savings--Downward adjustment through reduction of personal services appropriations to reflect actual and anticipated turnover and other salary slippage savings.

(c) Instructional Supplies--Potential reductions in audio visual supplies (up \$16,750 or 73.4%); general supplies (up \$19,095 or 37.6%); industrial arts and foreign language supplies (new appropriations); science supplies (up \$5,870 or 22.9%); and social studies supplies (up \$6,290 or 22.1%).

- (d) Headquarters Staffing--Potential reduction by eliminating one or two professional positions and two or three clerical positions.
- (e) Testing Materials--Potential reduction inasmuch as this appropriation is up \$22,740 or 112%.
- (f) Replacement and Repair of Instructional Equipment--Potential reduction inasmuch as this appropriation is up \$30,165 or 15.1%.

4. That the City Council believes certain school expenditures to be urgent or otherwise high priority and believes certain school expenditures or programs currently being considered by the School Board to be highly meritorious and therefore urges the School Board to give serious consideration to including or maintaining the following appropriations:

- (a) Assistant Principals--Restoration to 12 months' status at a cost of \$93,000 per year but with the request that the School Board give further consideration to whether new hires could be placed on an 11-month or shorter work year basis without undue harm to school performance.
- (b) Maintenance of School Plants--Holding appropriations for this purpose at \$992,540 as requested by the School Board so as to allow a general upgrading of school plants and grounds over the next several years and continuation at a fully acceptable level thereafter.

5. The City Council requests the School Board in presenting its 1973-74 budget to include the expenditure figures for Fiscal Year 1972-73.

Adopted May 1, 1972

Mrs. Helen Vickers, City Clerk
and Clerk of Council