

May 7, 2008

Hampton City Council

Dear City Council:

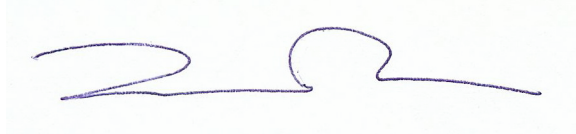
I am writing this letter on behalf of the 7,146 PTA members within the city of Hampton to urge you to fully fund the requested school budget.

Our schools have been steadily improving over the past few years and we want to see that trend continue. With the involvement of the community, our citizens and businesses have been able to see the progression of our schools and expect to see it continue. We have seen teacher salaries continue to rise, ground broken for the building of new schools and the development of alternative schools, just to mention a few. However, there is still more to be done and the requested funding is needed in order to do that.

Our citizens here in Hampton are not the only ones taking notice of the great strides that are being made in Hampton City Schools. Hampton City Schools has been awarded numerous national awards, 2 of which specifically named them award recipients due to its community involvement. HCS goal setting and budgets are a result of open communications with Hampton families, business owners, teachers, students, administrators, and faith-based organizations. I know that our PTA has enjoyed working in a team environment with HCS and we know that our students have benefited as a result of this openness. To continue this feeling of ownership in our schools, those in the community need to know that their input is acted upon and improvements are seen as a result. Our community wants and needs our schools to succeed.

Of course, we all realize that times are tough right now economically, but the investment of funds in our schools and in our children is one that should not be reduced. We've already seen payback on the investments of just the past few years with higher student SAT scores and an increase in the number of fully accredited schools within Hampton. Having a reputation of great schools in Hampton will attract residents who will in turn ignite the economy in our city. A city with a known solid, on-going commitment to its schools will always thrive. We need to show that commitment.

Sincerely,



Monica Smith
President, Hampton Council of PTA/PTSAs