Please note that the views contained herein reflect the views of the individual School Board member who is the publisher of this newsletter and may not reflect the views of the Loudoun County School Board and/or Loudoun County Public Schools.

2022-23 Budget Update

At the March 22 School Board meeting, we received an update on the 2022-23 budget. Based on a straw vote the Board of Supervisors took at their March 21 budget meeting, they are planning to underfund the School Board's budget request by $21.5M. We are expecting additional shortfalls at the state level (although the state budget has not yet been finalized) which could push the overall shortfall as high as $36M. It is looking like we will have to make some deep cuts to the school budget, unless the BOS has a change of heart before their formal budget adoption on April 5th. (If you would like to advocate for a fully funded LCPS budget, please reach out to your individual Supervisor or to the entire Board of Supervisors. The Blue Ridge District Supervisor is Tony Buffington, who can be contacted at Tony.Buffington@loudoun.gov. The Board of Supervisors can be contacted at bos@loudoun.gov)

Recent School Board Actions

At the March 8 School Board meeting, the Board passed a revised edition of Policy 8030, Student Discrimination and Harassment. Policy 8030 prohibits discrimination and harassment against any student or by any student on the basis of any actual or perceived race, color, national origin, caste, religion, sex, pregnancy status, childbirth or related medical conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression,
marital status, disability, age, genetic information, and any other characteristic provided by law.

At the same meeting, the Board also passed a revised edition of Policy 8035, Title IX and Sex-based Discrimination and Sexual Harassment. In accordance with federal law, LCPS will establish regulations that address grievance procedures for addressing allegations that violate Title IX. Sex-based discrimination includes, but is not limited to, discrimination in programs, athletics, extra-curricular activities, facilities, course offerings, and funding. The policy also defines sexual harassment, the responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator, and the steps for a prompt and equitable grievance process.

April School Board Proclamations and Supportive Actions

The School Board passed proclamations declaring April as both the Month of the Military Child and Autism Acceptance Month.

Month of the Military Child: LCPS serves more than 1,500 school-age, military-connected children who may experience frequent separations through deployments and military moves and disruptions to their academic routines and friendships. Our military-connected children provide unique and valuable insights on learning, friendship, service to others, and heightened national or global awareness. All are encouraged to “Purple Up! For Military Kids” on April 20, 2022 to show support for our military students and appreciation for their strength and sacrifices. The School Board encourages Loudoun County Public Schools and communities to celebrate this recognition with activities to honor the contributions of our students from military families.

Autism Acceptance Month: The number of students with Autism in Virginia mirrors the national statistics. The December 2021 Child Count identified 1,744 students in Loudoun County Public Schools who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. In honor of Autism Acceptance Month, the Office for Special Education asks the LCPS family support Autistic students and their families by wearing red on April 1, 2022. Schools are encouraged to share their Autism Acceptance Month activities on Twitter using #LCPSAutism22. The School Board supports school-based efforts to provide special events promoting Autism acceptance.

Annual LCPS Family Survey

LCPS schools want to hear from you! The annual LCPS Family Survey is underway. Parents and guardians have been sent one email per student enrolled in LCPS schools. Results of the survey help schools to know what they are doing well and how they can improve to meet the needs of your children. More information about the survey can be found on the Stakeholder Surveys webpage. Please complete the survey by April 22.
Lightridge High School Scholastic Bowl Team wins State Championship

The Lightridge High School Scholastic Bowl Team delivered the school's first Virginia High School League State Championship on Saturday, February 26. The team first earned district and regional titles to become eligible for the state championships, which were held at Jamestown High School in Williamsburg.

Team members include:
Akhil Meda - 9th Grade
Ishan Ramesh - 9th Grade
Sonika Modur - 11th Grade
Cayla Shipman - 11th Grade
Shrikar Sirobhushanam - 11th Grade
Pooja Adelli - 11th Grade
Monet Shum - 11th Grade
Tristan Holland - 11th Grade
Kristy Lau - 11th Grade
Keerthi Selvam - 11th Grade
Bhuvan Maddi - 12th Grade

The team is coached by Matthew Crisp.

This accomplishment is all the more remarkable when you know that the Lightridge students and coach started a team for the first time just last year, in a virtual environment, with students who had never before competed. The team is now setting its sights on the national championships in Atlanta May 27-30. They are continuing to practice and are conducting fundraisers to help cover travel expenses. You can support the team through an online coffee fundraiser or by making an online donation.

Congratulations to the team and coach on an amazing season, and we will all be rooting for you at Nationals!

Loudoun Valley High School Receives National First Amendment Award

Loudoun Valley High School was one of 17 schools from across the country to receive the 2022 First Amendment Press Freedom Award. The award honors the culture of free expression in schools. Award winners were selected by a panel that included representatives of the Journalism Education Association, the National Scholastic Press Association and the Quill and Scroll International Honor Society.

The committee was especially impressed with responses from supportive school leaders. Principal Susan Ross said, "I trust the staff we've hired to work deeply with
students around the issues of protected speech to provide students with the skills, dispositions, and perspectives that are ethical, flexible, passionate about issues and respectful of all voices. Our track record so far tells me we are accomplishing what we’ve set out to do — teach excellence in our publications classes and teach that all voices matter in our broader school activities.” The 17 award-winning schools will be recognized April 7 in Los Angeles at the spring National High School Journalism Convention.

Congratulations, Viking students and staff, on receiving this prestigious national recognition for your work.

---

**Harmony Middle School Students win Foxcroft STEM Challenge**

A team of four students from Harmony Middle School won the 11th annual Foxcroft STEM Challenge on February 19. The team, named the Smashing Squids, competed in five collaborative problem-solving activities around a theme of “Oceans 911.” Team members included Emma Edwards, Charlotte Gisselle, Gwyneth Mayo and Vera Pry.

Congrats to these Harmony Hornets for taking home the top prize!

---

**April Dates to Remember**

- **Friday, 4/1:** Wear red to show support for Autism Awareness Month
- **Tuesday, 4/5, 4:00 pm:** Second Tuesday School Board Meeting and Public Hearing for change of attendance zone for the Reserve at Holly Springs
- **Friday, 4/8:** End of the 3rd grading period
- **Monday, 4/11 - Friday 4/15:** Spring Break
- **Monday, 4/18:** Student Holiday (end of grading period)
- **Wednesday, 4/20:** Purple Up! to show support for The Month of the Military Child
- **Tuesday, 4/26, 3:00-5:00 pm:** Virtual Office Hours
- **Tuesday, 4/26, 5:00 pm:** Fourth Tuesday School Board Meeting

---

**April Virtual Office Hours**

Office hours for constituents will be held this month on Tuesday, April 26th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. I look forward to hearing your questions and concerns.

Sign up here: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CACA823A7F4C34-april](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CACA823A7F4C34-april)
Parents/guardians who do not wish to receive future issues of School Board member newsletters should follow the instructions found in the Blackboard Mass Notifications FAQs to opt-out of receiving email messages.

---

**Stay in Touch**

email: ian.serotkin@lcps.org  
phone: 571-252-2411  
facebook: Ian Serotkin, Vice Chair, Loudoun County School Board | Facebook

---

Ian Serotkin