

2018/2019 Why Budget Season Fear Appeal

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Across the country – though not in Hampton - school boards and teachers are fighting for an increase in funding for their schools. Some are seeking raises while others are asking for support for school improvements. In any case, they were fighting for their students. Locally, Newport News was able to get a 4% raise for their teachers by speaking out. That squeaky wheel that is meant to limit damage and can be profitable.

Hampton, on the other hand, seems to have a satisfied board and staff. It would appear that classrooms are not overcrowded, are equipped adequately, and are funded at a rate that keeps staff happy. It's nice because the 2% raise Hampton has budgeted will help offset the additional 3.2% increase in insurance premiums.

The decrease in teachers for the Pre-k program went unchallenged. Months earlier, at a board meeting, the benefits of the program were praised for its long-term benefit to students. However, there will be fewer teachers and fewer children allowed to participate in the program in the coming school year.

Anyhow, the funding request by the board to the City of Hampton was uneventful.



“Early literacy intervention is essential. The longer the delay, the wider the gaps become, which increases the difficulty of correcting those gaps. Historically, intervention programs have not provided services to students until documented failure occurred.” (Canady, 2015)

