



News Release

Dr Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Superintendent
Felicia Cosby, Communications Officer
Public Information Office: 780-7100

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Richmond City School Board To Approve Response To City Council's Audit In March

The Richmond City School Board plans to respond next month to the recently released draft audit of the school district conducted by the City Auditor. The audit was requested last year by Richmond City Council.

According to George P. Braxton, Board Chairman, the school board's finance and budget committee will receive recommendations from the school administration March 1 concerning the audit. The Board will deliberate March 5 and will approve a response by March 19.

Commending the efforts of the City Auditor's department on behalf of City Council, Braxton says the audit is one of the primary tools the school district will use to reach its goal of efficient and effective fiscal operations without sacrificing instructional programs for students.

"We are taking what we consider to be an aggressive position and working on a quick timetable as we review the recommendations and work of the City Auditor. We consider this audit an integral part of our financial planning; therefore, we want to truly investigate its ramifications and recommendations.

"Without doubt the audit will dictate some change in operational policies," Braxton continued. " In fact, as is clearly

evident in the proposed 2007-2008 School Board budget, we have already addressed 44 of the 58 areas audited, including: revamping bus transportation routes; reducing the number of assistant principals; and reducing custodial services.

School officials added that when City Auditor Umesh V. Dalal released last week's draft report, he stated that some of the audit's recommendations will not yield immediate cost savings.

Braxton also noted that the school system has undergone extensive audits of its instructional programs by the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS) and an efficiency study by the Virginia Department of Planning & Budget in its attempt to streamline operating costs and increase efficiencies while propelling student achievement.

The recommendations from the CGCS audit and other best practices from across the nation have been implemented successfully, leading to dramatic and continuous gains in student achievement, Braxton added.

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