



County Executive John R. Leopold
P.O. Box 2700, Annapolis, MD 21404

June 17, 2011

Hon. Dick Ladd, Chairman
County Council
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Ladd:

On June 15, 2011, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education approved a reprogramming of the funds appropriated to the Board by the County Council in its Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. In adopting this Ordinance, the Council rejected the Board's request to fund cost-of-living adjustments, step increases, and a 1% salary increase for its employees. This was consistent with its decision to not provide these types of salary enhancements to County employees or to employees of County Library System and Anne Arundel Community College. In fact, the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget adopted by the Council includes salary *reductions* (via furloughs or other salary actions) for all these non-Board of Education employees.

The Board's action included the funding of a 1% across-the-board salary increase for all Board employees at a cost of \$5.5 million. Approval of this increase came despite the representation by the Superintendent on June 16, 2010 that such an increase would be for Fiscal Year 2011 only. The decision by the Superintendent to again request this payment, and the Board's approval of that request, clearly contradicts the earlier assertion that this previous payment was not intended as an annual personnel action.

It is anticipated that the Board will submit a request to the Council, pursuant to Section 5-105 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to approve a transfer of funds between major categories to support this 1% salary increase. I urge the Council to give adequate public notice and conduct a hearing prior to its consideration of this request. In light of the fact that I did not include this Board salary enhancement in my submission of their budget to the Council, and the Council did not include it in the final Fiscal Year 2012 Budget, I urge you and your colleagues to reject any submission by the Board that provides for salary increases. I believe that approval of such a submission would be inconsistent with the budget decisions made by the Administration and the Council for all other employees whose salary and benefits are paid with county taxpayers' money.

As always, the County Budget Officer is available to answer any questions or provide any detailed information in connection with this issue.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. LEOPOLD
County Executive