



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Personal and academic success for all.

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January 8, 2009

To the Charlottesville City Schools Community:

In May 2008, the school division entered into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) to have an efficiency review conducted. The DPB awarded MGT of America, Inc. the contract to review current levels of efficiency in administrative and operational systems. The school division and community received the final report at the January 8, 2009 School Board meeting.

The report gives many commendations for exemplary practices as well as recommendations. It recognizes Charlottesville City Schools as among the best in the state and nation when it comes to our core business of curriculum and instruction:

“The department of curriculum and instruction demonstrates many exemplary practices aimed to improve student achievement. These practices are some of the finest curriculum planning and management that MGT has seen in Virginia and throughout the nation.”

Increased levels of student achievement testify to the impact of the division’s planning and management practices. Thank you to everyone for your service and the role you have played in making the 54 commendations in the report a reality!

It will come as no surprise that the review recognizes that the division has been well-supported by the community. Through the budget process, Charlottesville has historically allocated resources for small neighborhood schools, small class sizes, and direct classroom and instructional support. The recommendations in the report acknowledge the cost of those commitments.

This efficiency review presents an opportunity to revisit the traditions and choices that influence programs and practices in our division. We have the option to re-allocate resources in a way that reflects what we value while recognizing the fiscal realities we face. This will be among many points to consider as we respond to the recommendations over time.

Our immediate priority is to develop a [2009-2010 school budget](#) that addresses current educational needs within the constraints of our financial climate. Some of the recommendations will be useful in identifying savings for the coming year; most will need a longer period of time for careful review.

The programs and services that are reflected in the current school budget have been developed through years of collaborative community processes. As a community, we will move forward and consider what adjustments need to be made to sustain a school environment that fosters high quality learning and the development of 21st century skills. Subsequently, broader discussions and additional feedback will help determine which recommendations we pursue, how funds are allocated, and what kind of future we envision for Charlottesville City students.

We welcome your participation in the important work ahead. You may access the complete School Efficiency Review Final Report on [our web site](#), as well as updates and activities related to the recommendations. Again, I would like to thank each of you for your service and commitment to our schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosa S. Atkins
Superintendent