FY 2007 QUESTION NUMBER: 33

QUESTION:

What is the job description and cost of a PPW? What are the benefits of adding an additional position?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 1-11 and 4-63

ANSWER:

Pupil personnel workers (PPWs) support and advocate for students and their families in ways that promote positive and productive school experiences that lead to improved academic achievement. PPWs coordinate the efforts of school staffs, other MCPS departments, and community and county agencies to provide services to students and their families. Often, these services involve PPWs acting as a case manager for interventions and/or placements for students who need program adjustment. It also involves assisting parents with accessing available resources in our school system and in the county. PPWs provide consultation to school administrators and school teams on policies such as suspension and expulsion, residency, special education, Section 504, homelessness, change of school assignments, and home schooling. The official job description for a PPW is attached.

The cost of a PPW is $83,728, including benefits.

In FY 2007, 5 new schools will be opening, bringing the total number to 199. With no additional staffing, there will be an increase in the number of schools some PPWs will need to serve. PPWs provide front line support for the diverse learners and involve parents and communities to ensure success for all students by providing strategies to "raise the bar and close the gap." The increased demands for PPW service and the time commitment involved in some recent initiatives such as the residency verification program for all 8th grade students, the implementation of the Collaborative Action Process (CAP), participation in the Truancy Review Board, and the second review of home schooling programs have greatly impacted the PPWs workload. Additional positions would alleviate some of the workload, and would allow PPWs to become more involved and engaged in direct services to students and their families.