

**The Green News**

**July 31, 2011 P. O. Box 105, Remington, VA 22734**

**The era of borrow and spend is over. Not because we want to stop but because we have to stop. We can no longer borrow 40 cents of every dollar we spend. The party is over. Politicians fear the backlash from the people and the loss of their power.**

**We are not immune from these problems here in Fauquier County. As I explained in my last letter the supervisors and school board have obligated taxpayers to paying \$309 per sq. ft. to build a new classroom building at FHS. Each classroom will cost over \$542,000. The justification given: We want to set a good environmental example. And then there is the extra \$1.6M in wages we will pay to use those federally backed bonds.**

**But it doesn't stop there. On June 30, 2011 all school employees received an extra one time payment amounting to \$1500 or 3% of salary, whichever is more. The money comes from the Federal Education Jobs Fund - \$1,685,297. It is to be used "for salary and related costs for creating or savings local teaching positions".**

**Here is how our school division justified using the money: No teachers were being hired under the program and if they did we would have to pay their salaries next year. No teachers were being laid off due to budget restraints. Therefore we will just divide the money up among all school employees. The school board even decided Dr. Lewis should be included so he received an extra \$4500.**

**How does giving away \$1,685,297 to current school employees help education? Save jobs? Or help the economy? This is our government at work but to what end?**

**Now the school wants to spend \$260,000.00 to put GPS on all of our school buses. The buses already have expensive two way radios, recording cameras and vehicle recording devices. Why do we need GPS? Because Dr. Lewis' Aspiration 2015 Strategic Plan Action Item 3.17 calls for it.**

**The school is also investigating the establishment of a comprehensive benefit program (Aspirations 2015 Strategic Plan Action Item 4.4). The program would provide additional (in**

**addition to current VRS benefits) retirement options to school staff. The plan would consider providing a 3% match of salary to provide a new 401K or Roth 403B type retirement plan. The estimated cost for the first year is \$2,311,199.50.**

**Dr. Lewis' Aspiration 2015 Strategic Plan has already been adopted by the school board. There are some 135 items in the plan. There total cost is measured in multi-millions of dollars. Many of the items have nothing to do with the education of our children. You are being asked to pay for it.**

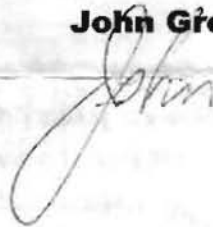
**The school system already spends two out of every three of our tax dollars. With present plans this amount will grow. I am in favor of offering our children a first class education. But a first rate education does not go to who spends the most money or has the most gadgets.**

**Some say we are a wealthy county and can afford it. In the last week of July 2011 Fauquier Community Food Bank has contacted local churches because they are desperately in need of food donations. This food is given away to those in need. Our school system informed us that 22.5% of our students get free or reduced meals and for those who pay the price is going up.**

**We must control our spending. That can only happen when you get involved. But you can't really get involved until you know the issues.**

**This great country will not survive unless you get involved. Freedom is not free. Many have died for our freedom. All you have to do is get involved.**

**John Green**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Green", is written below the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J".