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Edinburgh EH7 4GG

27 January 2010

Councillor <councillor name>
City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Dear Councillor <councillor surname>

Re: Education Budget Cuts

I am writing to you as Chair of the Parent Council at Broughton Primary School. I wish to express our concern at the proposal by the Children and Families Department to cut 2.5% from the Devolved Schools Budgets in the financial year 2010-2011, followed by further cuts of 2.5% in each of the two following years. These cuts will be on top of the 1.5% cut as a result of 'efficiency savings' in 2008-2009 that have since been embedded.

This already frugal and efficiently run school has struggled to realise savings of £20,000 after the previous budget reduction. It has managed to do so only by cutting back on teaching resources, relying on bulk purchases of supplies made in previous years, and virtually eliminating regular maintenance. The supplies are now deleted and there is no further scope for cuts without affecting education provision. The following table has been calculated using available information and illustrates the expected impact on the budget at Broughton Primary from 2009 to 2013.

2009-2010 – 1.5%*	2010-2011 – 2.5%	2011-2012 – 2.5%	2012-2013 – 2.5%
£20,000	£50,000	£80,000	£112,000

*Embedded cut from 2008-2009

Taking over £240,000 out of the budget over three years will have very serious implications for resources and staffing levels and, as a consequence, the quality of education that can be delivered by the school. We're not just talking about a few jotters here and there or handing out fewer worksheets. The school will have to make fundamental reductions to education provision and it will be virtually impossible to make any progress towards implementing the Curriculum for Excellence. To help quantify the impact, I have attached a dossier compiled by the Edinburgh Parent Council Network (EPCN) that demonstrates how the previous reductions have affected schools across the city and looks forward to show the sort of impact that the proposed cuts will have on these schools, including Broughton Primary.

We realise that the City Council is suffering from financial pressures on a number of fronts and needs to make reductions. However, it is our belief that cuts of this magnitude will deny our children the education that they need to become the confident, responsible, and contributing members of society that we need in the future.

It is interesting to note the recent announcement that £1.2 million had been 'found' in order to reduce class sizes in a few schools across the city while all schools are going to have to go without basic resources. While we agree with the ultimate goal of reducing class sizes, it is felt that, at the moment, there are higher priorities for any available cash and that this is more a case of supporting political priorities than providing for the educational needs of our children.

I ask you for your support to oppose the proposed cuts to prevent any further deterioration in the provision of education to the children of our city by conveying these points in the clearest and strongest terms to Council leaders when you consider the budget leading up to and including the vote on 11 February 2010.

I look forward to reading your reply. Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Chrumka
Chair, Broughton Primary School Parent Council