

The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

February 2009

THE BULLETIN

Volume 58, Number 5

General Membership Meeting



Thursday, February 19, 2009

7:30 p.m.

**Packard Center Main Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale**

Topic: Smart Growth in Fairfax County

Guest Speaker: Stewart Schwartz

Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth



Upcoming Membership Meetings

March 19, 2009 7:30 p.m.

*Topic: The Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2010
Advertised Budget*

Guest Speaker: County Executive Tony Griffin

April 16, 2009 7:30 p.m.

*Topic: Report from Federation Representatives to
Boards, Authorities, Commissions, and Committees*

May 21, 2009 7:30 p.m.

*Topic: Report from Richmond
Officer Elections for 2009 - 2010*

June 18, 2009 7:00 p.m.

*Federation Picnic and 'State of the County'
Guest Speaker: The Honorable Sharon Bulova,
Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors*



Federation Board Meetings

*Board meetings are held at the Packard Center
Main Conference Room, beginning at 7:30 p.m.*

The Federation Board will not meet in February.

March 5

*(please note this is the first Thursday of the month)
Discussion of Draft Resolution on the Fairfax County Fiscal
Year 2010 Budget*

April 23

May 28

June 25



President's Message

One would think that leaving the Packard Center after our Federation meetings wouldn't be too challenging. At least that's what I've always thought, but let me convey two incidents that Federation members reported last month. The first reported that he had been spooked - the police had blocked off the park, and when he finally could get into the parking lot, no one was there: no cars in the lot, and he couldn't get into the building. He left after three or four minutes, at just about 7:30, thinking that either the meeting was cancelled or something had happened at the park causing its closing. Just after he left, the rest of us arrived, and the meeting went off as planned. Another member reported being pulled over by police as he was exiting the park after the meeting. The officer was wondering why he was coming out of the closed park after dark. In order to prevent future such happenings, I have contacted the police about our meetings, so let's hope no one else has that happen to them (of course, there is a certain satisfaction in knowing that the police are being vigilant and watching what happens in and around the park).

It was a disappointment to the Federation and our cosponsors that we had to cancel last month's Chairman of Board of Supervisors candidates' debate. Inclement weather was forecast and our policy calls for our events to be cancelled if schools are either closed for the day or after-school events are cancelled on the day in question. We believed it better to cancel early than to wait until the last minute and create confusion during the inclement weather.

Let's hope that March will bring better weather for our annual Citizen of the Year banquet as we return to the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel. Be sure to save Sunday, March 15th for an entertaining evening as we honor the best of Fairfax County volunteers.

The Federation is working with Fairfax Cares (www.fairfaxcares.org), formed in response to the unprecedented human services crisis in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. The current economic downturn has brought increased unemployment, decreased wages, and an overall greater gap between incomes and the costs of daily living. The requests for help with basic needs, such as food and shelter, is greater than nonprofits, faith-based communities, and government can meet. Fairfax Cares acts as a funnel for people who either want to help or need help. I encourage you and your neighbors to visit the website and do what you can during these times of increasing strain on the economic and social fabric of our county's families.

For this month's meeting, we're looking at smart growth, a buzz-word you will continue to hear as the county starts to redevelop. Examples are what's proposed for the Tyson's Corner area and what was approved near the Vienna metro stop. How can Fairfax County grow in a smart manner, and what does it mean for our localities? For answers, I hope to see you at our meeting on the 19th.

Enjoy -

Jeff Parnes, President

FedPres2008@FairfaxFederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations Membership Meeting of January 15, 2009

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the February 19, 2009 membership meeting)

The January 15 membership meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) President Jeff Parnes greeted those present. Scott Schlegel presented the Treasurers Report, which was received and filed, with the understanding that he would resolve a clerical question. Jeff Parnes introduced the evening's speaker, Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniusko of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), who was accompanied by Susan Quinn, FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services.

Program

Deputy Superintendent Moniusko stated that the next budget year [fiscal year (FY) 2010] will be "really tough." He went over the presentation that Superintendent Jack Dale had provided to the School Board.

The system includes about 200 schools and is the twelfth largest school system in the United States, with a projected enrollment of 174,365 students in 2010. The proposed operating budget for 2010 is \$2.2 billion, a 0.5 percent reduction from the FY 2009 budget. Achievement levels remain high, with 93 percent of graduates going on to postsecondary education. The SAT average is among the highest in the region. The presentation listed several other national honors, especially for Fairfax County high schools, and also noted expanded participation in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs.

FCPS is facing a perfect storm, he said. Enrollment was flat for 2005 through 2007, but since then, it has been increasing, and the increase has been accelerating. There are 5,546 new general education students projected for next year. People can't sell their homes, so they are not moving out, while others are still moving in to the county; also, parents are transferring children from private to public schools. There are proportionally larger increases in the categories of those eligible for reduced lunches, and those students whose first language is not English, both of which require a larger per-student outlay.

At the same time, state funding has been reduced by 7 percent in the governor's budget and may be reduced further in the General Assembly, while the potential transfer from the county has been affected by the reduction of home property values, retail sales tax revenues, and returns on county investments. In addition, several county programs related to the schools may be reduced or cut by the county, and may need to be funded by FCPS. These include clinic room aides, who handle and dispense student medications; school resource officers; and afterschool middle-school programs.

The presentation included two budgets, the Superintendent's budget and the grim budget. The Superintendent's budget assumes enough of an increase in the transfer amount from the county to cover the increased number of students and make up for reduced state aid. Even so, it includes a \$157.5 million reduction from what minimally would be needed to maintain present programs and services. It includes no new programs and cuts programs and services. There are no salary increases, no step increases, no cost of living increases. There is a net loss of 248.1 positions. The presentation states that the school system could recover from these reductions within a decade.

The grim budget includes a \$214.3 million reduction and is based

on a county transfer of the same dollar amount as in FY 2009. The presentation states that the grim budget fails to meet community expectations, puts the mission at risk, and severely reduces programs and services, leading to non-attainment of state standards. It also states that the system would require decades to recover.

The rest of the presentation included a detailed breakdown of the Superintendent's budget, including a breakdown of positions eliminated, unfunded state and federal mandates, cost per pupil compared to other jurisdictions, and additional details. It also included a detailed list of the additional reductions that would occur under the grim budget.

Deputy Superintendent Moniusko then answered questions on whether the proposed federal stimulus might affect the budget, whether classes which are larger will physically fit into existing classrooms designed for fewer students, and the consolidation of the school administration buildings.

Business Meeting

- a. The December membership minutes were amended to correct the number of votes (but not the outcome) regarding one section of the Federation legislative program and approved unanimously as amended. Esther Ferington will send these and other recently approved minutes to the Federation webmaster.
- b. Kosmos Tatalias noted that some dates in the calendar, as listed in the evening's agenda, were incorrect and needed to be adjusted.
- c. Jeff Parnes reported that he had presented the Federation's legislative program to the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly in public testimony.
- d. Jeff Parnes reminded the group of the Federation-sponsored debate on January 27 among the candidates for the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, a position being filled by special election on February 3. [Note: The debate was

(see **DRAFT MINUTES** - continued on page 3)

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2008-2009 President: Jeffrey M. Parnes

Newsletter Editor: Carol A. Hawn

The Bulletin is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. It is usually published monthly, with the exception of July and August. The purpose is to provide information to member communities, federal, state, and local officials, and other interested persons in Fairfax County. Articles reflect the view of their author and may be reprinted with the use of the following citation: "The Bulletin of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations".

Please contact Carol Hawn at 703-266-6872 or cahawn@verizon.net with name and address changes, comments, or suggestions.

Federation Meeting Cancellation Policy

If either Fairfax County Government or Schools are closed after 12:00 noon the day of a Federation membership meeting or event, or if it is announced that Fairfax County Government or Schools will be closed the day after a scheduled Federation membership meeting or event due to inclement weather or other emergency, the Federation will not hold that event. This does not pertain to regularly scheduled closures. Membership meetings will not be rescheduled, although speakers may be asked to attend an upcoming meeting. We will make every attempt to post the cancellation on www.fairfaxfederation.org or you can call 703-266-6872 for more information.

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 2)

subsequently canceled due to inclement weather.]

e. Jeff Parnes noted that Rob Jackson, McLean Citizens Association, had forwarded an MCA position on overweight trucks paying increased fees. The membership took note of the position but agreed to defer consideration to next year.

f. Don Hinman, Chair of the Association Services Committee, which has been recently revived, asked the membership about the proper work of the committee now that its initial project, an informational pamphlet, is complete. The discussion that followed included the task of answering individual questions that come to the Federation on association-related matters, among other functions.

g. Jeff Parnes noted that the Budget Committee is at work and is planning to restructure the Federation budget resolution this year to put topics together thematically, rather than listing all the whereases on all topics, followed by all the corresponding positions in the same sequence.

h. Charles Dane, Chair of the Education Committee, noted that he would be presenting the committee's testimony to the School Board on January 27. He also noted that changes in the grading policy are being ironed out by FCSB.

i. Flint Webb, Chair of the Environment Committee, noted that Ana Prados, the new Federation representative to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Commission (MWAQC), attended her first TAC meeting in her new role, accompanied by Flint, to complete the handoff. He also noted that several stream management plans are going through the usual process and can be tracked on the county website. He also discussed other environmental issues of interest.

j. Charles Dane, as First Vice President (Membership), noted that there are now 41 active members, with 12 other associations that have not yet renewed; this includes 4 new ones as well as 5 that paid late last year when joining then. Those which have not renewed have received at least two notifications, and many have received three.

k. In reports from the District Council representatives, Art Wells, Braddock District, noted plans for intersection improvements for Braddock and Ox Road (Route 123). He reported that a recent session on identity theft had gone well and suggested it as a topic for the Federation next year. The annual Braddock workshops, this year on HOAs, neighborhood traffic and parking, are scheduled for February 12. He also noted that the district's Supervisor, Sharon Bulova, is standing for election as Chair on February 3, and if successful, a new special election will be required to elect a new Braddock Supervisor. Flint Webb, Providence District, noted that the holiday meeting was well attended, and a candidate debate was scheduled for January 21. Jeff Parnes noted that the next Sully meeting would be January 28 and that the APR review continues.

l. John Jennison reported on plans for the Citizen of the Year (COY) banquet at the Marriott and solicited additional nominations. He has written 87 personal letters to elected officeholders to solicit their nominations, but encouraged everyone to submit their nominations.

Next Membership Meeting: February 19, 2009.

Next Board Meeting: March 5, 2009 [NOTE: No February Board meeting], county budget draft resolution

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations,

The Washington Post,

SAIC, and

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce

request the pleasure of your company at the

Fifty-ninth Annual Awards Banquet

honoring the

2008 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year

Anne Andrews

Citation of Merit Honorees

Linda F. Byrne

Christine Morin

Special Recognition

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly

The Honorable Thomas M. Davis III

Guest Speaker

The Honorable Sharon Bulova

Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Sunday, the Fifteenth of March

at the

Fairview Park Marriott

3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, Virginia

Reception 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:30 p.m.

\$65 per person

Cash Bar

RSVP by March 9, 2009

Tickets will be held at the door.

For more information, please call John Jennison,
Citizen of the Year Banquet Chair, at 703-591-5586.

Make checks payable to "FCFCA" and send to:

The Federation

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

Please include: Name(s), Company/Association,
Address, Telephone, and Email

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

**Membership
Meeting**

**Thursday,
February 19th**

7:30 p.m.

The Packard Center
4022 Hummer Road
Annandale

Topic: *Smart Growth in
Fairfax County*

Speaker: *Stewart Schwartz
Executive Director,
Coalition for Smarter Growth*

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Directions to the

Packard Center, located in Annandale Community Park

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Little River Turnpike (Route 236 - Exit 52B);
go east toward Annandale.

Turn left at the first stop light onto Hummer Road.

Go 200 yards to the entrance of Annandale Community Park, which is on the left.

Keep right to the large parking lot.

Please use the left entrance into the Packard Center Building, and use the doorbell to enter.

www.fairfaxfederation.org