

## Board Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2015

Approved March 9, 2015

The January 2015 meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tim Thompson at 7:35 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Center.

### Present:

### BOARD:

Officers: Tim Thompson (President), Ed Wyse (First Vice President/Springfield/Membership), Bill Barfield (Second Vice President/Legislation), Matthew Bell (Treasurer/Legislation), and Fred Costello (Corresponding Secretary/Land Use/Bulletin Editor).

District Council Representatives: Art Wells (Braddock), Katherine Ward (Mt. Vernon), John Birch (Mason), and Chris Soule (Lee).

Standing/Special Committee Chairs: Cherie Tripp Lejeune (Human Services), Nancy Trainer (Education), Ed Saperstein (Education), Charles Dane (Resolutions), Jack Dobbyn (Land Use).

### Administrative and Organizational Topics

Citizen of Year Banquet: Tim reminded the board of the final push to submit Citizen of the Year nominations before the end of the month.

Personal Appointments: Tim announced the following replacements for the recently deceased Bill Hanks. In each case, the board approved via voice vote.

- Resolutions Committee Chair: Charlie Dane
- Audit Committee Member: Scott Schlegel
- Audit Committee Chair: Elizabeth Greene (was a member).

Jim Phelps does not wish another term as representative to the Engineering Standards Review Committee. Tim appointed and the board, by voice vote, approved these replacements.

- Primary Representative: Ned A. Poffenberger
- Alternate Representative: Phil R. Hughes.

Tim is also considering candidates for the representative to AHOME (Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone), another position held by the late Bill Hanks.

Bulletin/Newsletter: Fred Costello – input for February edition is due January 24.

Meeting Minutes: The board accepted the minutes of the December 2014 meeting by voice vote. Board members expressed that the 51 pages of attachments should be reduced.

**Treasurer's Report:** Matt Bell reported total assets of \$18,224.15; the report is unchanged since distributed to the membership last week. The board voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. Tim Thompson today received a message that County Executive Long sent to the heads of many volunteer organizations. It announced a spring 2015 conference for community and neighborhood leaders to develop how the county can best work in partnership with community leaders to identify and address neighborhood trends and challenges. The message asked for topics of interest, which would be incorporated into the conference, by February 9. The Legislation Committee will take the lead in asking members for their topics of interest and in compiling the response to County Executive Long.
2. Bill Barfield announced that Supervisor Cook has initiated action to establish policy regarding county agencies collections of electronic data such as electronic scans of license plates. Bill will e-mail more complete information to the board.
3. Bill Barfield announced a move to examine how the various districts address land use issues, especially issues related to infill. Katherine Ward noted that a complete study of the various district land use approaches was conducted about 2010. She will locate this and see if it addresses the current questions.
4. Bill Barfield announced the Supervisor Cook has been elected chairman of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board.
5. Ed Saperstein and Nancy Trainer presented a copy of a letter that the Education Committee intends to send to the Fairfax County School Board with suggested goals for the strategic plan to be written. In extensive discussion the board considered two aspects of the letter.
  - a. Content. A motion was made to include cost effectiveness measures in the goals. This motion was defeated on a voice vote. A suggestion was made to modify the closing sentence to be more direct. The committee co-chairs accepted the suggestion.
  - b. Release level. At a minimum the Education Committee would send the letter as the committee. After the board accepted the letter, the question was whether the board should approve the letter or recommend approval to the membership at the next membership meeting. Although the strategic plan development schedule was not known, the Education Committee opined that early receipt of the letter was more likely to have influence with the school board than later receipt. The board by voice vote decided to release the letter as board approved and to publish the letter in February's *The Bulletin* for membership confirmation. Then, any members with comments should address the Education Committee.

**Board & Committee Reports:**

1. Budget – Curtis Anderson– No report.

2. Citizens Association Services - Don Hinman – No report.
3. Education - Ed Saperstein and Nancy Trainer – The chair presented the committee’s planned testimony (3-minutes oral) to be given to the school board on the proposed FY 2016 school budget and received suggestions from board members.
4. Environment - Flint Webb – Friends of Accotink Creek met on Monday and approved a letter to be sent to the BOS calling for the elimination of the Fall Cankerworm spraying program. Reported was the first meeting of a Friends of Friends group. The concept is for all the watershed and park friends groups to coordinate activities. Also the Friends of Accotink Creek passed a resolution opposing Fall Cankerworm spraying.
5. Human Services - Cherie Tripp Lejeune and Morgan Jameson – Cherie reported that the Fairfax County 50+ Community Action Plan is in effect. She is leading the 7-person committee for the Neighbor to Neighbor initiative. This initiative will increase awareness of the village concept and existing online tools. It will also offer guidance & resources to community groups to implement online tools or create new neighbor-helping-neighbor villages. There will be opportunities to survey neighbors using NextDoor and to cite the Federation’s name.
6. Land Use - Fred Costello and Jack Dobbyn – Fred asked whether the proposed Williston project had been the subject of a cost benefit analysis. Because of non-ADA compliance and asbestos, the county must demolish a former school that has been used for several decades as the Williston Multicultural Center. FCPS would like to reclaim the site and build a school for an area where school capacity is insufficient. The Seven Corners Redevelopment Task Force and Supervisor Gross propose instead to build on the site a mixed-use development (possibly to be named East County Government Center) to include government offices to coordinate human services for that area and community recreation space, with a new school to be built possibly in a pending new development on Columbia Pike in the Bailey’s Crossroads area. The board of supervisors will vote on the issue in the spring.. The Education Committee has not yet examined this issue.
7. Legislation – Matt Bell and Bill Barfield – The intent of the Fed’s legislative proposal 15C02 (Solid waste/debris control) is incorporated in House Bill 2066.The intent of the Fed’s legislative proposal 15C03 (Plastic bag fee/credit) is incorporated in Senate Bill 886.
8. Library - Kathy Kaplan – In Kathy’s absence, Ed Wyse briefly reported the Federation’s leadership’s Dec 19 and Jan 9 meetings with the Chairman Bulova and that Kathy Kaplan had attended an additional meeting on Jan 21 of the Fairfax Library Advocates with the Board’s Auditor and the Deputy County Executive to discuss the issue of auditing the Friends.. In these meetings we have objected to the false accusation that the Federation requested an audit of the Friends of the Libraries.
9. Public Safety - Daniela Cockayne– No report

10. Resolutions – Charlie Dane – Charlie asked for feedback on a draft resolution he had sent to the board via e-mail this week on the topic of bringing the issue of greater county/public school infrastructure coordination into the dialog of supervisor and school board election campaigns. He plans to bring the proposal to a future board meeting as either a resolution or a letter.
11. Transportation - Jeff Parnes & Karen Campblin – Jeff submitted extensive lists with links of transportation-related planned public meetings, presentations, and documents. The board decided to post these lists on the website and to announce them in the newsletter.
12. Outreach – Shaista Keating – No report.
13. Website - Jeff Parnes, Fred Costello & Brian Graham – No report.

### **District Council Reports:**

(Dranesville & Hunter Mill - N/A)

1. Braddock - Art Wells –
  - a. The annual “Taste of Braddock,” co-sponsored by the district supervisor’s office and the Braddock District Council, held December 10, was a highly attended success. Many food businesses in the district contributed.
  - b. The council meeting on January 14 featured two “close to home” presentations. Tom Kennedy ([tfkinva@aol.com](mailto:tfkinva@aol.com)) discussed involvement with VDOT in replacement of ramps on the sidewalks of the Kings Park Community to form ADA-compliant “yard curbs.” Rich and Marion Trschler ([richtask@msn.com](mailto:richtask@msn.com)) discussed their self-taught, do-it-yourself efforts over 31 years to super insulate and solarize their home in Burke.
  - c. Tom Kennedy informed of initial actions to organize a citizens task force to recommend renovations to the 40 year old Audrey Moore RECenter. The first meeting of the “Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter” will be February 5, 7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall.
  - d. The next council meeting will be February 11 with a presentation by the fire department.
  - e. The next meeting of the Aging in Place committee was scheduled for January 21 but cancelled due to weather.
2. Lee - Chris Soule – Lee District open house will be January 24.
3. Mason – John Birch – No report.
4. Mt. Vernon - Katherine Ward –
  - a. Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) is supporting the urban forester’s recommendation to continue spraying of the fall cankerworm. MVCCA opposes the spraying program.

- b. Historic Collingwood Library and Museum of Americanism is proposing to sub-divide and sell property. MVCCA does not oppose this action. MVCCA does oppose relaxing the conservation and scenic view easements.
5. Providence - Flint Webb – The PDC meeting on I-66 widening was canceled due to weather.
6. Springfield - Ed Wyse – On January 21 Supervisor Herrity and the SDC hosted a Senior Safety Summit.
7. Sully - Jeff Parnes – No report.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

### **Next Meetings**

**Membership Meeting** –Feb 19, 2015, Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Rd, Burke.  
Program: **Reimagining Woodlawn Plantation** by the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. The vision is for Woodlawn to become a vibrant landmark destination for the sustainable food movement, using food and agriculture in pursuit of social justice.

**Board Meeting**, 26 Feb, 2015 Dunn Loring Center, Room 108 2334 Gallows Rd, Dunn Loring.

### Attachments

- 1 – Draft letter on FCPS strategic planning
- 2 – Draft remarks on the FCPS proposed budget

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachment 1 - Draft letter on FCPS strategic planning

Members of the School Board and Dr. Garza:

As you continue to engage in discussions to refine the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Long-Range Strategic Plan, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCFCA) would like to contribute our thoughts to your efforts. We are pleased that the Board is engaging in this type of analysis, as the Strategic Plan will help crystallize FCPS' thoughts about its biggest challenges as well as its largest ambitions. With that in mind, we suggest a focus on the schools' most important/pressing needs that includes the following priorities:

- **Adjust the FCPS curriculum toward** meeting the goals embodied in **the Portrait of a Graduate, piloting innovative programs where appropriate.** We hope the Strategic Plan will provide guidance and be adjusted accordingly regarding this project for years to come.
- Correspondingly, **adjust professional development toward achieving** the different methodologies needed to achieve this goal.
- Develop a strategy to procure **alternative sources of funding**, including an increased focus on business partnerships. Our schools engage in annual battles with both Richmond and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to increase funding for our schools. We believe the strategic plan must provide guidance on how to help ameliorate this problem.
- Improve access to high-quality **early childhood education**, and ensure **Kindergarten readiness.** Excellent public preschools may attract paying families as well as serve our low-income population. We know that addressing our children's needs as early as possible helps reduce remediation costs, may help reduce the achievement gap, improves graduation rates, and prepares our children for success.
- **Attract, develop, and retain a superior workforce.** This large idea requires many smaller projects in order to be realized, as strategic thinking often does. The Federation hopes FCPS will continue to place central emphasis on this issue.
- Emphasize a **creative approach to solving infrastructure problems.** Our capital needs have long outstripped the available funds, we hope the strategic plan will help guide us toward new solutions, such as the recent project to repurpose an existing office building for use as Bailey's Upper Elementary School.
- Accentuate our **commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology** into the classroom and **throughout FCPS.** To implement the ideas embodied in the Portrait of a Graduate will require investments in technology to customize learning experiences, extend learning outside of "traditional" school parameters, improve communication among all stakeholders within FCPS, and provide technological access for all students.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our priorities with you, and wish you luck as you embark upon this important project.

Sincerely,



Attachment 2 - Draft remarks on the FCPS proposed budget

**DRAFT--Remarks by Ed Saperstein on Proposed FY 2016 FCPS School Budget on behalf of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations— January 26, 2015 Fairfax County School Board Meeting**

I am Ed Saperstein. Tonight, as Co-Chair of the Education Committee, I am speaking on behalf of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. \*

First, we'd like to commend Superintendent Garza for making tough decisions and coming up with a cooperative budget number.

We agree with focusing on increasing compensation for FCPS employees as compensation is crucial in trying to attract and retain a superior workforce. In continuing to develop your thoughts on salary, we recommend considering flexible compensation packages as younger employees could have different needs than employees close to retirement.

We understand that minimum and maximum class sizes are being reconsidered. We recommend flexibility to allow for exploring ways to reduce class size in the most needed courses. In this spirit we recommend trying the following experiment in some high schools which may require a waiver or discussion with state authorities. We suggested this idea last year as well, but reiterate our support for creative approaches to dealing with high class sizes.

The experiment is to ask some high school principals to choose one or two courses to have much larger class sizes than normal, and use the related cost savings to have reduced class sizes in some other courses. The larger classes could be taught similar to college lecture classes and, if feasible, periodically broken down into smaller groups. Teachers teaching the larger classes could get a bonus or reduced number of teaching periods, but this should be done in a way to lower the overall cost of that larger class.

Further on class size, the proposed budget has 40 extra teacher positions to help alleviate large elementary school class sizes. For transparency, we recommend that later this year FCPS states the impact of these extra positions.

FCPS is seeking to increase revenue by recruiting business partnerships. We encourage this effort and also to explore other ways to broaden the revenue base. One idea you may wish to consider, as mentioned in the Federation's 2015 Legislative package, is for the education and medical communities to partner to increase the Virginia tobacco tax and allocate the increased revenue to health care and education. The current Virginia tobacco tax per pack is much lower than the national average, and even substantially lower than our neighboring major tobacco growing states.

There appears to be better cooperation between the School Board and Board of Supervisors. We appreciate this and encourage continuing to improve cooperation as we believe this helps in providing quality education in a cost-effective manner.

Thanks for your collective service to the children in our communities.

----\* The 2 Co-Chairs of the Education Committee are: Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein.