

## Membership Meeting Minutes

**February 27, 2020, 7:30 PM**  
**Providence Community Center**  
**3001 Vaiden Dr., Fairfax**  
**Pending Approved on 26 March 2020**

**Welcome and Announcements** – President, Bill Barfield - Bill said we are looking for anyone interested in Recording Secretary.

**Treasurer's report** - Leslie Braun – Report may be added later because treasurer could not attend meeting.

**Meeting Minutes** – Approval of January 2020 Meeting - Recording Secretary

**Election of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – The Federation Nominating Committee submits Matt Dunne as candidate for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (see attached biography). Other candidates may be nominated and seconded by members in good standing.

Discussion: Pete said that Matt has been doing a good job for a month. Do we have enough to vote? Voice vote to vote prior to speakers. Have quorum so look at Matt's biography. All reviewed biography. Motion to approved Matthew Dunne as 1st Vice President by Gabe Goldberg and seconded by Pete Sitnik. Nothing from floor. Vote for rest of term. 15 in favor 0 against. Matt Dunne is official 1st VP for end of this year's term. He's done a great job on Citizen of the Year including possible speakers, E. Filler-Corn, Governor's wife, or J. Wexton.

**Speakers** - Two well-informed speakers presented the 2021 budgets for the Fairfax County Public Schools and for Fairfax County as Advertised. Federation members may contribute their opinions to Federation committees who are compiling our annual assessment of these two budgets to be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

**Fairfax County Advertised 2021 budget** – Christina C. Jackson, Director of the Department of Management and Budget, Office of the County Executive

Christina C Jackson began with the County budget. She handed out double-sided page "Citizen's Guide to the Budget" to review the highlights. She said the supervisors are looking forward to the Federation's input. She introduced Phillip Hagen, Deputy Director. The full presentation to the BOS is online. Details in advertised budget summary.

How budget is structured. Countywide Strategic Plan which was released concurrent with budget. There are nine priority outcome areas. The Strategic Plan is built around those areas: Lifelong Education and Learning, Housing and Neighborhood Livability, Safety and

Security, Health and Environment, Mobility and Transportation, Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability, Cultural and Recreational Opportunities, Economic Opportunity, and Effective and Efficient Government.

Revenue: \$1.15 proposed to increase to \$1.18/per \$100 assessed value. Two cent increase to general fund and one penny to affordable housing where it's combined with existing half penny allocated will amount to \$40M to Affordable Housing.

Discussion moved to 4% Admissions Tax. Alexandria does this now and County modeled after Alexandria. Two taxes, probate and admissions, have been allowed by State but never done. County will use admissions tax for first time. (Probate tax not enough revenue to enact.) Admissions tax on sale of wide variety of tickets. 10% is maximum allowed but County only doing 4%. Movies and concerts are taxed but charities and school performances exempt.

Q: Venues will eat tax? A: No tickets will cost more. Delayed start to October 2021. Revenue growth is \$3.52M

Budget fully funding compensation for County employees, including performance/merit/longevity increases and a 2.06% market rate adjustment. She said County can fully fund because they have \$11M in savings, including health insurance changes. County is leaving copay plan which produces savings for both County and employee. Retirement savings also.

Operating fund \$4.2M short of full FCPS request but should have money coming from State.

Early childhood 72 new slots and more opportunities in the community.

Early childhood birth to five fund. Bond \$25M each for early Fall 20,22,24,26 (100K total) for more slots. Funded on County side now but will save money on school side later. Where need is greatest or what buildings are available or add ons. Will take a period of time to spend money depending on where opportunities are. \$25 funding every other year.

Housing and neighborhood livability \$700k with positions for affordable housing in addition to penny.

Safety and security \$9.77M funds for police body cameras and 25 positions for new fire station in Tysons #44. Eight police positions for South County police. South County opening in Dec 2022. Also funds additional capacity in 911 for when South County opens.

Health and Environment. \$4.72M for fifth year of diversion first, opium, school health adds seven public nurses and support for addiction recovery services. \$400K for additional environment 1.3. positions for energy and environmental coordination.

Metro and connector increases. Not silver line phase 2 yet. WMATA not finished so adjustments expected.

Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability. \$3.27M expanded opportunity neighborhoods in Chantilly area.

Cultural and Recreational Opportunities. Admissions Tax \$2.3M partial, full year is \$3M. \$1.5M to support what's coming out of general fund. Helps expand library hours. Will result in half of library locations to set of standardized hours. Arts for Fairfax most of remainder. Conservative on impact on admissions tax. 2021 will have better idea of admissions tax revenue. City-County equalization if passed will allow more taxes, meals tax without referendum, cigarette tax .30 current but if state increases to .60 then county can increase (\$1.20 more tax on each pack.) County would still be lower than Alexandria which is currently \$1.27 per pack.

Economic Opportunity. \$2.11M for three new SACC rooms.

Effective and Efficient Government. \$1.70M for BOS offices and office of elections and additional positions for stormwater with no general fund impact.

Reserves growing so don't have to put as much in. Because of this budget met the 10% reserves target. 1% economic opportunity reserve if board taps into. 5% revenue stabilization used if downturn and rules to match 4% managed reserve (something that happens out of blue). Virus??? July 1- June 30 is fiscal year.

March 10 advertised rate can't go above. Anticipate \$1.18 per \$100 assessed value.

Become involved. Look at Countywide Strategic Plan on website, do census 2020, and attend public budget hearing.

Q: How does census affect County? A: \$1200 per person from Feds per year.

Q : Strategic Plan metrics that budget is based on? Priority outcome areas and indicators on high outcome areas? A: County figured out strategies to focus on with teams. Not enough new money. Must determine what we already have. Don't want website to be numbers without a story. Why up and why down. Lot of strategies. C: Views of residents different depending on where you live; example, transportation.

Q: Regarding percentage increase. Appreciate summary of benefits. Citizens are comfortable if they see services available. Is government efficient and saving? A: Consolidating space not in 2021 but where they are leasing they are making offices smaller to move people out of leased space. Savings recur on lease. Looking for what savings can be found in fringe benefits. Drops in county jail occupancy may be because of diversion first. Areas in IT where there is cost avoidance, not exactly savings but more efficient. Not just a percent but increase in operating. Departments are more creative and with Strategic Plan we can work across agencies boundaries and share resources more efficiently. Employees built plan on top of regular job. They are excited about what changes will happen and benefits for residents. Plan was built with teams. Don't want plan to sit on shelf. A living document. Community feedback and community outreach is necessary. More outreach before plan adopted.

Q: Three cents necessary even if cigarette tax included? A: Lot of ifs involved right now. Cannot change three cents even if State changes city-county tax authority. Interest rates will impact. From State perspective will be in 2022, hopefully, be able to pull down tax rate. (In Alexandria meals and cigarette taxes equal to six cents.)

Q: Real estate owners don't want to carry burden going forward. In years passed when assessments going up cents not added. A: Commercial increase 2.87% equals 19.7% of revenue. Q: Commercial real estate based on vacancies, income properties are generating? A: Vacancies so high lower lease rates to fill. Older commercial places are empty because no one wants. Flight to quality. County looking to repurpose.

### **Fairfax County Public Schools 2021 budget** – Alice Wigington, Budget Director, Fairfax County Public Schools

Move on to FCPS. Speaker Alice Wigington

One page double-sided handout. Began with here funding comes from. \$3.2B general operating includes \$172, 5.8% increase. 70% from County \$2.2B, 25% from State \$778M. 95% from county and state. Small amount from Feds. One time savings is funding available at year end \$24M for 2020. Funding from city of Fairfax (3,000 students) \$50M for students plus operational cost (city has own facilities). Routine maintenance County does.

Highlights. Current year to new. Organized to Strategic Plan goal areas. Cultural change and programs cross areas to be efficient with resources. Four Strategic Plan goal areas are: Student Success, Caring Culture, Premier Workforce, and Resource Stewardship.

Goal 1. Student success. \$2.8M one-to-one device 2020 in HS. Laptop to each with \$50 payment payment waived if free and reduced qualified. Program should expand to middle school after more HS evaluation. \$1.1M in budget for middle school, four positions. Main increase is demographic and enrollment areas in/out birth ratios, etc. Projection is 1400 additional students. Biggest jump in growth is in high school. Not just students coming in but types of students. Increase in special education 3 1/2 % increase, 2% English language learner and largest free-reduced-meal-program 31% (\$58K). Languages accommodating 200 different nationalities. Special populations are more expensive to teach.

Q: Per pupil HS more expensive? Numbers in columns are increases. Where is actual number spent? More perspective needed. A: Elementary most expensive, per pupil \$900M total. Programmatic numbers. Now just line items. This is a projection could change when programs are adjusted.

Special education investment of \$3.5M for new administrative position at elementary school, Special Ed Chair, will add 35 positions 1/2 to 70 schools. Need at elementary level as problems identified at elementary level. Computers cost \$2M to maintain leases on them. PreK and early head start program additions.

Goal 2. Caring Culture. 5% increase in health insurance. Now co-pay, but looking at high deductible option. This is most significant increase, \$13.3M. Substance abuse and mental health support 3.5 positions. Recurring means have to keep paying. Contract simulation type of training. To teach early health intervention.

Goal 3. Premier Workforce. All around compensation increases plus step for all and market rate adjustments. Instructional assistants. VRS (Virginia Retirement Systems) rates 15.6 to 16.2 \$15M for increase. Savings \$19M when older leave.

Goal 4. Resource Stewardship. \$6M placeholder for school board to determine how they want to add to budget that's not already included (Staffing initiatives). Board (new board members) wanted \$11M more only \$6M here. Going to defer amendments until May. Some joint but no overlap. Three additional work sessions scheduled on budget and their amendments. Projects for renovations, additions, early childhood, communications. More staff for board members.

Revenue on state side: House \$9.2M increase compensation incentive 2%. \$9M doesn't cover because 1% increase equals \$25M. Too early on Senate proposal. They would probably cost schools money. Governor on counselors 250 to 1 or 160 counselors so have to watch that because big expenditure.

Q: Major capital investments? A: Northwest new school opening in 2021. McNair site upper and lower like Bailey's which is in Hunter Mill district.

Q: How many new positions in county, schools? A: County total is 177, including 8 police to complete South County Station staffing and 25 fire and rescue. FCPS 402, 325 teachers, based on 1400 increased enrollment projection.

Q: Increase for Strategic Plan, is rate enough to cover? A: Too early to tell. May not be new funding or may be re-shifting or adding to baselines.

Q: LOBs. Not a lot of changes came out of it? A: Guess is that County Executive is wanting to reprioritize funding using the strategic plan as a blueprint. Need to be honest about what required to get there.

Q: How many employees in the county and FCPS? A: FCPS is approximately 24K, County is approximately 13K.

Q: And how many people completed the Strategic Plan Survey? A: Countywide survey was completed by \$17K residents and 1,800 attended the Strategic Plan sessions.

Thank you to speakers. Applause.

**Old Business** – President Barfield updated Federation Legislative package: Two or three legislative issues may be signed by Governor out of 11 submitted. Committee chairs need to monitor their issue(s). Our Federation voice gets heard in the State and County.

**Member Announcements** – Citizen of Year (COY) is May 1. We'll be recognizing two citizens and four retiring supervisors at Springfield Golf and Country Club. Good food and good speakers.

**Adjournment** - Unanimously adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

**Next Meetings** (all meetings start 7:30 PM and are open to the public):

**Board Meeting:**

February 20, Dunn Loring Center

**Membership meetings:**

March 26, vote on the Federation Review of the FCPS and Fairfax County Budget,  
Providence Community Center

**Attachment** - Matthew Dunne biography

**Attachment** to February 27, 2020, Membership Meeting Agenda

**Biography of Matthew Dunne, candidate for Federation 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Matt Dunne previously served as the 1st Vice President of the Federation in 2018-2019.

Matt and his family have lived in Fairfax County since 2004. He and his wife have three children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

Matt is active in the Stratford Landing Citizens Association and serves as the Education Liaison to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations.

Matt is a parent/education advocate who has played a leading role in county-wide campaigns to fully fund FCPS, increase teacher and staff salaries, and protect property values. For the FY17 budget, Mr. Dunne served as Co-Chair for the Friends of FCPS coalition, which included #IamFCPS, FACE (Fairfax Arts Coalition for Education), Fairfax FLAGS (Foreign Language Advocacy for Grade Schools), FEA (Fairfax Education Association), and FCCPTA (Fairfax County Council of PTAs). In particular, he helped to organize a historic rally of 500 citizens at the Fairfax County Government Center, and he organized dozens of speakers to advocate before the Board of Supervisors and School Board. As a result of the coalition's efforts, the Board of Supervisors granted FCPS the largest budget increase in a decade. Subsequently, Mr. Dunne played a leading role in advocating for the 2017 and 2019 school bond referendums.

Matt is an attorney. Since 2002, he has counseled clients on international law, and he has represented clients in high-stakes litigation. He has a J.D. and M.S. with Distinction from Georgetown University and a M.A. and B.A. summa cum laude from Emory University.