

Board Meeting Agenda

7:00 pm, Thursday, February 20, 2025, 4th floor, FCPS Gatehouse Admin Bldg

Attendees – (see Attachment 1)

Call to Order – President 7:10 PM

Old Business –

Approve prior minutes – January 16, 2025

Treasurer report Attachment 2

COY update – Bill presented various venues investigated (all cost more than \$4k budget). Introduced Aida Spalding of Aida's Events, to help research for a better cost effective venue and to assist in planning COY.

New Business –

Nomination Committee – Tim working, candidates to be announced in April.

Membership Committee – Morgan and Sue are sending a Join and Renew letter to 28 communities.

Affordable Housing -

(Time permitting)

Proxy Board email accounts – discussed, being revised by both webmasters

Zoom account in reserve – Bill paid \$159 for a Fed ZOOM account in November before Tim announced all meetings in person so no ZOOM needed. It was used last month Board meeting never-the-less during January inclement weather. Bill not asking for reimbursement but several members present suggested he be reimbursed. Action tables.

Updated Board members, see Attachment 1

Committee Reports:

Budget - (Topic for 2/27 Membership Meeting) – Mbr Meeting speaker is Phil & other spkr on advertised budget for FCPS & Fairfax County; GA discussion on meals tax up to; BOS hearings on 24 & 25 budget plans; May 6 hearings & May 22 BOS adopt budget.

NOTE: Fed Budget Cmte & any Board mbr meeting at David's on March 8 at 10 AM Saturday morning

Link to budget is [FY 2026 Budget Town Hall Meetings | Management and Budget](#)
(Also, see Attachment 7 submitted by Luann regarding County budget presentation by Bryan Hill on Feb 18.)

Environment - none

Education – Tim & Nancy met FCPS Superintendent re: TJHSST and budget release date doesn't provide enough time for citizens to review & comment on FCPS Budget; one penny represents about \$34M, other issues discussed.

Land Use – none

Legislative – Some Federation Legislative package issues will carry over to next year; casinos to next year, K-12 funding still open in both Houses.

Public Safety – Report in Appendix 5; Fire Dept took big funding reduction

Transportation – See Appendix 3

District Council Reports –

Braddock – Mike Perel

Franconia – no rep

Hunter Mill – (no District Council established)

Mason - Mark Crawford

Mount Vernon - Marty Sanchez-Lowery

Providence – no rep

Springfield - Jim Kirkpatrick

Sully – Lewis Grimm – Meeting w Spvsr Smith, good actions; Feb 26 has public safety session ffx Police & state police; will be involved in Budget town hall w/ spvsr & school board; meetings w/ Spvsr smith on activities traffic, accessibility.

Next Meetings –

Next Membership meeting: Feb 27, 2025, Mason District Govt Center

Next Board Meeting: March 20, 2025, 4050 floor FCPS Gatehouse Admin Bldg

Board Meeting: 3rd Thursday every month

Membership meeting: 4th Thursday every month

Adjourn: 9:10 PM

Recorded by: Bill Barfield, recording Secretary, and various member inputs

Attachments:

1. List of Board Members, as of Feb 2025
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Transportation Report
4. Webmaster Report
5. Public Safety Committee Board Report
6. Budget Committee report on County FY2026 Advertised Budget
7. Meeting summary with ZOOM AI Companion

Attachment 1 - Board Members, as of February 16, 2025

Board Member	Attend	District Council Rep.	Standing or Support Committee Position	Elected Position
(vacant)			Citizen Association Services	
(vacant)			Audit	
(vacant)				
Alex Vassalotti			Environment (PENDING)	
Annamarie Swope			Education, SBAAP Adv Cmty	
Anna Dixon			Citizen Assoc Services	
Bill Barfield	X		Legislation, COY, By-Laws	Recording Sec, Past President, Past 2 nd VP
Cary Campbell	X		Transportation	
Charlotte Hannagan	X		WebServices	
Dave Fitzgerald	X		Environmental	
David Edelman			Budget	
Dennis Hays			Library	
Doug Birnie	X		Human Services	
Gabe Goldberg			Public Safety	
Jeff Parnes	X		Transportation, Resolutions, Finance, WebArchives	Treasurer
Jim Kirkpatrick		Springfield	PENDING	
John Jennison			Representative to SCC	Past President
Kathy Kaplan			Library (PENDING)	
Lewis Grimm	X	Sully		
Luann Whittenburg	X			Corresponding Sec.
Mark Crawford	X	Mason		
Marty Sanchez-Lowery	X	Mt. Vernon		
Matt Bell			Land Use	
Mike Fuard			CitizenAssocSvcs (PENDING)	
Mike Perel		Braddock	Human Services	
Morgan Jameson	X		Membership	1 st Vice President
Nancy Trainer	excused		Education	
Patrick Smaldore	X		Public Safety	
Sridhar Ganesan			COY, Nominating	Past President
Sue Kovach Shuman	X		Mantua CA	2 nd Vice President
Tim Thompson	X		Budget, Legislation	President, Past Pres.

Attachment 2 Treasurer's Report

Here are links to this month's treasurer's reports

http://www.fcfa.org/treasurer/20250220_FederationFinancialReports.pdf

http://www.fcfa.org/treasurer/20250220_FederationFinancialReports.xlsx

In summary we've received three community's dues payments and 5 cents in interest.

Our account balance is \$6,410.09

As for membership, although no membership renewal request letter/email has been sent in this, the eighth month of our fiscal year, we have three additional members:

Chesterbrook Woods Civic Association

Chantilly Highlands Homeowners Association (resulting from a dual SDCCA/Federation membership application)

Chantilly Farm Homeowners Association (resulting from a dual SDCCA/Federation membership application)

Attachment 3. Transportation Report

· WMATA's Riders' Advisory Council annual report to the WMATA Board of Directors
The Board asks WMATA's Riders' Advisory Council each year to highlight some of the challenges in the rider experience and solicit solutions from riders. While WMATA's team does an incredible job with their scientific surveys, this report is intended to be a more qualitative product directly from riders.

If you are a WMATA Rider, please fill out this feedback form and distribute it to other WMATA riders in your organization. This is an incredible opportunity for you and your members to share your thoughts about how to improve the system and better serve our community. It is only a few questions and should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

[Survey link](#)

[Last year's annual report](#)

[More about the Riders' Advisory Council](#)

· APPLY NOW!: 2025 Walking College Fellowship!

America Walks is excited to announce that applications to join this year's Walking College fellowship class are open now through the end of February. Now in its tenth year, the Walking College is America Walks' signature training program aimed at strengthening our grassroots partnerships to achieve safer, healthier, more accessible streets and communities.

The six-month, online program is open to those interested in honing their skills and understanding around improving community design to achieve greater livability and access. Participants are paired with Walking College alumni and experienced leaders and peers working across the country. They learn the history of America's transportation landscape, the basics of people-first design and policy, and fundamental leadership

skills. Over the course of the program, fellows also identify an opportunity they hope to tackle in their communities and develop a blueprint for taking meaningful action to make a difference.

We welcome all candidates demonstrating a general understanding of and interest in the importance of walkability and a desire to become more effective to improve walkability. There are no restrictions on age or professional background, but we prioritize those applying in teams of 2-3 people and, this year, those representing rural communities that lack access to places to walk.

The fellowship begins in early May and ends in September. Participants are expected to:

- attend a one-hour online discussion forum meeting with their assigned group once every three weeks
- participate in a virtual coaching session with their mentor once every three weeks
- complete an action plan that outlines a problem and series of steps for improving walkability in their community by the end of the term

If interested, see their [website](#)

January 15 Meeting - Richmond Highway Corridor Updates

On January 15, 2025, Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) hosted a Richmond Highway Corridor Updates meeting. At this meeting, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and VDOT gave a short presentation to provide updates about the Corridor Improvements Project and Richmond Highway BRT. The presentation was followed by an open house. The meeting presentation and the BRT display boards and maps can be found on the BRT [project website](#).

Attachment 4 Webmaster Report

The home page www.fcfa.org has been deactivated. Links to other pages on the site continue to work (see the treasurer reports links above)

Attachment 5 Public Safety Committee Board Report

- Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations Public Safety Program scheduled for April 24, 2025, in the Mason District Governmental Center 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
- Link National Weather Service Forecast Office in Sterling VA
 - [NWS Sterling, VA - Virtual Tour](#)
- Links to the Fairfax County 2026 Budget Forecast, and the Budget Process Timeline
 - [FY 2026 Joint Fiscal Forecast](#)
 - [Budget Process Timeline | Management and Budget](#)

Patrick Smaldore FCFA Public Safety Committee Chair

Attachment 6 Budget Committee Report February 20, 2025 (from Luann)

Budget at a Glance FY 2026 Advertised Budget

Summary: County Executive Bryan Hill presented the County Advertised Budget for FY2026 on February 18, 2025. Links to information on the county website.

- [Presentation of the FY 2026 Advertised Budget Plan](#)
- [Budget At A Glance](#)
- [Agency Reductions](#)
- [Overview](#)
- [Volume 1: General Fund](#)
- [Volume 2: Capital Construction and Other Operating Funds](#)
- [FY 2026 - FY 2030 Advertised Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\)](#)

The budget calls for a 1.5 cent increase on the real estate tax to fund the budget. These funds alternatively could be raised by a Meals Tax in the range of 3-4%. The BOS (Board of Supervisors) will take up the advertised tax rate and the meals tax on March 18th.

To fund priorities, there are reductions to the county budget of nearly \$60 million dollars. This includes 208 positions of which 80 positions are currently filled and the remaining are vacant. The County Executive's intention is that all 80 staff members will be offered other vacant positions in the county. You can look at the details of the reductions in the [Agency Reductions](#) report.

The budget provides an additional transfer of \$118.64 million to the schools. The Superintendent's Advertised Budget for FCPS called for \$268.26 million or 10.4% from last year. The difference between the ask and the proposed by the County Executive is \$149.62 million. The main reason the school was asking for this money was to fund their Collective Bargaining agreement with the teachers' unions of 7%.

Some of the major factors as to why the county is seeing less revenue increases than they want is the decreasing occupancy rate in commercial real estate, the state's underfunding of education to Fairfax County, and moderate growth in the residential real estate market.

The County Executive and members of the BOS pointed out that the recent layoffs and decrease in federal funding was not factored into this budget. We do not yet know the impact, but an estimated 80,000 Federal Workers live in Fairfax and Government Contractors bring in about \$106 billion dollars into the Fairfax economy. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume these events will have a negative impact on the county's revenue going forward.

General Fund Budget Highlights

- ◆ Revenue projections based on Real Estate Tax rate of \$1.14 per \$100 assessed value, an increase of \$0.015 Results in an increase in the average tax bill increase of approximately \$638.39 per owner. Each penny change in the tax rate equals \$79.42 on a taxpayer's bill Projected value of \$0.01 on the Real Estate Tax Rate is \$33.95 million.
- ◆ Includes a 2 percent increase (\$13.03 million) to the Transient Occupancy Tax, half of which will support tourism activities
- ◆ Funds an increase of \$125.3 million, or 4.5%, in transfers to Schools.
- ◆ Funds compensation for General County employees, including performance/merit/ longevity increases, a 2.00% cost of living adjustment, and benchmark adjustments.
- ◆ Fully funds the second year of the Public Safety collective bargaining agreements to Police and Fire.
- ◆ Provides for other limited, targeted investments including 9 new positions to address various needs across the County, including the impacts of inflation, costs associated with new facilities, and support for information technology infrastructure
- ◆ Leaves balance of \$5.62 million for Board's consideration, AKA to spend as the see fit.

Superintendent's budget requested an increase of \$268.26 million, or 10.4%

- This represents the largest school operating budget increase in terms of dollars ever requested.
 - There is an estimated increase of \$23.2 million for the state, but the state budget has not been passed as of the writing of this report.
 - The school has a Collective Bargaining Agreement that provides a 7% raise for all FCPS employees. There is no distinction by grade or class.
 - To fund the Superintendent's' full request of \$268.26 million it would require an additional 4-cents on the real estate tax rate.
- ❖ The budget Funds Collective Bargaining Agreements for
 - IAFF bargaining unit members (Firefighters and E-911 Dispatchers)
Merit increases □
 - 3.1% scale adjustment
 - ❖ SSPBA bargaining unit members (Police Officers)
 - Merit and Longevity increases
 - 2% scale adjustment and 2% cost of living adjustment

Budget proposal includes dedication of additional ¼ penny, or \$8.49 million for affordable housing this will bring the 1¼ pennies, or \$42.44 million. The BOS in the past had made a commitment to 2-cents for affordable housing.

Budget Process Timeline:

February 20: School Board adopts FY 2026 (proposed) Budget Plan

February 25: Joint County/School Budget Committee to discuss FY 2026 budget and tax rate

March 18: Board of Supervisors Advertises FY 2026 tax rate and the Prepared Food and Beverage Tax (aka Meals Tax).

March 18: Board of Supervisors Advertises FY 2025 Third Quarter Review

April 22: School Board Presents FCPS Budget to Board of Supervisors

April 22-24: Board of Supervisors holds public hearings on FY 2026 Budget

May 6: Board of Supervisors marks-up FY 2026 Budget

May 13: Board of Supervisors adopts FY 2026 Budget

May 22: School Board adopts FY 2026 Approved Budget

July 1: FY 2026 Budget Year begins

Key Federation Dates:

February 27, 2025 the schools and county presents their advertised budgets to the Federation General Membership Meeting

Proposed March 8, 2025 10:00 am to 12:00 pm the Budget Committee meets to draft the Federation Resolution.

March 20th – Federation Board reviews and votes on draft FY 2026 Budget Resolution.

March 27th – Federation votes on Budget Resolution at the General Membership meeting.

Attachment 7. Meeting summary from ZOOM AI Companion

(FYI - As reported by AI Companion without verification by Recording Secretary.)

Quick recap

The meeting primarily focused on the use of Zoom for coordinating board meetings, with discussions on the agenda, attendance, and participation. The team also reviewed financial reports and membership updates, explored catering options and venue possibilities for an upcoming event, and considered hiring an event planner for assistance. Lastly, the group discussed the Federation's email usage, the county and school budget discussions, the need for town hall meetings, and the potential deactivation of the Federation's website homepage.

Next steps

- Bill to contact David Fitzgerald to send out the Budget Committee report to members.
- Bill to update the agenda for the next membership meeting with a link to the budget information.
- David Fitzgerald to host a Budget Committee meeting on March 8th at his house.
- Bill to keep board members informed via email about progress or concerns regarding the COI event planner.
- Bill to work with Ada Spalding on arranging the Citizen of the Year banquet.
- Jeff to create an alias for distributing membership forms to relevant officers.
- Morgan to send information about Wildfire steakhouse as a potential venue for the Citizen of the Year banquet.
- Patrick to gather information from the fire department and police department for the budget discussion.
- Nancy or Ann Marie to prepare remarks on behalf of the Education Committee for the School Board budget hearing.
- Bill and David to prepare remarks for the Board of Supervisors budget hearing on behalf of the Federation and Invest in Fairfax Committee respectively.

Summary

Zoom Board Meeting Agenda Discussion

The meeting involved a discussion about the use of Zoom for the board meeting. Bill shared the agenda on the screen, and everyone confirmed they could see it. There were some technical issues with Patrick's connection, but he eventually joined the meeting. The team also discussed the attendance list, with some names being removed or updated. Bill mentioned that he had updated the attendance list as of February 16th. The team also discussed the participation of certain members, with some being confirmed and others pending. The conversation ended with Bill confirming that they had a quorum and were ready to conduct official business.

Federation Finances, Membership, and Sponsorships

In the meeting, Bill led the discussion, with Jeffrey providing the Treasurer's report. The Federation is still in the red, with \$743 and 47 cents in expenses. The income has increased by \$120, and the expenses have not changed since last month. The Federation has received three new memberships this month. There was a discussion about the timing of membership renewals and voting rights. Morgan updated on the status of sending out membership letters and forms. There was also a discussion about the need for more sponsorships and the possibility of joining with Volunteer Fairfax. The conversation ended with a discussion about the criteria for judging awards and the need for more volunteers to solicit sponsorships.

Catering Options and Venue Selection

Bill presents various catering options and venue possibilities for an upcoming event. He discusses the costs associated with the Springfield Golf and Country Club, which has been the previous venue, and shows that with 70 attendees at \$65 per ticket, they would break even. Bill also explores alternative venues such as Celebrate Fairfax, Blenheim historic house, and others, but most are either too expensive or cannot accommodate the required number of people. Morgan suggests Wildfire Steakhouse as a potential option, and Tim is looking into the Vienna firehouse. The group discusses the need to balance costs with the quality of the venue and the importance of attracting attendees based on the honorees. Jeffrey suggests forming a select committee to make the final decision on the venue.

Hiring Event Planner for Banquet

Bill proposes hiring Ada Spaulding, an event planner with 25 years of experience, for \$500 to organize the upcoming banquet. Jeffrey, as treasurer, opposes the idea, citing past successful self-organization and current low funds. Dave supports outsourcing to focus on other tasks, while Morgan provides insights on the current challenging fundraising climate. The board discusses potential sponsorship opportunities, with Bill suggesting local businesses could be approached for smaller contributions. No decision is reached, but Bill reiterates his belief that hiring a consultant would be beneficial.

Citizen of the Year Award Discussion

In the meeting, Bill discussed the upcoming nominations for the Citizen of the Year award and the need to confirm the nominees from 2020. Jeffrey suggested honoring retired supervisors from 2023, a suggestion Bill agreed to. The team also discussed the possibility of hiring Ada Spaulding to arrange the Citizen of the Year banquet, with the motion passing after a vote. Bill will negotiate with Ada and provide updates to the board. Morgan reported no changes in the membership, and Bill mentioned that he would be relieved of the Nominating Committee role.

Federation's Email Usage and Budget

Bill discussed the Federation's email usage, suggesting the removal of unused emails. He also mentioned a Zoom account that he had paid for, which was used for the meeting. Jeffrey made a motion to reimburse Bill for the Zoom account, which was seconded by Dave. Bill agreed to this but suggested that the decision should be made by the next President and Administration. Bill also discussed the Federation's legislative and budget issues, including the delay of the casino bill and the ongoing discussion on K-12 funding. Patrick reported on the public safety program and the budget requests for FY26. Jeffrey shared his volunteer activities and Bill mentioned the absence of Nancy and Ann Maurice due to illness and a family event.

County and School Budget Discussions

Bill provides an update on the county and school budget discussions. The School Board is voting on their advertised budget, requesting nearly \$300 million more than the county executive's proposed allocation of \$118 million. Key issues include a 7% salary increase for school employees, concerns about insufficient time for public review of the \$2.1 billion budget request, and potential tax increases to cover funding gaps. The county executive proposed a 1.5% increase in the mill rate, which would result in an average \$638 tax increase per household. Bill suggests offering one-time bonuses instead of permanent salary increases to manage costs. The budget process is still ongoing, with final votes not expected until April for the county and May for schools.

Town Hall Meetings and Budget Committee

In the meeting, the team discussed the upcoming town hall meetings for the budget and other related matters. They also discussed the need for a Budget Committee meeting to put together their stance on the budget before presenting it to the membership. The conversation ended with a reminder that all Board meetings would be held at the Fairfax County Public Schools headquarters. Towards the end, there were concerns raised about the deactivation of the Federation's website homepage, but all other links were functioning correctly.

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