

Board Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm, Thursday, March 21, 2024

Join FED BOARD Zoom Meeting TONIGHT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81637009871?pwd=bjJPT2FiS1g4NW1KTjgzd1V5S0xJZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 3700 9871

Passcode: fedboard

Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 816 3700 9871

Passcode: 13270294

Call to Order/Welcome – Sridhar Ganesan, President: 7:05 PM called to order.

Meeting Minutes – February 2024 Board meeting minutes approved (one small edit).

Administrative Topics –

- Treasurer – Financial report: Income for year is \$480.48 from dues and interest. Current balance is \$7,133.32.

Old Business –

1. COY – Bill Barfield, Sridhar Ganesan. Proposed COY every 2nd year. Four past- presidents concur (Barfield, Parnes, Jennison, Pierce). Maybe join with Volunteer Fairfax since many sponsorships moved from Fed to this organization. Another year go/no go but funding is issue, or eliminate COY banquet but needs By-Laws amendment. Send suggestions & opinions to Sridhar. If COY stopped, Fed loses “credibility”. One draw for attendance is SGA for retired supervisors. Perhaps Fed need to increase COY fee or reassess annual dues as funds sources. Also, COY needs members and Board to attend. Venue lately is very good and makes Fed “look good”. Biannual COY is good but rename from “banquet” (old term). Use a Community Center to help lower costs? Venue/meals and award trophies are the cost drivers. W/r membership, a notice was sent December by Jeff for renewal this year. Bill to send Jeff the County website for all Fairfax communities to use/update for Fed membership blast.
2. Officer Recruitment – Bill Barfield. Bill asked Matt Bell for candidate as Land Use chair; appeared enthusiastic; Jeff to inform him OK. Audit Committee needs assignment. Hard to find candidates for the six elected positions.

New Business –

1. Budget Committee – FCPS and Fairfax County budget resolution. Nancy and David entertained comments and amendments. Nancy did the on-line editing via

shared screen of the resolution text. Much discussion about Meals Tax, including feasible revenue earned for Fairfax and the trivial cost added to each meals purchase. Funds are generated by a total discretionary tax. BPOL tax discussed. Employee compensation, Public Safety small edits, Education text accepted, Health and Human Services text accepted after discussion and clarifications by Committee with David; Public Safety text accepted. Draft accepted for minor edits before sending to President then the Membership next week.

District Council Reports – (send soft copy to Recording Secretary): None

Committee Reports – (send soft copy to Recording Secretary)

Environment Committee - None

Public Safety Committee – See Attachment 2

Transportation Committee – Jeff mentioned that MWTA is meeting.

Education Committee – Letter forwarded to School Board (see Attachment 4).

Favorable response received from Moon and Reid.

Human Services Committee - New member Marty Sanchez-Lowery.

Budget Committee – Above Budget Resolution undergoing minor revisions, will be ready for Membership meeting by next Tuesday for distro to Membership.

Next Meetings –

Membership meeting: March 28, 2024 – Virtual

Topic – Fed Resolution on FCPS and Fairfax County 2025 budgets

Board Meeting: April 18, 2024

Membership Meeting: April 25 – Legislators Report

Membership Meeting: May – Elections

Board & Membership: June – Federation picnic; swearing-in of new officers, venue to be reserved.

Adjourn: 8:35 PM

Recorded by: Bill Barfield, Past President

Attachment(s):

1. Board Meeting Attendees
2. Public Safety Committee report
3. meeting saved chat
4. Education Committee letter to School Board

Attachment 1 - Board Meeting Attendees

| Board Member | Attend | Distric Council Rep. | Committee or Support Position | Elected Position |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| (vacant) | | | Citizen Association Services | |
| (vacant) | | | Finance | |
| (vacant) | | | | 2 nd Vice President |
| Alejandro Mattiuzzo | | | Audit | |
| Alex Vassalotti | | | Environment | |
| Annmarie Swope | | | Education, SBAAP Adv Cmty | |
| Bill Barfield | X | | Legislation, COY, Webpage, Nominating | Past President |
| Cary Campbell | X | | Transportation | Recording Secretary |
| Catherine Mortensen | | | Audit | |
| Charlotte Hannagan | | | Webmaster | |
| David Edelman | X | | Budget | |
| Dennis Hays | | | Library | |
| Doug Birnie | X | | Human Services | |
| Gabe Goldberg | X | | Public Safety | |
| Jeff Parnes | X | | Transportation, Webmaster, Resolutions | Treasurer |
| Jim Kirkpatrick | | Springfield | | |
| John Jennison | | | Representative to SCC | Past President |
| Kathy Kaplan | | | Library | |
| Lewis Grimm | X | Sully | | |
| Mark Crawford | X | Mason | | |
| Marty Sanchez-Lowery | X | Mt. Vernon | | |
| Matt Bell | | | Land Use | |
| Mike Fuard | | | Citizen Association Services | |
| Mike Perel | X | Braddock | Human Services, Nominating | |
| Morgan Jameson | | | | Corresponding Sec. |
| Nancy Trainer | X | | Education, Nominating | |
| Patrick Smaldore | X | | Public Safety, Nominating | |
| Sridhar Ganesan | X | | | President |
| Tim Thompson | | | Budget, Legislation, Membership | 1 st Vice President, Past Pres. |
| Larry Good | X | | Guest, Mantua CA | |
| Matt Mullin | X | | Guest, Mantua CA | |
| Sue Shuman | X | | Guest, Mantua CA | |

Attachment 2 – Public Safety Committee Report

- Provided the Public Safety Committee FY 2025 Budget Resolution
 - Reviewed the Fairfax County FY 2025 Advertised Budget Plan Overview
 - Attended the March 17th Federation Budget Committee Meeting

Attachment 3. Meeting saved chat (private chats removed)

19:30:54 From Sue Kovach Shuman To Everyone:

Echo-ing what Nancy is saying on getting more member assns.

19:35:08 From Mike Perel To Everyone:

just noticing that one need in updating the website is the section on membership.

Can't click on membership application or paypal payment, for example.

19:43:31 From Sue Kovach Shuman To Everyone:

AI will replace us all! Go for it.

19:54:39 From Nancy Trainer To Everyone:

Great point, Jeff.

19:56:40 From Marty Sanchez-Lowery To Everyone:

Agree to lobby for it in this cycle even if not implemented until 2025. MVCCA is in favor & said so at our Town Hall Budget Meeting

20:51:58 From David Edelman To Everyone:

You're talking about salary compression when newer staff with same credentials get paid more than current staff. Due to the competitive labor market.

20:53:15 From David Edelman To Everyone:

In another. County and maybe PWC.

21:10:29 From Sue Kovach Shuman To Everyone:

We have a planning commissioner coming to our Mantua Citizens' Assn. meeting March 27 to explain the difference between workforce and affordable housing and also the county's housing goals. If you would like to attend, email me at queenofcheaptravel@gmail.com and I will send you info.

21:11:26 From David Edelman To Everyone:

IT IS AN AGENCY

21:11:43 From David Edelman To Everyone:

WRONG

Attachment 4. Education Committee letter to School Board (next page)

March 5, 2024

Dr. Reid and Members of the School Board:

We would like to call your attention to some recent consequential administrative decisions which we believe to have taken place in the absence of proper due process and stakeholder engagement, and which raise questions about the quality of the analysis on which they were based. We urge you to **review the substantive matters which we are raising with you today, while implementing a decision-making framework** which will, in the long run, prevent these kinds of problems from arising. The most recent Virginia Department of Education School Efficiency Review in 2013 advised FCPS to implement just such a decision-making framework, to improve its management practices.¹ We are concerned that FCPS' failure to heed this advice is resulting in educational policies and practices that are not evidence-based, implemented with fidelity, and/or properly monitored. Today we specifically mention the following examples:

- **New Barriers to AP-Level Courses in World Languages**—In the fall of 2023 FCPS changed its operational practice regarding the sequencing of World Language courses. Previously, students had been permitted to progress from a Level 3 World Language course directly to that language's AP-Level course at many high schools, and notably this sequence was the norm (rather than the exception) at TJHSS&T. Today, the FCPS course catalog lists all AP World Language courses with either a Level 4 course or an equivalency test as prerequisites. We have been told by the Instructional Services Department that these changes were made to align curriculum content more accurately with our surrounding Virginia divisions. We are puzzled that FCPS would find such a rationale compelling. FCPS operates differently from its surrounding jurisdictions on numerous fronts, and rightly so, given that our population's needs and expectations are unique.

This practice is inappropriate for our native speakers and for our advanced learners, who should have access to a World Language progression which meets their needs. It also takes the AP World Languages program out of play for any student who didn't enroll in Level 1 of a language in middle school, which diminishes students' ability to test out of or move forward more quickly with language requirements in college. We will also mention that the College Board recommends that students advance to an AP-level course in their fourth year of study. Students at TJHSS&T continue to be permitted to follow that progression, raising concerns about equitable access to appropriate instruction across the remainder of FCPS' high schools. Finally, we find these new barriers misplaced in light of our Portrait of a Graduate's focus on developing "Global Citizens." We do not understand why FCPS would prevent students from pursuing World Languages with as much enthusiasm and rigor as possible.

We note that this practice was not only implemented without significant public discussion—including consultation with the School Board—but also without input from the K-12 Coordinator of Advanced Academic Programs (AAP). The AAP's services in high school consist of honors courses, the AP and IB programs, and dual enrollment courses.

- **Policies Governing Secondary Grading and Assessment**—At a November 15, 2022 School Board work session, FCPS staff and the School Board reviewed a series of instructional and grading practices which were shifted during the Coronavirus pandemic and/or which had been implemented inconsistently.

¹ Gibson Consulting Group. "School Efficiency Review of Fairfax County Public Schools." September, 2013. <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1088/637946304800800000>

Following FCPS staff’s presentation, Board members expressed skepticism that staff had sufficiently paid attention to experimental design in its analysis, noting that schools made multiple changes simultaneously, and that the metrics shown were insufficient to judge success. Staff agreed to create a Secondary Assessment and Grading Committee to further gather and analyze data. The committee’s scope of work includes the practice of using 50 as a minimum score; the treatment of late work; rolling vs. quarterly gradebooks; policies regarding reassessments, and standards-based grading.

We appreciate and support FCPS’ continued analytic work on this important topic. We urge the recently elected School Board to refine its policies in light of the recommendations of the Secondary Assessment and Grading Committee, with the goal of ensuring consistency throughout FCPS.

Overall, however, we observe that the lack of a decision-making framework has led to a piecemeal, ad-hoc process on this topic especially since the pandemic. Schools have shifted their assessment and grading policies without extensive stakeholder communication and engagement, without showing that such policies are based on sound pedagogical analysis or best practices, and without tracking tools to measure success.

We believe that a decision-making framework would have clarified the locus of such policy decisions, leading to smoother implementation but also to improved accountability.

We agree with Dr. Reid that FCPS ought to shift toward a true school system, rather than a system of schools. For this shift to be successful, a decision-making framework is essential in ensuring that both individual schools and the school system utilize practices and policy based on the best available evidence combined with rigorous analysis. In the short term, we urge FCPS to revisit both of these substantive matters in a deliberative process with full stakeholder engagement. In the longer term, the implementation of a decision-making framework can help FCPS achieve improvements in the project management process and, importantly, achieve better substantive results for our students.

Sincerely,

The President and Education Chairs of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

/signed/
Sridhar Ganesan
President

/signed/
Annmarie Swope
Co-Chair
Education Committee

/signed/
Nancy Trainer
Co-Chair
Education Committee