

FCDC Education Committee Proposed Resolution Regarding Equal Opportunity

Whereas, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provide educational opportunities to a student body of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, and different levels of skill, ability, and motivation; and

Whereas, those diversities in ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, and different levels of skill, ability, and motivation are not uniformly distributed across the County and among the FCPS schools; and

Whereas, the goal of equality of opportunity has been a hallmark of Democratic Party philosophy for more than sixty (60) years.

Therefore, be it resolved that FCDC supports efforts of the Fairfax County School Board to provide operating and capital resources to its diverse student body through means that ensure an equal opportunity for all students to reach their full educational potential.

FCDC Education Committee Proposed Resolution Regarding FCPS Disciplinary System

Whereas, students in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) may not fully comprehend the long-term consequences of their actions; and

Whereas, most students are minors; and

Whereas, school personnel have the obligation not only to protect the interests of the student body as a whole, but also the interests of the student accused of a disciplinary infraction; and

Whereas, parental/guardian guidance is essential when any school administrator (including School Resource Officer or Student Education Officer) interviews a student for potential disciplinary infractions; and

Whereas, parental/guardian support is essential to helping students resolve issues during the disciplinary process.

Therefore, be it resolved that FCDC supports a fair and objective disciplinary process that assures rights of representation, recordation of all proceedings, and a hearing before a disinterested party. FCDC also supports parental/guardian notification and participation in all stages of FCPS student disciplinary proceedings. FCDC supports disciplinary decisions that are fair, impartial, without prejudice and take into account the total well being of the student, his/her rights and the community's interest in safe schools.

FCDC Education Committee Proposed Resolution Regarding Transparency

Whereas, School Board members are elected representatives of all Fairfax County citizens; and

Whereas, Fairfax County citizens are among the most well educated in the world; and

Whereas, Fairfax County citizens need to be informed of current issues being considered by the School Board; and

Whereas, multiple sources of information can be helpful in formulating policy; and

Whereas, the reasoning School Board members use is just as important to Fairfax County citizens as the conclusions drawn and decisions made; and

Whereas, citizens' confidence in their representatives depends on the timely, truthful, and complete disclosure of information upon which policy decisions are based or justified; and

Whereas, the Fairfax County citizens should not have to rely on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to obtain the information necessary to intelligently participate in School Board deliberations; and

Whereas, methods for Fairfax County citizens to raise issues that can improve Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) should be readily apparent and accessible.

Therefore, be it resolved that FCDC supports transparent and open governance of FCPS by the School Board.

Be it further resolved that FCDC supports the use of multiple sources of information in decision making. This includes seeking out information that is not only supplied by the FCPS central office staff, but also from parent and other community advocates, academia, and FCPS teachers, administrators, and employee groups.

Be it further resolved that FCDC supports meaningful collaboration by the School Board with Fairfax County citizens: in identifying issues for the School Board's attention and deliberation; by providing timely opportunities for input; by facilitating citizens' access to information without requiring use of FOIA requests; and by conducting deliberations in recorded open session.