

**Resolution
Regarding the FCPS Superintendent Search Process**

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is considered one of the most outstanding and diverse school systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, the quality of Fairfax County schools impacts the entire quality of life and economic vitality of our county; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board has affirmed the value of stakeholder collaboration with expectations that the superintendent will, among other goals “maintain an organizational culture that reasonably includes people in decisions that affect them” and assures “appropriate input and ongoing, two-way, strategic, and meaningful dialog between the district and stakeholders to reinforce a collaborative relationship;” and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board has stated: “A dynamic partnership among students, parents, teachers, staff members, and the community is critical to exceptional student achievement;” and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board has acknowledged: “Our diversity creates resilient, open, and innovative citizens of the global community;” and

WHEREAS, the success of our diverse school system depends upon a superintendent with a demonstrated track record of success working with socioeconomically, racially and ethnically diverse communities;

WHEREAS, Fairfax County citizens’ confidence in the School Board and superintendent of FCPS is critical to continuing success of its world class school system; and

WHEREAS, despite its overall excellence, FCPS continues to face critical challenges; and

WHEREAS, the current FCPS superintendent has announced her resignation effective December 2016 and it is expected that the School Board will soon begin considering the process for replacing her; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 superintendent selection process, which included a citizen advisory group to help develop a portrait of the desired Superintendent, in addition to an online survey for the public to participate, is considered by many stakeholders to be a sufficiently open model for the selection of a new superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the previous search process resulted in the hiring of a Superintendent who has done an exceptional job working with the diverse Fairfax County community, and with the support of the Democratic members of the School Board has brought long-needed reforms to FCPS; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the School Board members involved in the 2013 process remain in office; and

WHEREAS, nine of the 12 School Board members are Democrats endorsed by FCDC, and FCDC trusts them to do their jobs, as they have done, consistent with the principles of the Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County's diverse stakeholders are actively engaged and reasonably expect to be informed of, and meaningfully involved in the process by which the next Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools is chosen; and

WHEREAS, significant portions of these stakeholders within the Fairfax County community feel shut out of the process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) urges the Fairfax County School Board to engage the community directly, prior to commencement of the formal Superintendent search, on the qualities and characteristics our community desires in its next superintendent; and be it further

RESOLVED that FCDC urges the School Board to communicate proactively with all stakeholders, representing the full diversity of Fairfax County, regarding the superintendent search, using an extensive range of communication strategies; and be it further

RESOLVED that FCDC urges the School Board to engage in a process for the selection of the next Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools that is as open and transparent as possible, given the legitimate confidentiality needs of potential candidates, using the 2013 process as a model.