

ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, December 4, 2007, 7:30 PM
Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington
1701 North George Mason Drive

1. **7:30pm** - Pledge of Allegiance (formal start of meeting)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (November 13, 2007)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Selection – Banquet Awards Committee
6. Special Rules for School Board Program
7. **8:00 – 9:15 pm**
Arlington School Board Program
 - School Board Members Presentation – Member priorities with request to address ACCF submitted issues and questions (30 minutes) – (See Page 2)
 - Questions and Answers of School Board (35 minutes) – (See Special rules - Page 1)
 - School Board Concluding Remarks (10 minutes)
8. **9:15 – 9:30 pm** – Resolution on Snow Removal (See Page 1)
9. **9:45 – 9:50** – New Business & Other Announcements
10. **9:50 pm** – Adjournment

Membership Dues Reminder

If you have not yet paid (Due by yearend), please mail a check and the form sent with the notice to the Treasurer, Eileen Williams, 4141 North Henderson Rd, #1226, Arlington, VA 22203. In event of misplaced forms, remit a check with an attached note specifying your name, association, and address.

Snow Removal Resolution

A proposal for a resolution addressing snow removal for residential, commercial and public sidewalks was discussed and assigned to the Public Services Committee at the November meeting. Any proposed action/resolution will be published on the ACCF Website prior to the December meeting.

School Board Q & A Rules

By Executive Committee

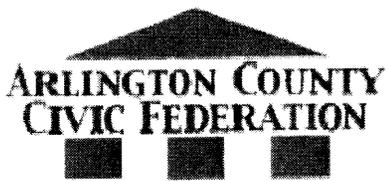
The Executive Committee has decided on question and answer rules for the Arlington School Board program. These rules will be in effect during the planned 35 minute question and answer period set forth in the agenda. The purpose of these rules is to maximize participation by the delegates and alternates. Even with the rules below, given the planned time, it is most likely that only 10 to 12 questions can be addressed. These rules are as follows:

1. Participation – Only Delegates or Alternates will be permitted to ask questions of the Arlington School Board at the December 4th meeting.
2. Questions will be limited to a maximum of 30 seconds only. Delegates or Alternates should minimize comments and make sure they pose a question. Compound and follow-up questions by the same individual will not be allowed.
3. The School Board response(s) to any individual question will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.
4. Timing will be rigidly enforced – the moderator will cut-off either questions or responses exceeding the timeframes set forth above.

Tidbits

New activities or actions, considered or approved, by the Executive Committee since the November meeting are itemized. Unless specifically noted, material has been posted to our Web site. Please refer to that resource for further details where noted:

1. **Appointments** – None this period – *However we desperately need* both a By-Laws Chair and an ACCF representative to Arlington's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Committee (call, email or write Larry Mayer with your interest)
2. **Increased Electronic Communication** – Clipboards will continue for Email address OR, better yet send it to us!
3. **Transfer of Density Rights (TDR)** – (for latest activity see the ACCF Web site)
4. **Banquet** – Banquet is March 28, 2008 at the Hyatt Arlington. Stay tuned for the keynote Speaker announcement.



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Arlington County Civic Federation
C/o Lawrence R. Mayer
3108 Fourth Street North
Arlington, VA 22201-1614

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January Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2008

The Major Topic: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
(Note County board Meeting Scheduled for February)

December News deadline: December 18, 2007

School Board Posed Questions

By Executive Committee

As part of the invitation to the Arlington County School Board, the Executive Committee submitted a set of policy related questions to the Board. The focus on policy is because that is what the Board addresses – versus the operational activities addressed by the Superintendent and staff. We expect these policy oriented questions will be addressed during the School Board presentation. The “Issue” areas followed by the specific policy oriented questions are as follows:

1) **Issue area: Capital Projects – Plans in context of bond and debt service capacity**

Questions: What is the funding gap between the identified project needs (Thomas Jefferson School/Community Center, Career Center/Library, Wakefield, major HVAC projects, others?) and the funding available? What are your assumptions for bond request capacity, debt service, and pay/go maintenance in the context of the County bonding capacity and the increasing impact of debt service on the operating budget? What economies or other strategies are you recommending?

2) **Issue area: Minority Achievement Gaps**

Questions: In March 2006 the Civic Federation Schools Committee presented the School Board with a study of minority achievement results. Based on this report and subsequent data, there appears to be a core of 15% - 20% of students who do not pass the annual SOL tests. Plan projections indicate expected progress will take almost a decade. Is this projected progress acceptable? What information can you provide on the effectiveness of strategies to improve this performance? What is the evaluation of the 6th grade reading program? What is the status of the long standing program to improve the ability to

track individual student progress longitudinally? How do you propose to improve results?

3) **Issue area: Operating Budget - Constraints, Projections, Priorities**

Question: A number of factors – increasing debt service, significant set asides for annual retiree health benefits, built in salary and benefit increases - appear to be likely to increase demands on the operating budget at the same time as the indicators are that the projected revenue growth will be considerably reduced. How do you assess the future budget context constraints and, based on your projections, what are your strategies and priorities?

4) **Issue area: Crowding – Boundaries, Program factors, Enrollment distribution,**

Question: The issue of “crowding” based on uneven enrollment distribution is a recurring issue with many contributing factors including changes in capacity assumptions, growth of new programs like all-day kindergarten and pre-schools, and impact of family housing patterns related to choice of schools/school programs and space and affordability. What solutions are you willing to consider that mitigate the need for constant boundary changes – would you consider expanding popular programs like ATS to schools with capacity? Operating popular non-core programs like pre-kindergarten in schools with capacity in order to draw enrollment? Expansion of the Team concept to other areas of the County? Are there other solutions and considerations you would like the task force and public to consider?

5) **Issue area: Recreation and Green space – Civic Federation Resolution**

Question: The ACCF resolution dated April 2007 (attached) and on the CivFed.org web site states “be it resolved that Arlington County Civic Federation requests that: Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County work together to preserve and maintain the green space and active recreation areas at Rosslyn Highlands Park, as well as pedestrian access, and to restore and maintain Wilson School’s athletic fields, to conform with the PSMP and to recognize that all Arlington residents need recreation areas.” What is your position or response to the ACCF resolution calling on APS to restore and preserve the green space at Wilson School?