

# Report - Public Services Committee

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Arlington County Civic Federation calls on the Arlington, Virginia County Board, County Manager, School Board, and School Superintendent to meet to determine if there would be cost savings and service improvements from combining common communication and information technology services and if so to implement necessary actions as soon as possible.*

The Public Services Committee, to which was referred the motion relating to combining common county and schools communication and information technology systems, reports it with the recommendation that it be adopted (as listed on the back of this page).

Mike Kerley, Chair (Arlington Forest), Robert Atkins (Arlington County Taxpayers Association), Stan Karson (Radnor/Ft. Myer Heights), Amy Levin (Aurora Highlands), Larry Mayer (Lyon Park), Jim Pebley (Waycroft-Woodlawn), Jackie Snelling (Lyon Village), and Eileen Williams (League of Women Voters)

The motion was introduced by Joe Pelton, delegate from Chain Bridge Forest and Chair of the Arlington County Information Technology Advisory Commission, at the April 7, 2009 Civic Federation meeting. The committee studied the motion under the portion of its jurisdiction that goes to “organization, administration, and the procedures of local government.”

The issue the motion raises is should we ask our county and school governments to get together at a leadership level to figure out if they can save money and improve service by working together. The committee found that, while the issue and its potential opportunity to discover savings has been extensively considered by county and school board members individually, relevant advisory commissions, and county and schools senior IT staff, the question to undertake a proper study and implement necessary actions needs to be considered at the very top levels – i.e. by both Boards and their Manager and Superintendent.

In an effort to establish and verify facts and fully appreciate the issue’s background, committee members extensively discussed the issue (in person, over the telephone, and by email) among themselves, with senior county and school staff, the chair and a commissioner of the Information Technology Advisory Commission. In addition, the committee reviewed relevant state policy and county and school documents dating to 2001.

The committee decided not to broaden the motion to include reviewing the revenue sharing agreement or calling for specific actions or solutions. Rather, the motion recommended by the committee simply asks the county board, county manager, school board, and school superintendent to get together to determine if there would be cost savings and service improvements from combining common communication and information technology services.

# Motion

**WHEREAS**, cost savings and service improvements could result from the county government and school system combining common communication and information technology services; and

**WHEREAS**, economy of scale has proven successful between the county government and the constitutional offices; and

**WHEREAS**, potential cost savings and service improvements could make a positive, substantial impact to the 2011 budget.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Arlington County Civic Federation calls on the Arlington, Virginia County Board, County Manager, School Board, and School Superintendent to meet to determine if there would be cost savings and service improvements from combining common communication and information technology services and if so to implement necessary actions as soon as possible.

