



Resolution: Increasing Capacity of Arlington County Schools

Whereas Arlington Public Schools enrollment grew in the 2014-2015 School Year by 1,213 students (a 5.2% increase) and has expanded by 4,296 students in the past five years (a 21% increase).

Whereas most schools in Arlington are overcrowded and this trend is interfering with the education of our children;

Whereas the 2015-2024 CIP fails to generate sufficient seats for students, 4,002 seats will be added leaving the county short by thousands of seats in 2024. Projections by the Civic Federation Schools Committee show an even greater shortage of seats.

Whereas APS already deploys 124 "relocatable" classrooms that accommodate 3,000 students; and deployment of additional relocatables comes at steep environmental, green-space and recreation costs and does not address the capacity needs of cafeterias, hallways, lockers, art rooms, bathrooms, music rooms and gyms;

Whereas APS is exploring non-capital options as described in the recently released report Master Planning Committee of APS, (http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/110/APS%20MPC_Report.pdf), non-capital options will be necessary to help meet the future capacity needs of the school system, but will not suffice on their own;

Whereas Arlington Public Schools is approaching a County Board imposed 10% debt-service limit thereby rendering bond revenue insufficient for increasing enrollment.

Whereas Arlington County is not using options such as developer contributions (proffers), and public-private partnerships to free up resources for school construction and has not implemented temporary growth limitations on development;

The Civic Federation hereby resolves that

The Arlington County Board and the Arlington School Board must lower the cost per seat of new construction and implement non-capital options, and begin a discussion to identify new resources, financial tools, and deferments of county board investments to meet the challenge of increasing school capacity while maintaining existing infrastructure.

Adopted June 2, 2015