

## **Schools Committee Proposed Resolution [May 2015]**

**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 are therefore having deleterious effects on 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** non-capital options, some of which are described in the recently release report from the Master Planning Committee of APS,

([http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/110/APS%20MPC\\_Report.pdf](http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/110/APS%20MPC_Report.pdf))

will be necessary to help meet the future capacity needs of the school system, they will not suffice on their own;

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**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 tools such as developer contributions (proffers), public-private partnerships, higher debt service limits, temporary growth limitations on development, to free up resources for school construction.

***The Arlington County Civic Federation hereby resolves that*** The Arlington County Board and the Arlington School Board must bring down the cost per seat of new construction 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;