



May 14, 2026

Ms. Bethany Zecher Sutton, Chair
Arlington School Board
Syphax Education Center
2110 Washington Blvd., Suite 260
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear Chair Zecher Sutton and Members of the School Board,

During our most recent membership meeting on May 12, the Arlington County Civic Federation resoundingly approved a resolution put forth by the Schools Committee concerning the Arlington Public Schools (APS) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the funding of those projects. The full text of the resolution is attached and available on the Civic Federation web site, civfed.org.

The resolution is based upon an understanding that projected costs to address APS capital needs exceed projected funding in future bonds. We would like to see details on the priorities that are included in funding amount of the CIP (years 1-10), as well as those that do not make the cut and are outside the projected funding amount (years 11+). We understand that enrollment figures, as well as the costs of construction have changed greatly since some of the current plans were developed.

We recognize and appreciate that you face very difficult choices to prioritize and allocate spending, so the Civic Federation asks for clarity and transparency regarding your basis for the choices you are making. We would like to better understand what work does or doesn't get funded and why, as well as alternatives considered. During normal budget years and even more so in the current tight funding environment, the community deserves to understand the tradeoffs and priorities related to hundreds of millions of dollars in County bond funding that commits taxpayers for decades into the future. The text of the resolution suggests a list of factors to show related to capital project decisions.

The Civic Federation has also taken the position that it may consider endorsement of a bond proposal contingent on the transparency and detail presented in the approved CIP. The Civic Federation has long supported our schools and hopes more explicit communication with the community will help raise awareness of work that directly fosters healthy learning environments across the system.

Civic Federation leadership and the Schools Committee welcome the opportunity to continue to discuss these critical issues as more information becomes available. Our point of contact for this resolution and the ongoing conversation is our Schools Committee Chair, Todd Truitt, schools.chair@civfed.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N.J. Giacobbe, Jr." in a cursive style.

Nicholas J. Giacobbe, Jr.
President

CC: Arlington County Board
Civic Federation Board of Directors
Civic Federation Schools Committee