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Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Kathy Smith

**Fairhill Elementary School and Poplar Tree Elementary School Named
2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools**

Background:

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors high performing schools and schools making exemplary progress toward closing achievement gaps. Fairhill Elementary was recognized for progress toward closing achievement gaps. Poplar Tree Elementary was recognized for overall achievement.

Fairhill Elementary is represented by a diverse student body that includes speakers of more than 30 languages. Teachers use data led by an instructional coach and administrators to meet the needs of their students. There are programs in a Learning Lab providing individualized reading instruction, a Before School Learning Academy to prepare for the Virginia Standards of Learning tests, and mentoring programs to support students in traditionally underserved groups who are referred by teachers or parents, and sixth graders team up with students in grades K-3.

Poplar Tree Elementary was one of the first schools in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to participate in the FCPS on program. They have assigned personal devices to all students and engaging instructional staff in professional development to help them bring this technology into the classroom. The result is a shift to a student-centered learning environment. Students have new leadership opportunities and are engaged in developing both creative and critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills.

Motion:

Chairman, I move we recognize Fairhill Elementary School and Poplar Tree Elementary School as leaders that implemented programs to widen the circle of opportunity for their students.