

Monday, March 14, 2022

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- Deborah Hammer, Chair, Mount Vernon District
- Brandis Ruise, Vice Chair, Hunter Mill District
- Judith Turcott, Secretary, City of Fairfax
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church
- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Lee District
- Diane Monnig, Providence District
- Jamie Lynne Bruen, Sully District
- Melandee Jones Canaday, At-Large
- Benjamin Gibbs, At-Large
- Andrew Magill, At-Large

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- Mary Pauline Jones, Springfield District- Excused
- Mason District, Vacant
- At-large, Vacant

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Karen Kelly (DFS staff), Delali Osei-Boateng (DFS staff), Rose Asuquo (Libraries), Courtney Arroyo (OEM), Lori Daly (DSB Loudon), Joan Ehrlich (public).

The board conducted a wholly electronic meeting as the COVID-19 pandemic made it unsafe to physically assemble a quorum in one location or to have the public present.

Board members and staff support accessed the meeting via the Zoom web platform. All board members stated calling from their home district.

Members of the public also accessed the meeting via Zoom.

Minutes and Agenda:

1. **Call to order 7 p.m.** Roll call was done to establish that a quorum was present and that all could hear. A script was shared about the state of emergency necessitating a virtual meeting. We did have a quorum for this meeting.
2. **Approval of Previous (February 2022) minutes.** Diane moved to approve the February minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.
3. **Public Comment.**

Lori Daly: Chair of Loudon County' DSB- Lori introduced herself and stated she wanted to observe to understand what the board was doing in Fairfax County.

Courtney Arroyo: Mentioned that Office of Emergency Management would soon be advertising a vacancy for her old position.

Joan Ehrlich: Introduced herself as the former Director of Disability Services for a local university and stated she currently works for the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons. She is taking a college program and as part of her practicum she is investigating disability services and how it works in Fairfax County. She would like to connect with anyone interested in talking to her about disability services within the county. She will connect with Claudia and provide her contact information and anyone on the board who is interested can feel free to contact her.

Meeting Items:

Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget Overview

Claudia provided a presentation about the FY 2023 proposed budget. She highlighted the items that seemed of particular interest to the board, specifically, those pertaining to Health and Human Services, as well as Emergency Services. Claudia reviewed and explained the information contained in a budget chart she prepared for the board. This document is included as part of the March board packet.

Courtney asked for clarification regarding the difference between mandated and non-mandated services. Claudia explained that mandated services are those that the county might be obligated to provide via a state or federal mandate.

Selection of Items for FY 2023 Budget Testimony

After a discussion about priorities and the current proposed budget, the board voted to provide budget testimony on the following items:

- Support of funding increase for the Co-Responder Model Supporting Behavioral Health Crisis Calls (CSB and Police Department).
- Support of positions for the School Health Program- with the goal of allocating one nurse per each Fairfax County public school (Health Department).
- Support of five new positions to support the creation, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable housing throughout Fairfax County (Dept. of Housing and Community Development). The FA-DSB will specifically ask that the current 5% set-aside for accessible housing be increased to 10% and make the argument that the county commit to universal design builds.

- Support of three new positions for the Language Access Program (Office of Public Affairs). The FA-DSB will request that there be consideration given to individuals who might need services but might not be able to read in their native tongue. Furthermore, that the county be ready to provide services in different languages, should those individuals reach out to the county for services, as a result of the language translation efforts.

Courtney asked if there was any information about an update to Appendix K. Sarah stated she had not heard anything about it during the recent legislative session. Diane stated she could ask folks at The Arc and get back to the board with any information she might have obtained. Courtney would like to advocate for the expansion of the waiver and asked how the board could go about doing so. Claudia recommended that the board's Legislative Committee form sooner this year, so that it could start working on any items it would like to propose, as part of the Health and Human Services Issue Paper. Sarah, Courtney and Jamie volunteered to staff this year's Legislative Committee. Their first meeting will be held May 9th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. is year's Legislative Committee. Their first meeting will be held May 9th from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Melandee then motioned for the approval of the budget items listed above, for FY 2023 Budget Testimony. It was seconded by Andrew.

Nominations Committee

Deborah asked for volunteers for the nominations committee, explaining that nominees will be chosen by the May meeting, and will be voted in at the June meeting. Mary Pauline, who was not in attendance, had volunteered to chair the committee again this year. Lindsay offered to assist as the second individual on that committee.

Action Items for FY 2022

A discussion around the FY 2022 action items was had by the board.

In regard to item #5, (accessible county buildings), Melandee provided the update that she's starting to visit some government facilities. She plans to visit a few libraries in the future. Rose Asuquo asked that Melandee reach out to her once she plans on visiting. Claudia stated she'd be happy to do cross introductions.

In regard to item #7 (accessibility of county websites), Debbie and Lindsay have met and formed a direction. They would like board input on any county pages they might deem inaccessible. Deborah suggested that the board conduct its own research and send all feedback to Claudia by April 25th. Melandee will create a checklist of items board members should look out for when conducting their research. She will email the list to Claudia, who will send to the entire board.

In regard to item #8, Andrew stated that he and Deborah had conducted some brainstorming. Specifically, they were looking at places such as doctor's offices that might

not have accessible office equipment such as MRIs. Andrew and Deborah expressed knowing what the hurdles are but need to further explore solutions. They may be looking to meet with service providers such as CPAs, attorneys, and physicians.

In regard to item #10, Deborah suggested the creation of a one-page document that could provide “Best Practices” on interacting with persons with disabilities. Judith stated that was a good idea and the two decided to do further brainstorming together.

Updates

Sarah provided an update regarding a bill she hopes will be signed by the Governor. This bill would provide greater flexibility around electronic meetings and advisory boards. If signed, it might allow the DSB to meet electronically, at least a percentage of the year.

Ideas for community Engagement: Brandis provided an update regarding a training series she and Deborah co-presented to a group of students in Herndon, regarding Universal Design. They taught the students about disability and the students were tasked with creating an invention using Universal Design concepts. Deborah and Brandis were then able to “judge” the inventions. They both found the activity very rewarding, which prompted Deborah to want to ask the board for ways in which it can further engage with constituents.

One option identified would be to put together listening sessions throughout the county. Another idea was to staff a table at the upcoming Celebrate Fairfax event. Claudia will reach out to county staff about this opportunity. Courtney Arroyo offered to have the board as guest speaker at a future volunteer event, or at one of her monthly webinar sessions. Ben stated he was working with a company focused on adaptive sports. He suggested we outreach to that community. Deborah thought that was a great idea. Ben will send Claudia any outreach information he may have.

8:55 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Deborah.