

FCDC General Membership Meeting - November 24, 2020

Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 7:30pm
Held via Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

Documents provided online:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the last General Meeting, September 22, 2020, was made available via a link sent by email at <https://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-09-22-General-Minutes-DRAFT.pdf>
- “Bylaws Amendment to add Black Caucus (Second Passage)” document at <https://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-09-Black-Caucus-Bylaws-Amendment.pdf>
- “Resolution on Realigning SOLs to Real-World Demands” at <https://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Resolution-on-Realigning-SOLs.pdf>

Call to Order. Chair Bryan Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Cathy Gruber taking minutes.

Chair reviewed Electronic Meeting Instructions. Send questions or messages to Bryan and Jack via the Q&A function, not chat.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes. MOTION to approve the agenda and the minutes for the September 22 meeting. Motion was approved.

Introduction of Special Guests and Candidates.

Candidate for Attorney General

— **Del. Jay Jones**, VA House 89th, candidate for Attorney General, jayjones.com.

Candidates for Lt. Governor

— **Del. Sam Rasoul**, VA House 11th, for Lt. Governor, sam4va.com.

— **Del. Elizabeth Guzman**, VA House 31st, for Lt. Governor, elizabethguzmanforvirginia.com.

— **Sean Perryman**, for Lt. Governor, perrymanforvirginia.com.

Candidate for Governor

— **Sen. Jennifer McClellan**, VA Senate 9th District, candidate for Governor, jennifermcclellan.com.

Special Guest

— **Hon. Jeff McKay, Chairman**, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Thank you to FCDC for work in the election. Over 600,000 people voted in Fairfax County.

- Partnering with FCDC, Sen. Favola, and Family Services for **Foster Teen Gift Drive** for kids in foster care in Fairfax County ages 13-21. Donations:

<https://act.myngp.com/Forms/487363527439681536>; Amazon Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/U5WB1TJP8O4K?ref_=wl_share. Full info at

<https://fairfaxdemocrats.org/gift>.

Approval of New Members. A list of new members by district was shown on screen separated by “Voting” and “Associate” members as well. MOTION to approve the new members. No objections. Motion was approved.

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Treasurer's Report (Nadja). "Treasurer's Report: Nov 24, 2020" summary page was displayed. Finished most of election related expenses for the year. FCDC and District committees have funds. Projections are that we will end above our budget. Questions or copy – email Nadja.

Chair's Report (Bryan). Thanked the committee.

- More than 2/3 of Fairfax County voting came from early voting.
- Fairfax County had a 41.9% margin of victory for Biden-Harris.
- Will form a task force on resolutions to help streamline FCDC General meetings.

Vice Chairs' Reports.

- **Precinct Ops** (Co-VC Maria Vorel). Susan Johnson will be taking a leave of absence from being co-VP during primary. Thank you for supporting the election. The committee did a debriefing on election and will have recommendations. Working on supporting next years' candidates
- **Finance** (VC Tina Barchik). Proud of FCDC for everyone stepping up and pitching in. Will have a virtual holiday party on Dec. 13, 5-6:30 to celebrate strong victory. Will have Jan 10 Road to Richmond event.
- **National Affairs** (Chair, Sandra Klassen). Held forum on Oct. 14, Trump Unhinged, earned over \$1K in donations. Video recorded has received over 1600 views. At DPVA State Central Meeting there will be a resolution on Dec 5 to allow for student half-day advocacy.
- **Voter Regis & Educ** (Janice Yohai). Thank you; we did an excellent job at turning people out. Post-election meeting is on Monday, Nov. 30. Our goal was to make voting easier this year; focused on in person and curbside voting, broadening our umbrella.

New Business.

- **Bylaws Amendment to add Black Caucus (Second Passage).** Bryan noted that we have a number of caucuses in DPVA. Part of understanding how to organize them in FCDC is to work on our bylaws. When bylaws are changed mid-term, they need to be approved twice.

Discussion: A member spoke to object to the amendment as anti-diverse; seen as segregating. A member of the task force and other members spoke in support of the amendment—it's about issues that have been ignored that need to be reconciled; need to address historic racism; with Black Lives Matter, the country has awakened that we need to address this.

MOTION: Insert the words "Black Caucus" in the list of standing committees in Section 1 in Article VII—OTHER COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS. Motion approved. (94% Yea)

- **Resolution on Realigning SOLs to Real-World Demands.** Bill Berkson, Education Committee, briefly explained the resolution.

Discussion: A motion to refer (below) was offered and failed. Another member expressed concern about 1st paragraph that says the SOLs constrained teachers from "fully helping students of color achieve their best..." Friendly amendment from Sandra was offered.

MOTION (Matthew Savage; second Dan Press): Refer this resolution back to the Education Committee for further study. Motion fails. (56% Nay)

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Discussion: SOL reform needs to at least look at reducing the federal minimum. Can't see how you can reduce SOLs by adding another assessment. Members spoke both in favor and against:

- A member concerned about state imposing more standards; should be decided at the local level; needs to meet the goal and address other issues.
- A member spoke against this motion – bringing in the federal standards risks tying this into the federal govt; this is just to have a commission that will consult with stakeholders and recommend how to align the standards, won't push through requirements.
- A member in favor of referring mainly because they want more material presented to FCDC to make a more informed decision.
- Educ Committee member does not support referral. There was a great discussion and unanimous support on committee for resolution; this is a first step.
- A possible friendly amendment to the resolution was offered.
- Members asking in chat about the position of school board members on resolution.
- Member against referral: If this isn't approved now, it won't get to the GA when it needs to in advance of the next session.

MOTION: To amend the resolution "Therefore" section provided by Sandra Klassen. Motion approved. (67% Yea)

Discussion: There were comments against that were not specific to this motion.

Discussion relevant to first motion:

- Sounds like racial tracking setting up a tiered system.
- All references to minorities should be taken out.

MOTION: To approve the Resolution on Realigning SOLs to Real-World Demands (as amended). Motion approved. (55% Yea)

- **Resolution Supporting Fairfax County School Board Members.** Bryan: This was not sent to the membership 7 days in advance, so 2/3 membership voting is required. Presented by Geofre Schoradt: Recall effort probably being used as a recruiting tool for Republicans, but hot issue is school re-opening.

Discussion: Are we concerned about any state legislators? Republicans probably don't care.

Members spoke in support: From group of parents supporting SB; from Education Committee, others.

MOTION: Adopt the resolution supporting our Fairfax County School Board members. Motion approved. (98% Yea)

Announcements.

- **FCDC Foster Teen Gift Drive.** [Fairfaxdems.org/gift](https://fairfaxdems.org/gift). Gifts will be more gift cards, more generic, upon recommendation of Family Services.
- **FCDC Annual Holiday Party.** Sun. Dec. 13 5-6:30 pm. [Fairfaxdems.org/holiday](https://fairfaxdems.org/holiday).
- **Teen Caucus Fundraiser** - Join the Teen Caucus and former VAYD President Sen. Jennifer McClellan on December 14 at 7 PM. Proceeds support the VAYD Teen Caucus! See <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/teenmcclellan> and <https://linktr.ee/VAYDTeenCaucus>.
- NARAL Pro Choice fundraiser December 9. <https://naralva.org/news/events/>.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.