



Glencarlyn Civic Association

October 2, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Julie Lee.

Guest Speaker: Mary Kadera, Arlington County School Board

Mary was invited to listen to the community's questions and concerns and bring the feedback back to the school board.

Boundary changes and move to option programs

- Addressed middle school boundaries where some schools like Gunston are over capacity while others like Williamsburg are under capacity
- The evaluation process paused for a year while the academic department debated additional opportunities for topical pathways. The adoption of pathway schools would impact boundaries.
 - Topical pathways do not replace neighborhood schools; however, K-6th graders could attend neighborhood schools while students in 9-12 pick a pathway school.
 - Immersion programs would continue; however, the location of the immersion schools has not been decided.
 - Important details such as cost and structure still have to be considered.
 - No update on the impact to traffic around Kenmore

Traffic Issues

- Mary acknowledged that it is reasonable to assume that the County and school board need to address traffic issues around schools. She will support a resolution during the current budget process.
- The presented traffic issues along Carlin Springs Rd were raised in 2017 with no changes or updates from the school or county boards.
- Commuters have to walk from Arlington Mill to Kenmore as no transportation is available.
- Snow plows push snow on the sidewalk by the school and kids have to walk in the street.
- There have been acts of vandalism and theft as kids walk to and from the school through the park.
- There is a need for a right of way/turn lane to alleviate some traffic issues.
- ART offers free bus passes that families can apply for. Adults have complained about the numbers of kids on ART busses. ART has not adjusted its schedule to accommodate before and after school programs.
- Easy fixes would include crossing guards, speed cameras, and crosswalk lights.

Miscellaneous Topics Discussed

- Arlington schools are still ranked, but they are not seeing growth in the English learners.
- It was discussed that Carlin Springs cannot fit into the same mold as the rest of the district. The possibility of doing proficiency testing for English in their native languages is being looked into. Mary will take this note back to the board to question testing and staffing.
- Board is looking at learning loss gaps post-pandemic to see which groups are below the standard and grouping students into tiers.

- APS recently switched healthcare providers for its employees, limiting the choices. Mary is going to ask for an internal audit for more details on the process.
- Mental health support was discussed in detail.
 - Students take basic emotional and social skills courses which can be seen as inauthentic and contrived.
 - Counselors in schools have been in crisis mode for years now.
 - Mary discussed that they created a role at all high schools and three middle schools called an interventionalist who focus on kids with the highest needs.
 - Four DHS clinicians are now embedded in schools and the results are being tracked by the board.

Acceptance of May and September Minutes

Civ Fed: nothing of note

ArNac Report: Ryan Donlon

Design work continues the Kenmore Wooded Area Project. The 90% design is scheduled for submission in early October, and the 100% design at the end of November. Once the final plans are approved (January 2024), procurement and construction are expected to take place from February through September 2024. A rendering of the recently-submitted 60% design for the 2nd St. S. entrance will be posted to glencarlyn.org soon. to give residents an idea of how the design is evolving. Several neighbors have volunteered to help maintain the plantings in that location, which will be neighborhood's responsibility.

Treasurers Report: Tim Aiken- Current balance is \$22,984 with 120 due paying families.

The Village View Deadline is October 10th for the November newsletter.

601 Carlin Springs Update: Brandon Hemel

- The green space has been fenced in.
- Site review is predicted to take place in the spring after VHC submits its site plan in early 2024 and expedites it through the County.
- The presented plan may change.
 - The number of beds may increase.
 - The parking spots may change. VHC does not want up to 500 spots and they do not want underground parking due to the water table and topography.
- VHC is looking to partner with a health agency to possibly help design, plan and run the facility.
- Adrian Stanson with VHC will speak on December 4th.
- VHC is on board with sledding hill preservation and spring preservation.
- The community was asked to report any misuse of the property.

Library Update

- The library is doing an interior renovation.
- The library director is engaging contractors to conduct a community engagement study.
- Diane Kresh will not be accepting any community invitations to speak.
- We need the community to get more involved with the library. Julie will disseminate information and a survey once information is available.
- The November meeting will be focused around how the community can get involved.

Upcoming Dates

- November 6th – GCA Meeting at 7:30 PM - Community Brainstorming on Glencarlyn Library
- December 4th – GCA Meeting at 7:30 PM - Adrian Stanton VHC Health
- December 9th – Luminaria and Holiday Party
- December 16th – Rain date for Luminaria

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.