

DRAFT
W. T. WOODSON PTSO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES

June 15, 2010 📖 **Woodson Library**

Attendance: Linda Fabry, Dean Tistadt, Tessie Wilson, Kevin Sneed, Sandy Evans, Jeff Yost, Maureen Cameron, Lisa Murphy, Paul & Sugie Severs, Sandra Bruner, Ken & Diane Schutz, Susan Sugrue, Maura Stevens, Karen Cogan, Loren Brandman, *Mike Shen, Nareed Gin, Peri Ulrey, Ellen Stucker, George & Nancy Ogden, *Susan Lengel, Donna McGrath, *Dawn Han, *Dr. Stephen Cohen, *Janice Brooks, *Joanne Richcreek, *Marueen Barrett, Mary Rainey, Cindy Kronlage, Linda Vasquez, Terry Buroker, Meg Couch, Malcolm B. Coate, Connie Griffin, Lisa McBride, Jim McDonald, Sam Batten, *Jane Ohashi, Maryann Germaine, John Davis, *Prospero Hernandez, *Y Sharp, *Hyon Yom, Starlit Ponds HOA, ∞ Kathleen DeCarlo, Sara Schneider, Megan McLaughlin, Sandra Hoch, Cheryl King, Jennifer Cooper, Regina Printz, Dayna Smith, Leslie Grottle, Catherine Potter, Sandy Barron, Donna Greer, Nell Hurley, Vicki Chamlee. (Many attendees did not sign in. * denotes Starlit Ponds attendee; ∞ interest in boundary issue.)
Cake, fruit, and beverage provided by Sandra Hoch and Donna Greer.

I. Call to Order—President Nell Hurley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Introduced guests: Kevin Sneed, Director, FCPS Design and Construction Services; Tessie Wilson, Braddock District School Board Member; and Dean Tistadt, COO, FCPS Facilities and Transportation.

B. Junior Achievement Finance Park—Tessie Wilson—Briefly discussed the, with 150-seat auditorium, located between Frost M.S. and Woodson H.S. (not an FCPS building). Goal: to teach students financial literacy. Should be available after hours for Frost, Woodson, and community use.

C. General—Introduced Principal Jeff Yost, welcomed parents of rising freshmen and new PTSO volunteers, and acknowledged departing volunteers, particularly Carole Post, Wendy Hecker, Elana Plotnick, Phyllis Payne, and Sandy Barron.

II. Minutes—Sandy Barron moved to accept the minutes from the May 2010 meeting as written. Approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report—**Sandy Barron**—Need audit after all outstanding expense reports are gathered (end June). Introduced successor, Leslie Grottle. Report accepted.

IV. President's Report—**Nell Hurley**

A. Student Recognition—Congratulations to sports teams and performance arts groups for job well done this season.

B. Newsweek America's Best High Schools List— From Fairfax County, only Woodson made the list of top 100 high schools.

C. New Parking Area (NPA) for Pickett Road and Route 236, plans on display

1. Vice President Donna Greer presented facts as known today:

- Plans for a parking lot designed to house ~46 school buses is to be built in the northeast corner of the Woodson Complex at the corner of 236 and Pickett Road.

- No artistic renderings have yet been shared with the community, but it appears all the large trees at that corner will be cut down. After the lot is built, reportedly it will be surrounded by a chain link fence, with landscaping plants east along Pickett. Night lighting if any is unknown.
 - Traffic impact is expected to be minimal because buses will leave the lot before morning rush hour and join 236 from the light at Pickett. They will return one at a time after their last run of the day.
 - The school buses to be moved here are currently parked at the old Eleven Oaks school property just north of George Mason University.
 - The city bought the Eleven Oaks land from the county for \$4 million in 2007.
 - A condition of the sale is that the “City of Fairfax must make a ‘New Parking Area’ [NPA] available within 2.5 miles of the current site” and “shall pay all costs associated with acquiring” this NPA.
 - Thus the City of Fairfax is paying to create this proposed lot, to include security and electrical outlets to keep the engines warm in winter.
 - The city is motivated to move the buses as soon as possible both to free the land for development and to address noise concerns.
 - Because of noise concerns near Eleven Oaks, a few of the school buses have already been relocated to the city’s maintenance lot on Pickett Road near Route 50; reportedly these buses will also come to the Woodson lot.
 - FCPS sees the project as a “win” because the buses would have improved security and the engine warmers.
 - FCPS is opposed to asking for any additional development considerations from the city for the bus lot.
 - A Transitional Screen Waiver and a 2232 request for planning review have recently been submitted to the county. A 2232 Review application generally requires a public hearing with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission then determines if the general location, character, or extent of the proposal is in substantial accord with the county's Comprehensive Plan and either approves, denies, or defers the application.
 - The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the 2232 Review only if the decision of the Planning Commission is appealed to the board by the applicant or the Board, on its own motion, chooses to hear the application.
- 2. Sandra Hoch, acoustics engineer, shared noise facts (via PowerPoint presentation):**
- Discussed background information concerning NPA.
 - Listed existing FCPS programs and facilities housed at WTW and Frost complex.
 - Shared photos of Eleven Oaks facility: gravel lot with electrical cords, which do not retract, for engine warmers; drivers currently park personal vehicles around buses; temporary fencing used without any noise reduction barriers.
 - Visited facility *three times*: 5:00 a.m.–6:30 a.m., Friday, June 11; Monday morning, June 14; and Tuesday morning, June 15. Contrary to FCPS assertions, buses continue to leave until 7:45 a.m. as other buses are returning to lot.
 - Described ambient noise level at current facility and measurements taken.
 - Displayed photos of current green space targeted for paving at Woodson.

- Posted NPA questions and concerns covering site selection, the environment, security, and funding and maintenance.
- 3. ***Dean Tistadt addressed community concerns***
 - Introduced Linda Fabry, Director, FCPS Office of Transportation Services
 - Since joining office in 1999, two challenges have been obtaining enough bus drivers and finding enough parking in appropriate, secure locations. FCPS currently has four secure bus lots: West Ox Road, Newington, Westfield, and Eleven Oaks. About 40 buses are still parked in neighborhoods at night when the drivers take them home.
 - Do not want to take money for buses from capital improvements funds slated for school renovations and upkeep
 - Moving Eleven Oaks lot predicated on finding another lot that is proximate to routes
 - Fifty-eight buses currently service Woodson community; propose to park 46 at NPA.
 - Bonus: already county property (don't have to pay for it)
 - **Q:** Is the city buying the lot, per contract? What is the quid pro quo for this lot?
 - **A:** No, the city is not buying it.
 - Tessie Wilson: FCPS has great relationship with City of Fairfax. Do I want to go to the city and ask for money for this lot?
 - Dean again: The NPA's \$1.5 million estimated construction cost plus the \$4 million for the Eleven Oaks property are enough money. Reiterated the value of having proximate parking for support services and fueling depot. Traffic is complicated because parents, for various reasons, drive their children to school and increase congestion.
 - **Q (Starlit Ponds):** Express concern about safety issue and brought up community fire several years ago. Emergency services could not get through to burning home.
 - **Q:** Is \$4 million really a good price for Eleven Oaks? Contract also allows for two lots and did not stipulate that the site had to be at Woodson. Who has done the search? Why is FCPS doing the work on the city's behalf? Why not keep Eleven Oaks lot until a more suitable lot is found? Why move untenable problem from the city to the county?
 - **A:** Contrary to 2232, which says no alternate sites were considered, FCPS and the city reviewed but rejected several: Shirley Gate and Braddock (naturally occurring asbestos); Field House locale at GMU (university rejected); Landfill (FCPS rejected); car dealerships on Routes 123 and 50; Texaco site (wouldn't sell); and city maintenance lot cannot accommodate all the buses.
 - Could remain at Eleven Oaks, but traffic and noise issues are untenable for neighbors. Operationally, Woodson is the best alternative. Could park them in front of the school or in an NPA.
 - Jeff Yost: Because of adult ed evening classes, cannot use existing lots.
 - **Q:** Explore leasing property from businesses—churches, swim clubs, libraries? Without a deadline in the contract, what is the rush?
 - **A:** Businesses' lots are not a permanent solution. Agreed bases can stay at Eleven Oaks.
 - **Q:** A vacant lot sits on Old Lee Highway near Home Depot and maintenance yard.
 - **A:** We will look into that.
 - **Q:** If NPA is built here, add another lane to Pickett.

- **A:** FCPS does not have authority over county roads. Would need to involve VDOT.
- **Q (Starlit Ponds):** Because of length of time (twelve hours) buses arrive and leave lot, make entrance from 236 and avoid Pickett?
- **A:** Do not have authority to do so.
- **Q:** Fairfax City is Tree City USA. Will lose green buffer all along 236, not helpful. FCPS really needs a larger lot that can be expanded. Leave the city on the hook.
- **Q (Starlit Ponds):** Two complaints—drivers urinate in yards, and gas tank area is unsightly (not mowed, filled with trash). Photo submitted taken that morning.
- **A:** Call in drivers' bus numbers. Practice will stop. Will take care of gas tank area. "We are committed to not having buses go through Starlit Ponds to get to Olley Lane." Turn in drivers that break that directive.
- **Q:** Why expose Woodson to security issues that buses currently have (vandalism)?
- **A:** Will build fence around lot.
- **Q:** Why doesn't the county get anything for the lot?
- **A:** "We think the deal is fair."
- **Q:** Contract is from 2007. Did you go into it with Woodson in mind? The county could get proffer money and make other improvements here. We don't owe the city anything.
- **Q:** What about getting Astro turf fields?
- **A:** No school in the Braddock District has such fields. Woodson already has many wonderful programs and benefits.
- **Q:** What are the next steps? Are you considering going back to the city because you're getting community pushback?

4. **Nell Hurley** asked Starlit Ponds community members to add e-mail addresses to attendance sheet so they can be notified when the public hearing is scheduled.

D. Adult Day High School—Tessie Wilson explained Pimmit Hills High School and its closure due to budget cuts. No classes offered here for students in External Diploma Program. Assured audience no student transferring to this program younger than eighteen has disciplinary issues. All students are responsible for own transportation; thus, Woodson, on a Metro-bus route, is a great location. Students will arrive and leave later than Woodson students and will not go beyond the T Wing. *Parent suggestion:* Improve signage so adult high school students will know where their assigned area ends and not go beyond boundary. (Q&A handout available.)

E. Annandale High School Overcrowding Issue—Nell introduced Emily Slough, Annandale High School PTA president-elect. Tessie Wilson discussed ad hoc advisory committees' setup through Facilities Advisory Council to look at boundary and other issues that impact communities and to make decisions. Trying to alleviate overcrowding, which is projected at 500 students for 2011–12, at Annandale H.S. Elementary schools in area are also overcrowded, but only high school and middle school representatives are currently on the committees. Boundary study for *Lacey Center*, slated to be renovated and open in fall 2012, occurs in 2011. Anticipated boundary change will affect Woodson "island" and various nearby elementary schools: Wakefield Forest, Oak View, Fair Hill, and possibly Mantua. Interested parties can sign up on FCPS website for updates (should be "live" soon). *First meeting (open to public):* July 20, 7:00 p.m., Annandale H.S.

V. Committee Reports

- A. *Cav Cruise—Nell for Eileen Nelson*—On track. To be held June 17.
- B. *Baccalaureate—Nell for Beth Whitehead*—Held June 13.
- C. *Hospitality—Nell for Elana Plotnick*—Report submitted. Teachers and Staff Appreciation Lunch was terrific. Many thanks to Elana and her volunteers.
- D. *Spring Fund-raiser/Book sales—Dayna Smith*—Sold books at lunches, at Frost, and at this meeting. Explained summer reading program for character education.
- E. *Nominating—Sandra Hoch*—Still have several vacancies for Hospitality.
- F. *Safety and Wellness—Jennifer Lewis-Cooper and Cheryl King*—Nina Breen will be assisting next year. Unified Prevention Coalition and FC Police will host “Haze” program July 28, 7:00 p.m., at NOVA. Free. Movie and panel discussion afterward.
- G. *Cav Cupboard—Nell for Regina Printz*—Frig moved to Teacher Workroom.
- H. *Standing Rules—Nell for Pete Brandman*—Committee to meet over summer.

VI. Old Business

- A. *Renovation Funds*—Defer to September meeting.
- B. *Best Buy Adoption—Donna Greer*—Company is adopting Canterbury Woods Elementary School instead.
- C. *Back to School Packet—Jennifer Lewis-Cooper*—Will packets be segregated with one set for underclassmen and another for seniors? *Jeff Yost*: Yes. And handouts pertinent to seniors only (caps and gowns, etc.) can be disseminated in their packet area.

VII. New Business

- A. *AP Test Letter from FCPS*—Parent asked about school system imposing burden of paying for tests on parents. Tessie Wilson explained new FCPS position: If student doesn't take the test, student will not receive the added weight for the course grade.

VIII. Principal's Report—Jeff Yost

- A. *New Cluster Assistant Superintendent*—Dan Parris, current Rocky Run Middle School principal, will come on board July 1, 2010.
- B. *Cluster Director Barbara Lanzer* is also retiring.
- C. *Schedule*—Wednesday is a full day. Thursday is early release for graduation exercises at Robinson's Field House. Following week (M, T, W): exams. Thursday is the last day for everyone, and report cards will be printed and mailed out.

IX. Final NPA Questions

Q: Will FCPS look at other locations?

Tessie: Dean will take suggestions to the city, but it can say it won't pursue other options. City is motivated to moving bus lot to accommodate GMU.

Answers to various questions:

- Have no idea how quickly permit process will move.
- Currently in the planning process.
- Planning Commission will hold a hearing in the fall.
- Woodson lot was not considered until February or March.

IX. Motion to Adjourn—9:07 p.m.

Next PTSO meeting: July 13, 2010, W. T. Woodson Library, 7:00 p.m.

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