

Observer Corps Report, 12 February 2024
APS Board of Education meetings, 17 January and 7 February 2024
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I “attend” the YouTube live stream of the meetings, and I report on topics most relevant to LWVNCM policy positions.

Public Forum. The public forum continues to be lightly attended, and it continues to be dominated by speakers concerned with APS policies related to creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ (and other groups) as well as the availability of gender-affirming counselling in APS schools. Supporters of the LGBTQ+ community continue to speak out in favor of schools as a safe space, while other speakers accuse APS of providing inappropriate support to the LGBTQ+ community and keeping parents informed. One person protested the new safe spaces flag for bearing too close a resemblance to the pride flag. On another topic, one parent spoke in favor of systemic support for CTE programs in APS schools.

LWVNCM policies addressed in public forum: “LWVNCM believes that every student should have access to a high-quality [...] education regardless of gender [identity], race, ethnicity, family income, or geographical location. Each student should be respected as an individual in learning environments that value diverse cultures.” “Promote practices that lead to physical, mental, and emotional well-being.”

The Board meetings proper have been mainly concerned with presenting and evaluating the progress monitoring reports required under the new Student Outcomes Focused Governance (SOFG) goals and guardrails adopted by APS last fall. The details of the process are probably a bit tedious for casual observers. What is important for League members is that the evaluation and reporting process leads to a much higher degree of transparency and accountability on the part of the Board of Education and its interactions with the Superintendent’s office. At the February 7 meeting, the budget for FY 2024 was discussed in detail, with a focus on whether adequate funding is being provided to support SOFG goals. More specialized budget presentations to clarify this issue were planned for future meetings.