

Observer Corps Report, 15 March 2024

APS Board of Education meetings, 21 February and 6 March 2024

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I “attend” the YouTube live stream of the meetings, and I report on topics most relevant to LWVCNM policy positions.

Public Forum. The public forum continues to be lightly attended. The main issues that have come up that are relevant to League members in recent meetings are concerns about transportation issues that come up for special needs students. One parent complained about the inequitable distribution of resources among schools: lack of counsellors in some schools and an overabundance in others; teacher shortages concentrated in certain schools.

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. Indeed, the Board is required to devote the majority of each meeting time to discussion of SOFG matters, such as evaluating progress reports made to it by the APS Superintendent’s office. 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 21 February meeting, planned community engagement and outreach events were reported on. Soliciting more community input is part of the SOFG goals of a more transparent and bottoms up approach to Board of Education decision making. The detailed budget presentation at the 6 March meeting included discussion of how the budget specifically includes items that support the goals and guardrails of the SOFG 5-year plan.