

Memo to: Arlington School Board
From: Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)
Re: Revisions to Policy B-2, School Board
Date: 16 APR 2024

The FAC was recently invited to review three APS policies that are in line to be revised: B-2, School Board; B-3.7.31, Legislative Liaison; and B-8.4, Compensation and Benefits for School Board Members. We have reviewed these documents and have one comment to submit on draft policy B-2.

In the section “School Board Powers and Duties,” paragraph 8 sets requirements for public hearings. Among those requirements in the directive is that there must be advance notice of the hearings, which must be provided “to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in the school division ...”. The policy states that this constitutes “reasonable notice.” We disagree.

As we did in our recommendation for edits to the Board’s draft “Boundary” policy, giving notice via a newspaper is inadequate. Relying on a “newspaper” to be the source of public notice is biased and dated. It is unlikely that Arlington citizens rely on newspapers for this type of information. Notice should be provided through multimedia sources. We recommend that following revision:

Line	Text/Edit Recommendation
72	“...to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in the school division <u>through multimedia sources in Arlington County.</u> ”

Thank you for your attention to this recommendation.