

To: Ted Hayes and Arlington Public Schools PTA

From: Janet H Murphy, Independent Green Candidate for Arlington County Board, Special Election April 8 2014

Independent Green policies and priorities for Arlington Public Schools

Solar panels on roofs of all the schools coupled with intelligent building systems to conserve electricity for lighting, heating and air conditioning will pay off in the long run. Our former Independent Green Party Chairman's solar equipped home in Virginia produced ten times more energy than it used last year. As my first Green measure before the board I will advocate Arlington County grants or tax credits that match the 30% per cent federal credit for solar, and geothermal energy, conservation and weatherization. With these positive Green Party solutions we can make Arlington energy self sufficient. Let's put solar on every government building roof and school.

Building Energy Footprints to Zero and Beyond: Yes, due to increased enrollment, we will need to build more--but smaller--schools with Solar PV, geothermal, water management, rain gardens and intelligent building systems. Buildings should create more energy than they use. Include geothermal HVAC, solar and wind. Students should be involved with the entire school building process, siting, traffic planning, hammers and nails. School buildings' energy usage should be continuously optimized earning money and cutting spending with Solar Renewable Energy Credits. That market itself is a teaching aid.

Timeline: Within five years equip all public schools with solar photovoltaics, rain barrels, gray water management, rain gardens and organic gardens. No reason to leave the lights blazing all night at schools where motion detectors could save \$.

More Trains Less Traffic initiative of the Independent Green Party will relieve traffic congestion and contribute to vision for all students of safe transport to and from schools, including handicapped student access and mainstreaming. More students should be biking safely to school.

Timeline: Within one year map each students commute to school and audit for safety.

Preschools and Community Service: Continue to collaborate with George Mason, Marymount and Northern Virginia Community College, and support college-based preschools to offer early childhood development and with a goal within five years to have every three year old in preschool at least half a day. Build on Alternative Break and More Counselors (below) to staff the preschools and after-school programs.

Teacher to Student Ratios: Teacher student ratio goal will be 1:12 and where the classroom has more students, send a parent or upper-level student to support the teacher.

More Counselors: Arlington has been very lucky with mental health compared to neighboring counties. However, we need to increase awareness of and interventions on bullying, suicide,

pregnancy and STD prevention, substance abuse, gangs, depression, homelessness and financial challenges. So have Arlington Public Schools offer counseling masters' degree graduates clinical hours toward licensing with minimum wage pay. These individuals are ready to work and trained and need 4,000 hours of supervised time. This great caring and committed human resource will boost the schools and help staff at Career Center and schools achieve goals.

Apprenticeships: Career Center should relate business community Apprenticeships in middle and high schools to certificates with the business and arts community which relate to actual jobs. Track number actual jobs handled through the career center and increase the target yearly so that by five years every high school student has a career pathway identified and is working toward employment options. Career center needs more staff. Vision entrepreneurship as well as jobs. Support teachers in the classroom by business community sending employees to schools to assist with pay one or two hours per week in classroom, teaching, reading or supporting other well planned projects.

Curriculum: Arts Education, especially writing. Core music, drawing and painting, film, dance or other arts education for all students all schools. Integrate homeschooling community into the schools through sports and arts education. Bring nature into the schools by more outdoor activities including bicycling and bike trail patrolling and mapping. Vision a new boathouse for the crew on the Arlington side of the river. Support merit based opportunities for students to take courses at NOVA and GMU for high school graduation credit and precredit at college. Require financial education for students to build awareness and prepare for financial responsibility.

School Lunches, Snacks and Breakfasts: Have healthy meatless Monday in all schools within one year, and within five years healthy school lunches without intensively farmed meat. Students should grow vegetables and compost, and be involved with all phases of the culinary arts, planning, budgeting, growing, preparing, serving and clean up.

I ask for your votes!

Janet H Murphy
Independent Green Party