

Observer Corps Report, 9 April 2024  
APS Board of Education meetings, 20 March and 3 April 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. Recent issues of relevance for LWVCNM members include: a concern about “right-sizing” decisions and their impact on the community; concern about alleged “hate crimes” towards indigenous students in APS schools. Board meeting rules do not allow for dialog between commenters and the Board, but the President affirms regularly that the Board does follow up afterwards.

**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 SOFG approach requires the Board to spend the majority of their time discussing SOFG related issues. 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. More time is also spent in arranging community outreach and engagement activities. As part of their community engagement activities, board members participate in a number of community organizations: <https://www.aps.edu/about-us/board/board-work/community-engagement-and-outreach/participation-in-organizations>

At the 20 March meeting, the Superintendent’s Office presented a progress monitoring report that was discussed in detail by the Board. In the end, the Board tabled the report without approving it, and the Superintendent’s Office is expected to report back in after addressing the issues raised. At the 3 April meeting, a budget update was presented by the Superintendent’s Office. A concern was how to make sure SOFG goals and guardrails can be addressed even though the budget is falling slightly due to a 5% decrease in APS enrollment. Drops in enrollment in recent years are attributed to the aftereffects of COVID and to a drop in the birthrate.