

# Meeting Minutes Original

## Justice HS Parking Workgroup

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Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Justice HS Library

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### WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE

- Jeff Longo (Sleepy Hollow Manor) (co-chair)
- Ann-Marie Ward (parent) (co-chair)
- Kathleen Brown
- Mark Doehnert
- Kim Lanoue
- Barbara Wolf

### FCPS ATTENDANCE

- Mark Hoffman Communications (Notetaker)
- Derrick Gwyn FCPS Safety and Security
- Merari Zemaný FCPS Safety and Security (Safe Routes to School)
- Ricardy Anderson Fairfax County School Board Member (Mason District)

### GUESTS

- Marty Machowsky (observer)

### Meeting Proceedings

Meeting began at 6:12 pm

Visitors were acknowledged and welcomed.

Kathleen and Mark gave FCPS attendees from safety and security a recap of the parking concerns and the work of the group.

### Working Group Questions raised:

Was there a pre existing survey through safe routes to school or other relevant work?  
How can Juniper Lane be in the walking area if there is no sidewalk or street lights.  
Intersections are a mess of crosswalks and sidewalks that just end and weeds and growth.

**Safe Routes Response:**

Safe Routes used to be under Instructional Services and a part time lead. Now Safe Routes moved to Facilities and Management because the School Board created more resources. One full time and 2 part time. We have a vacancy for the specialist. We have bikes, mobile trailers, pilot programs (50 schools) biking routes and walking safe routes for each school using GPS mapping. The pilot is awaiting approval. We did an assessment with Design and Construction during construction. The same group should be part of this meeting. Options = Renting spaces in the church, shuttles to school, etc.

**Working Group**

Design and Construction not helpful in previous meetings. Options with the church fell through. The work group is tasked with making recommendations to the School Board and BOS to instruct the offices to execute solutions. We are now trying to move into the final recommendation phase. We are looking for any potential solutions we have not yet considered.

**Safe Routes Response:**

Pilot program includes mapping. We are going to assess this area again and make a map. Safe routes can provide bikes and helmets. Pilot needs approval so there is no timeline yet.

**Working Group**

Jeff demonstrates the walking area map and where the problems are with safety. Specifically a dark area that would likely cause death.

**Safe Routes Response:**

Transportation determines walkability. We evaluate the street. Just because there is no sidewalk doesn't mean the students cannot walk the roads. Transportation will bring safety concerns to Safety and Security for evaluation and transportation would coordinate with VDOT/FCDOT when crosswalks are needed. Transportation may not have this information. Needs to be reevaluated.

**Working Group**

Jeff and Ann-Marie show Safe Routes that bus utilization is low. A lot of students are being dropped off in the morning. Some because they don't feel they have a safe route to walk. And students that drive themselves because they need to stay after school.

**Safe Routes Response:**

School community needs to be involved fully. Parents get connected, carpooling. Accommodating more parking and more kiss and ride capacity will only encourage more vehicles.

### **Working Group**

We are looking at this from a collective perspective. Acutely aware this issue is specific to Justice High School because of the addition and the loss of parking and the greatest diversity of student population in all FCPS. If we are going to try to change the game for everyone let's do it at Langley first - it's an equity issue.

We want to make everything consistent. Now that we know the zone, we can look at all the roads. Why is there a crosswalk at one intersection and not another? If we want to give students a welcoming walk to school, there should be consistency. Wilkins and Vista - you can't even walk through. Very dangerous.

What we would like to know is do we make recommendations? How do we make sure the evaluations happen?

### **Safe Routes**

References the Blake Lane problem which was being assessed for a long time. We can do an evaluation with Facilities. Takes several hours and then we write a report.

### **Working Group**

Who normally requests these reports and what weight is given to them.

### **Safe Routes**

We are part of FCPS. We usually respond to parent complaints. Parent complaint to School Board, School Board contacts us. We do not always know what happens after we make the report. School Board members will discuss the report with the parent.

### **Working Group**

Decision to share the survey results and the data to come up with an evaluation and assessment report etc.

### **Safe Routes**

VDOT/FCDOT would be helpful in the meeting.

### **Working Group**

We have had a challenge - have not been able to get anyone from supervisors office staff - county transportation, VDOT/FCDOT, police, etc.

### **Safe Routes**

Having the right players is key because they have the ultimate say in the work being done. On assessment I can highlight who handles what. Crosswalks, wink-omatics, etc.

### **Working Group**

Need to pivot to making recommendations. How long does it take to receive a report back if we do the assessment.

One week.

### **Working Group**

Who needs to do the assessment?

### **Safe Routes**

Safe Routes, Transportation, Design and Construction, VDOT/FCDOT

### **Working Group**

Heard about this [Annual Updated School Traffic Safety Program](#)? Menu of potential mitigation strategies for schools with most pressing needs. It's a new working group.

### **Safe Routes**

Brand new and no timelines yet.

### **Working Group**

Hundreds of kids walking to school everyday, dark, no sidewalks, - between Wilkins and Nevius. Bus routes could include the dangerous streets. Arrival time is the least safe time for pedestrians. And at dusk - after practices.

We have to get the recommendation out before CIP planning. The website says there should be a Safe Routes to School champion at the school. We can work together and it becomes a win-win. Group thanked Safe Routes to School for coming.

### **Working Group**

Group considers inviting VDOT/FCDOT to the next meeting. Kathleen suggested Andrew Sheldon, Active Transportation Planner III, Fairfax County Department of Transportation. Sought better understanding of bus utilization. Wouldn't want to squeeze more into buses approaching capacity. Mentioned Blake Lane and the time it takes to make change and questioned whether it is all for nothing. Jeff stressed the need for making the recommendation before CIP. Land transfer - focus on making the recommendation. Would it help to have state support? We have the input from the community, records of our meetings and then we can go advocate. Once we make the recommendation, we can end our work and then as individuals, we can bring the others that are not on this committee.

Feedback that the simple solution of using Peace Valley road is not so simple. Our community uses that road for parking. A decision like that significantly affects those people. Restricted parking zones on either side of school. It is an obvious answer, but not a simple one. Have we reached out to those folks? And in the condos, there are a lot of empty spaces. Encourage those issues to be referenced in the recommendation so it's just during school hours. There is no sign that says when the restricted parking is enforced and not enforced. Consider the ripple effect.

Response that is perhaps for the policy makers to resolve. Agreement that the work group task is not to solve the problems. The task is to make suggestions. They are not supposed to game out everything. We put our ideas on paper for the policy makers.

Discussion about whether to prioritize the requests. Argument for keeping it a clean list without priorities in order to get it done efficiently.

Discussion of conclusions. Safe Routes Assessment. If that can't be done in time, we can recommend a vendor do the assessment to find innovative solutions - companies that do this as their core business. Justice needs a safe route to school representative. We can recommend simple things like that. Then we can recommend the funding. CIP, School, FCPS, etc. Prioritize the things that Safe Routes are going to recommend.

Recommendation to make the next meeting after the Safe Routes to School Assessment. Get in touch with OSS and Safe Routes and see how quickly the assessment can be done.

Discussion about whether the work in the proffers was done to look into the parking on Peace Lane. [Fairfax County School Board Justice High School RZ 2021-MA-00026 PROFFER STATEMENT](#)

**Minutes Approval:** Minutes approved toward end of meeting at 7:11

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### **Next Steps and Actions:**

1. Follow up to send survey results to Safe Routes and schedule assessment. Originally scheduled for December 5, the assessment has been rescheduled to December 12, 2024, due to inclement weather.
  2. Request the Principal help to invite the best participation.
  3. Barbara to communicate with the Mason District Supervisor (Ravenwood Park) about communication with county experts invited to meetings.
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### **Meeting Conclusion:**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

### **Upcoming Meeting:**

- **Date:** Monday, December 9, 2024