INITIAL DRAFT REPORT OUTLINE: Schools Blue Ribbon Commission on Sustainable School Funding
(10-25-13)

1. Background

- Statement of the problem/charge to the Commission
- Why this is important to the community
- Process Commission used to address the charge
- Over-all goals of the Commission

Task: Provide an overview of our charge, why this is important, how we went about our work and the goals we set for ourselves

2. Community Strengths, Values and Visions

- Strengths and values of our city
- Strengths and values of our school system
- Visions of City Council and School Board for the future of our community and our schools

Task: Summarize strengths and values of city and school system as we see them and summarize Council and School Board visions for the future.

3. Current Conditions and Trends

- School trends: enrollment, school capacity, school revenue and spending over time: operating and capital
- City trends: operating and capital spending/needs; history and status of revenue sources, housing and commercial development trends, expansion of U. VA’s geographic footprint, etc.
- Where we stand with regard to school funding, tax effort, etc. relative to other cities.

Task: Distill key pieces of information from everything provided to us regarding current conditions and trends that help clarify our thinking about where we find ourselves today (largely quantitative without value judgments)
4. Definition of the Problem

- What specific challenges do we face?
- Do we see these changing over-time?
- How did we get here?
- What happens if we do nothing?
- What kinds of choices and trade-offs do we face?

Task: Given what we’ve learned about current conditions, clearly define the problems related to sustainable school funding as we see them, what we think will happen if nothing is done to address them, and the kinds of trade-offs we face.

5. Identification of Options to Address the Problem

- Identification of options in major categories: cutting spending, raising revenue, reallocating revenue, changing service delivery, partnerships, etc.
- Analysis of options: short or long-term, extent to which they would address the problems, ease/difficulty of implementation, able to be implemented on our own or require partnerships, etc.
- Recommendations regarding ongoing communication, building community support and ensuring accountability.
- Summary of community response to possible solutions

Task: Identify a range of options to address the problem, assess the potential effectiveness and feasibility of the options and elicit and summarize public input on these options.

6. Commission Recommendations

- Identify options the Commission considers the most promising based on their ability to address the sustainable funding problem near and longer-term and maintain strong community support for public education. Identify thoughts on responsibilities for implementation.
Task: Provide decisionmakers with our best sense of the near and longer-term steps they should take to ensure sustainable school funding and build community understanding and support for whatever solutions are embraced.