



Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform

Mission: Transform the Fairfax County Public School discipline system from a criminal and punitive approach to a restorative, educational, and therapeutic process by working with families, FCPS, county staff, civil rights and child development specialists, and legal representatives.

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Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform Endorses Megan McLaughlin in Braddock District School Board Race

Caroline Hemenway, co-founder of Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform (FZTR,) issued the following statement today on behalf of the FZTR leadership team:

Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform heartily endorses Megan McLaughlin as the Braddock candidate for the Fairfax County School Board. Mrs. McLaughlin’s record speaks for itself in many respects—as one of the founders of FAIRGRADE, as a founder and current chair of the Fairfax Education Coalition, and as an outspoken activist who favors greater transparency, accountability and public engagement by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) leadership.

She said McLaughlin’s knowledge of discipline reform efforts outshines that of her opponent, Nell Hurley. “McLaughlin’s articulate, well-reasoned defense of restorative justice is backed by recitation of research and statistics,” Hemenway continued. “Her public statements and campaign messages repeatedly emphasize the need for reform. She has actively participated in nearly every work session, board meeting, and rally on the issue. Her record demonstrates an ability and desire to engage experts where needed to provide examples of best practices on this issue, and others. McLaughlin is unequivocal in her support of parent notification prior to questioning of students except in cases of serious danger. FZTR is nonpartisan but it is worth noting that McLaughlin is active on the Fairfax County Democratic Party Education Committee, where she has made significant contributions to key issues and helped create a resolution in support of discipline reform.”

John Farrell, FZTR legal director, stated: “Voters in Braddock District will be well-served on the Fairfax County School Board by Megan McLaughlin, a proven leader who, we believe, will work promptly to enact discipline policy reforms that will protect student rights while keeping schools safe and secure.”

Hemenway added, “I’ve known Megan for a number of years and watched her in action. She studies an issue, can articulate the facts she compiles and reaches out to others for input and collaboration. I am confident she will be a leader on needed discipline reforms if elected to the School Board in November.”

Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform was formed in 2005 by parents concerned over mandatory, inflexible student discipline practices in Fairfax County Public Schools. Its mission is to transform the FCPS discipline system from a criminal and punitive approach to a restorative, educational, and therapeutic process by working with families, FCPS, county staff, civil rights and child development specialists, and legal representatives. More information about FZTR’s candidate endorsements and discipline reform efforts is available at www.FairfaxZeroToleranceReform.org.

Fairfax County residents will elect 12 members of the School Board, one in each magisterial district and three at-large, on Tuesday, November 8.

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