



# 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.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, September 20, 2011**

**CONTACT:**  
Michele Menapace  
[FZTRMichele@aol.com](mailto:FZTRMichele@aol.com)  
703-329-8236

## Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform Endorses Dan Storck in Mt. Vernon District School Board Race

The leadership of Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform (FZTR) today endorsed the candidacy of Dan Storck in the Mt. Vernon District in his campaign for re-election to the Fairfax County School Board. The endorsement follows a Q & A session with Storck and his opponent, Michele Nellenbach.

In its interviews with the two Mt. Vernon candidates, FZTR leadership sought views on a number of the organization’s priorities—the role of the school board in establishing a restorative and respectful culture in FCPS discipline efforts while maintaining school safety; requiring school personnel to contact parents prior to questioning; disparities among high school suspension rates; due process issues related to hearings; and the involuntary reassignment of students.

The FZTR leadership took nearly two weeks to come to a decision on the Mt. Vernon race because both candidates expressed clear support for needed reforms. FZTR’s endorsement of Storck acknowledges his long voting record in favor of important topics related to discipline reforms. The group cited Mr. Storck’s support of sustained, ongoing change in policy and of encouraging more meaningful engagement between FCPS leadership and community activists. However, FZTR expressed mild reservations on one issue. If Storck is reelected, FZTR expects him to demonstrate more publicly evident leadership and affirmation of his support for reforms and for advocacy he takes outside of public view.

Caroline Hemenway, FZTR co-founder, said “Dan’s quiet, behind-the-scenes work over the years has received little public recognition but we know how much it has mattered to our children.” John Farrell, FZTR’s legal director, added: “FZTR is confident Dan will vote in favor of positive reforms” and bring to the School Board a “tempered but firm” voice that has garnered respect from his colleagues and the community.

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](http://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.

#####