



## FHF Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, 4.12.22

5:30-6:30 pm

Recording: [FHF April Meeting - YouTube](#)

### Attendees: (unchecked/highlighted present)

| ACPS School Representatives:  | Board Members:   |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Albemarle High School- Julie Nitzsche                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Amanda Alger- Co-President (FHF Founding Group)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baker Butler Elementary Radhika Freeland                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Khalliah Jones- Co-President (Woodbrook Family Support Worker/Rep)  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broadus Wood Elementary- Karen Fink                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Miles Nelson- Co-Vice President (FHF Founding Group and ACPS Coordinator of Mental Health & Wellness)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brownsville Elementary- Fotini Burns                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Latara Ragland- Co-Vice President   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burley Middle Lisa Christianson  | <input type="checkbox"/> Angie Brement- Treasurer (FHF Founding Group)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crozet Elementary- Mary Heppner                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Emily Holmstrom- Secretary (Founding FHF group member and Agnor Hurt Counselor/Rep)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greer Elementary- Tiphony Barmore                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fran Clark (Greer Family Support Worker)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Henley Middle Sarah Harris   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gamelia Guerrero (Founding FHF group member)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hollymead Elementary Megan Kopley  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Jackson (Founding FHF group member)  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juvett Middle- Daisy Rojas  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn Monroe (AHS Region 10)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lab School Melanie Bowyer & Lauren Otto  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shining Phaup (Mutual Aid- Staunton, Gville, Augusta & Waynesboro, Love Thy LGBTQ+ Neighbor- VA)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lakeside Middle- Ann Lawrence Crasty                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Kim Stanton (Bright Stars)  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meriwether Lewis Elementary- Vail Weiglein                          |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monticello High School- Lauren Martinez & Joe Weaver                | <b>Other Community Members:</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountainview Elementary Providence Smith & Ronica Turner                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ambha Lessard, ESOL Family Engagement and Support Liaison-ACPS</li><li>• James and Courtney</li><li>• Heidi Gilman Bennett</li><li>• Ashely Schneider, Stepping Stone</li><li>• Lauren MacLean, ACPS staff</li><li>• Mary Jo, Living Together</li><li>• Claire's iPhone</li><li>• Carolina</li></ul> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Murray Elementary- Jennifer Lyengar                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Hill Elementary Arilana Zlotnick   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scottsville Elementary- Renee Lundgren                              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stone-Robinson Elementary Leah Shiraishi & Charlotte Dickerson & Brian Mulcahy |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walton Middle- Karen Collier & Helen Neal                           |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western High School- Alanah Horning                                 |  |

### 5:30- 5:35 pm **Welcome**

- QUICK overview of FHF- we are working to **build community** & support families
- March's meeting recording and notes
  - Governor Glenn Youngkin has designated April 2022 as the Month of the Military Child.
  - Frequent moves, family separations through deployments, and reintegration following deployments can make school, home, and community life challenging for military children. Yet, even in such circumstances, these students continually demonstrate resilience and perseverance. Their contributions to schools and communities also include unique and valuable perspectives on learning, friendships, and growing up to assist schools in planning for Month of the Military Child celebrations, the VDOE developed resources that are available on VDOE's Military Families webpage. The VDOE encourages schools to use these materials and ideas while planning Month of the Military Child activities throughout April.
  - The VDOE also encourages schools to share their "Purple Up!" and "Month of the Military Child" photos by using the hashtag #PurpleUpVirginia and tag @VDOE\_SESS. Photos

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and/or descriptions of the activities can also be sent to Dan Dunham, VDOE Military Student and Family Specialist, for sharing with the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

#### 5:35- 5:55 pm **Community Speakers**

- [Ashely Schneider, Stepping Stone Charlottesville](#)
  - New nonprofit, provides essentials under resourced families with kids newborn- age 3 in Cville/Albemarle
  - Office space off Park Street to accept donations
- **Lauren MacLean**, Assistant Director of ESOL, World Languages, and Homeschool, ACPS
  - Operation Allies Welcome-official name evacuation efforts in Afghanistan
    - First student enrolled Oct 20 and still getting new students- 100 students this year
    - Many are children or siblings of military interpreters with or applying for, special immigrant visas when evacuated
    - Largely at Greer, Woodbrook, Jouett and AHS
      - But some at Mountainview, Burley, Lakeside, Baker Butler, Hollymead, and Monticello
    - Huge need for housing (IRC, International Neighbors, Stepping Stone- **if you know of any private rentals- 5 families still living in temporary housing...contact ESOL dept to be connected to IN/IRC!**)
- **James Schempp**, Parent
  - Involved with Operation Allies Welcome
    - Welcoming Afghan refugees
    - Difficult to overstate needs of families: housing and other needs
      - May come with very little
      - If have opportunity to connect with families to assist, help is needed
- **Mary Jo Hollis**, Program Assistant for Living Free Together
  - [Living Free Together](#) (LFT) is the largest and most active veteran & military family focused non-profit organization serving the greater Charlottesville area. LFT is committed to providing active, non-active & retired patriot families with the life skills and support necessary to face their next BIG adventure in life together.

#### 5:50- 6:00 pm **FHF Updates**

- Teacher Appreciation Project Update- Heidi
  - [Teacher/Staff Appreciation | Families Helping Families | Charlottesville \(albemarlefhf.org\)](#)
- Solutions Team Update Miles Nelson
  - Solutions team has closed 11 cases since March and having transitioned to Unite Us
    - Physical goods
      - Working on solutions to get goods to families
    - Partnering with Families in Crisis to assist families in transition
- Treasurer Update [treasurerfhf@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerfhf@gmail.com)
  - Board approved [first budget](#)

#### 6:00- 6:25 pm **Discussion (around what they've heard tonight and items in the chat)**

- Talk to students about kids moving here and showing grace and welcome
- Ramadan happening now- can be exhausting so kids might show understanding to students fasting

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- Even with similar religious backgrounds, cultural backgrounds might differ. Some tensions happening at AHS and students to understand- Lauren sharing resources
  - Some tensions are based on [different religious denominations](#)
  - Other tensions may be based on cultural factors; [understanding Afghanistan](#) can help explain these conflicts (especially pg. 7)
  - We frequently see tension between newer arrival students and students who have been in the states longer; schools can reach out to Ambha Lessard ([alessard@k12albemarle.org](mailto:alessard@k12albemarle.org)) for support navigating this issue.
  - It is helpful for non-immigrant students to understand that because students look the same or observe the same religion, they may not have everything in common (just like we don't all in the States!)
- Mary Jo:
  - The Earlysville Exchange works with International Neighbors by offering clothing and household items.
  - Living Free Together is community partners with Fly Dog Yoga so we approached them about helping with something for Teacher Appreciation and they are offering to create a FREE month of on-line yoga classes just for teachers and school staff. How would you like to get that information and distribute that info to school? I sent this to Heidi as well...
- Radhika F.: Something that parents can do with their kids is teaching them the simple phrase of "Ramadan Mubarek". Happy Ramadan... Also "Ramadan Kareem!" and "Eid Mubarak!"
  - It's many of these children' first holiday away from home.
- Sarah H and Khalilah J: Another housing-focused meeting- connect families with private rentals/brainstorming session. Problem only to get worse
- Megan K: Outside for in person meetup
  - Spots for in person meetup:
    - Random Row hosts a lot of events, Cardinal Hall, Pro Re Nata, Dairy Market, Ix/3notched, Selvedge
      - Provide snacks/munchies- folks can buy more/drinks. Happy Hour.
      - Some prefer weekdays, others wkend- maybe 2 events?
      - Amanda to send poll

#### 6:25- 6:30 pm **Wrap-up & Next Steps**

- ~~Amanda to send notes, survey and doodle poll for in person year end event~~
- Anyone know of private family home/apt rentals in Albemarle/Cville? Contact ESOL department to connect families! Lauren: [Imaclean@k12albemarle.org](mailto:Imaclean@k12albemarle.org)
- Upcoming meetings:
  - May 10, 2022 05:30 PM (Parent Supports and School Year Wrap Up)
  - MAY 21?? (Year end get together?)
- Next month's focus: "**Year End Meeting**" :)
  - Please [email us](#) if you have any suggestions for community speakers/resources to share during the month on Facebook page.
- Our mission is to first connect with existing community resources. As always...are we missing any [resources in our document](#), especially organizations that can help families who are struggling with rent, utilities, and other needs?
- Is there a group that you'd like us to invite to speak at a monthly meeting? [Let us know.](#)

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- If you know a family that is struggling or would like to give of your time to FHF, visit our [Help page](#).
- If you haven't done so already, join our newsletter mailing list by texting **FHF** to **42828** or [click here](#).
- If you can donate to support our work, [visit our donation page](#).

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