



# ANNE DONOHUE

## AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE

*Loudoun County Public Schools Newsletter*

April 2024

The views contained herein reflect the views of the individual School Board member who is the publisher of this newsletter and may not reflect the views of the Loudoun County School Board and/or Loudoun County Public Schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read my April Newsletter. March was a bustling month as your At-Large School Board Member, and I am grateful for your interest in the updates below. If you have any questions, concerns, or even celebrations you would like to share, please don't hesitate to reach out anytime. Alongside our regular School Board communication channels, I am excited to announce that I will be hosting Office Hours to connect with and hear from you. The first session will take place on Saturday, April 13 at the [Rust Library](#) in Leesburg from 10am-Noon. The second session is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at the [Purcellville Library](#), also from 10am-Noon. I encourage you to [sign up for a 20-minute slot](#) to chat with me. I look forward to meeting you!

**OFFICE HOURS WITH**  
**AT - LARGE**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**  
**ANNE DONOHUE**



**Rust Library**  
Please sign up for a spot to discuss any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have!  
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10C0B48AA629A4F8C16-48713212-office>  
\*This meeting is not sponsored by Loudoun County Public Schools or Loudoun County Public Library.\*

**SATURDAY APRIL 13**  
**10:00 AM - NOON**

## Social Media Links

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

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## ***Joint Committee on Collective Bargaining***

The first meeting of the Joint Committee on Collective Bargaining (JCCB), which I am honored to serve as the Chair, was held on March 20. The meeting was productive and encouraging, and the JCCB decided on a path forward to address the issues related to our draft Collective Bargaining resolution. We have scheduled two half-day meetings in April from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to begin the work on the eight issues the Loudoun Education Association (LEA) relayed to the School Board in December 2023, and are hopeful to resolve these issues via consensus in the JCCB before the summer. The next meeting will be held on April 15.

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## ***Loudoun Education Foundation***

The Loudoun Education Foundation (LEF) achieved a remarkable feat on Give Choose Day, raising \$12,000 to fund the Diversifying the Teacher Workforce Scholarship for an aspiring educator. Explore LEF's impactful initiatives across Loudoun County, and learn how YOU can get involved, by visiting their website at: <https://www.loudouneducationfoundation.org/>. The next LEF Trustees meeting is May 2 at 8:00 a.m.

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## ***Student Services Committee***

The Student Services Committee met on March 19 and discussed Policies 6650 and 6640, both related to health and safety trainings and certifications for staff and other school personnel. The Committee clarified its direction for LCPS staff to engage an outside, non-LCPS organization to facilitate and conduct focus groups consisting of LCPS students and community members to gather such additional input to inform the Committee's consideration of proposed revisions to Policy 8040. You can listen to the [March Student Services Committee Meeting](#) (and any past meetings) via BoardDocs.

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# Human Resources and Talent Development Committee

The Human Resources and Talent Development (HRTD) Committee met on March 21 and discussed Policies 7318, 7712 and 7714, related to Employee Leave and Separation of Employees. We also received presentations from HRTD staff about both our teacher recruitment process and the possible paths forward to student and staff calendar development. The calendar discussion was particularly thought-provoking, as ideas such as four-day weeks for students, year-round school, and earlier start and end dates were all brought up. You can listen to the [March HRTD Committee Meeting](#) via BoardDocs, as well as view the presentations related to recruitment and calendars.

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## Legislative, Audit & Policy Committee

The Legislative, Audit and Policy Committee met on March 21 and discussed Policies 2620 and 2520, related to student & staff recognition and public participation. I was also able to present my proposed addition to the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Legislative Positions. I proposed that VSBA adopt as an official position that all School Boards should enact requirements that their Districts provide/instruct information on firearm safe storage laws and evidence-based best practices to the students and families in their communities. Gunshot injuries are the #1 cause of death for Americans age 19 and under, and the CDC reports that over 120 Americans are killed with guns and over 200 are shot and wounded every day. Many gun deaths and injuries, whether accidental or intentional, are preventable when firearms are stored safely and out of the reach of minors and unauthorized users. A research study in JAMA found that if even one-half of homes with unlocked guns started securing their guns, we could cut the youth gun suicide and unintentional death rate by one-third. I strongly believe that, similar to how schools provide information about substance use and abuse, and mental health awareness, they should also provide evidence-based information about firearm safe storage requirements and best practices.

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All committee meetings are open to the public, audio recorded, and recordings and materials from past meetings are available for anyone to access on BoardDocs.

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## List of Upcoming Meetings and Events

## Highlights

- Joint Committee on Collective Bargaining: [Monday 4/15 at 9:00 a.m.](#)

- Student Services Committee Meeting: [Thursday 4/18 at 5:30 p.m.](#)
- Community Listening Session with LCPS Superintendent at Loudoun County High School: [Thursday 4/18 at 5:00 p.m.](#) for Staff and [Thursday 4/18 at 7:00 p.m.](#) for Families

#### Event Information

### General 4th Tuesday School Board Meeting

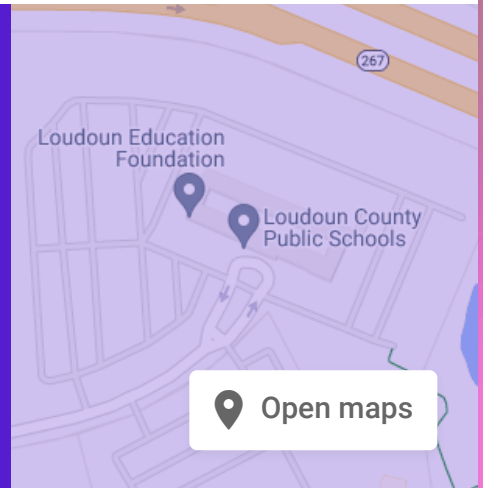
#### [More Information](#)

When?

**Tuesday, Apr 23, 2024, 04:30 PM**

Where?

**Loudoun County Public Schools, Education Court, Ashburn, VA, USA**



- Legislative, Audit & Policy Committee Meeting: [Thursday 4/25 2:00 p.m.](#)
- Human Resources and Talent Development Committee Meeting: [Thursday 4/25 3:30 p.m.](#)

Check out the link below for a list of upcoming high school and middle school productions across the county! Theatre isn't just entertainment; it is a vital platform for creativity and expression. Join in supporting these talented students as they showcase their dedication on stage!



#### Division of Teaching and Learning / Theatre

The LCPS Theatre Arts Department provides students a challenging, sequential, authentic instruction program consisting of: Play Production, Theatre History, Dramatic Literature, Acting Styles, Improvisation, Playwriting and theatre criticism with an emphasis on the creative process. The Theatre Arts program develops critical thinkers, communicators, collaborators and problem solvers while providing experiences to make real life connections.

[lcp.org](https://lcp.org)

Belated Easter wishes to all who celebrated, a heartfelt Chag Sameach to those observing Passover, and a warm Eid Mubarak to everyone who celebrated Eid! I hope you all enjoyed the Solar Eclipse, a wondrous event. 🌑



**Izabelle Fleeman**

Izabelle is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



