

MINUTES

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Jackson Intermediate School

Public Hearing No. 3

Regular Meeting No. 11

January 11, 1990

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Kohann Whitney convened the Board in public session at 6 p.m., with a quorum of members present. Mr. Rodriguez moved, and Mrs. Yock seconded, that the Board go into executive session for the purposes of discussion and consideration of the performance and discipline of specific employees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(1); discussion and consideration of disciplinary matters concerning students pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(2); and consultation with legal counsel pertaining to specific legal matters, requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel, within the jurisdiction of the School Board pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(7). The motion passed 7-0, with Mr. Choate present but not voting and with Mrs. Fleetwood and Mr. Frye not present for the vote.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Kohann Whitney convened the public hearing at 7:30, with the following members present:

Anthony Cardinale	Anthony Lane
Nathaniel Choate	Laura McDowall
Joanne Field	Armando Rodriguez
Letty Fleetwood (arr. 7:15)	Kohann Whitney
Robert Frye (arr. 6:40)	Carla Yock

Also present were Carl Kugler, the student representative to the Board; Division Superintendent Robert R. Spillane; Deputy Superintendents Jay Jacobs and Loretta Webb; and other members of the Leadership Team.

Ms. Whitney announced the purpose of the hearing was to receive public testimony on the proposed relocation of the Bren Mar Park student body for the 1990-91 school year, and said one speaker had signed up to address the Board.

1. Jane Grimm, President of Poe Intermediate School PTA, supported the staff recommendation and thanked the Area II staff for their work with the involved

communities. (Exhibit AA)

Mr. Lane read a letter into the record from Gail Chmura, Relocation Chairman for Bren Mar Park, expressing that community's intention to cooperate with all other involved schools to make the 1990-91 school year a successful one for all, saying that while the Bren Mar Park community did not find any one staff proposal totally acceptable, efforts by Area II staff to work with community groups and continued discussions to address issues of concern were appreciated. (Exhibit BB)

At 7:40 p.m., Ms. Whitney declared the public hearing closed.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Whitney said there was a need for the Board to go into executive session again. Mr. Choate moved, and Dr. Cardinale seconded, that the Board go back into executive session for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel pertaining to specific legal matters, requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel, within the jurisdiction of the School Board pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(7). The motion passed 10-0, with all members present and voting.

IV. MEETING OPENINGS

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The Board reconvened in public session for its regular meeting at 8:05 p.m., with the following members present:

Anthony Cardinale	Anthony Lane
Nathaniel Choate	Laura McDowall
Joanne Field	Armando Rodriguez
Letty Fleetwood	Kohann Whitney
Robert Frye	Carla Yock

Also present were Carl Kugler, the student representative to the Board; the Division Superintendent Robert R. Spillane; Deputy Superintendents Jay Jacobs and Loretta Webb; and certain members of the Leadership Team.

B. Certification and Confirmation of Action Taken in Executive Session

Ms. Whitney reported that the Board had met earlier in two executive sessions and would certify that matters discussed in those meetings were in accordance with Virginia law. Ms. Whitney moved, and Mrs. McDowall seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened executive meetings on January 11, 1990, pursuant to an

affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and since Section 2.1-344(D) of the Code of Virginia required a certification by the School Board that such executive meetings were conducted in conformity with Virginia law, the Fairfax County School Board hereby certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in those executive sessions, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motions convening the executive meetings were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion passed 8-0-2, with Mrs. Fleetwood and Mr. Frye abstaining because they had not been present for the entire discussion in the executive sessions. (Exhibit A)

Ms. Whitney stated that the actions taken during executive session would be confirmed in public session.

Mr. Lane moved, and Mrs. McDowall seconded, that the School Board accept in part and reject in part the recommendations of an advisory fact-finding panel, and authorize the Chairman to communicate the Board's reasons to the parties involved. The motion passed 8-0-2, with Mrs. Fleetwood and Mr. Frye abstaining because they were not present for all of the discussion during executive session. Ms. Whitney noted that in accordance with the Board's decision, the employee had not been dismissed.

Mrs. Yock moved, and Mr. Lane seconded, that the School Board establish a hearing date to consider a recommendation to dismiss an employee. The motion passed 7-2-1, with Mrs. McDowall and Mr. Frye voting "nay" and with Mrs. Fleetwood abstaining because she was not present for the discussion in executive session.

Ms. Whitney said that a Board hearing committee had met to consider student discipline matters. Mrs. McDowall said she had chaired the committee which met on January 3, 1990, with Mr. Choate and Mr. Frye also serving, and that the committee was to confirm its decisions regarding two students in public. Mr. Frye moved, and Mr. Choate seconded, that the School Board expel two students from FCPS for possession of weapons on school grounds. The motion passed 3-0, with all members of the committee voting "aye".

Ms. Whitney said the Board would confirm another action taken in executive session on January 9, 1990. Mrs. Yock moved, and Mr. Rodriguez seconded, that the School Board accept the recommendation of the Division Superintendent and affirm the suspension of a student. The motion passed 8-0-2, with Mrs. Fleetwood and Mr. Frye abstaining because they were not present for the executive session.

C. Announcement of Changes in the Agenda

There were no changes in the published agenda.

Ms. Whitney made two announcements regarding changes in the Board's calendar:

- o that people wishing to speak to the Board concerning the middle school recommendations might do so at the CIP public hearing on Tuesday January 16, and asking speakers who wanted to address the CIP or the middle school proposal to call the School Board office to sign up by the end of the work day on Friday, January 12;
- o that the budget work session scheduled on Thursday, January 18, would be cancelled and instead an Instruction Committee work session beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Burkholder Administrative Center would be substituted on that night.

D. Resolution Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ms. Whitney recognized Mrs. McDowall to offer the resolution honoring Dr. King and recognizing his birthday.

RESOLUTION
 RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY OF
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Public Schools will observe the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., on January 15 in recognition of his vision, his inspiration, and his pursuit of equality for all people; and

WHEREAS, he had a dream that someday all people would live together as equals in a finer land and as a part of a nobler civilization; and

WHEREAS, he was able to turn protests into a crusade and to translate conflicts into moral issues of nationwide concern; and

WHEREAS, he had goals consistent with the goals of Fairfax County Public Schools--that each student aspire to stand confidently, participate fully, learn continually, and contribute positively to his or her world; and

WHEREAS, our commitment as a school system is to imbue each student with the resources, the opportunities, and the skills that are necessary to reach for a dream and to capture it;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County School Board reaffirms its expectations, its energies, and its expertise to meet the challenges that lie ahead in the pursuit of excellence in and equality for all people.

Mrs. McDowall moved, and Mr. Frye seconded, adoption of the resolution. The motion passed 10-0.

V. PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD

A. Citizen Participation

Ms. Whitney stated that one speaker had asked to address the Board during the period reserved for public comment.

1. Ulric Berard, speaking as an individual, asked the Board to reconsider two changes in the health plan adopted effective July 1, 1989, regarding computing the deductible and reduced coverage for nervous and mental disorders, expressing concern about the effect on his own family and questioning how many other FCPS employees and their families were affected. (Exhibit B)

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Adoption of Consent Agenda (without discussion)

Ms. Whitney said the three items on the consent agenda would be considered in a single motion.

1. Minutes - Approve minutes of the December 21, 1989, regular Board meeting (SB; Exhibit C)
2. Award of Contract for Completion of Air Conditioning at Clermont and Hollin Meadows Elementary Schools - Award contract for completion of air conditioning at Clermont Elementary School to EMD Mechanical Specialists in the amount of \$406,000 and award contract for completion of air conditioning at Hollin Meadows Elementary School to Bildon, Inc., in the amount of \$464,309 (FcS; Exhibit D)
3. Perpetual Right and Easement for Road Improvements on School Board Property in the Burke/Pohick Area - Authorize execution of a deed of perpetual right and easement for road improvements on School Board property in the Burke/Pohick area (Tax Map 87-2-((1)), Parcel 4) (FcS; Exhibit E)

Mr. Lane moved, and Mr. Frye seconded, approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed 10-0.

B. Approval of Other Action Items

Interim Accommodation of Bren Mar Park Elementary School Students - Approve interim accommodation, for the 1990-91 school year, of the Bren Mar Park Elementary School student body at Belvedere Elementary and Poe Intermediate Schools (FcS; Exhibit F)

Dr. Spillane stated that the Board had heard the testimony regarding the proposal and that the staff would be available to respond to any questions. Mr. Lane moved, and Mrs. McDowall seconded, the staff recommendation to approve the interim accommodation of the Bren Mar Park Elementary School student body at Belvedere Elementary and Poe Intermediate Schools for the 1990-91 school year.

Mr. Lane commented that he had talked to Wayne Harris who indicated Area II staff would continue to work with the Bren Mar Park community to try to address their concerns related to scheduling and bus transportation. He stated that the staff proposal was on the right track as a way to deal with the problem and that he felt the recommendation should be approved.

Mrs. McDowall noted that both the statements received in testimony expressed support and appreciation for the work that the staff had done to help the community deal with an extraordinary situation and that she was sure staff work would continue to assure the temporary arrangements would be successful. She mentioned the many efforts already taken to work with all the communities and said that the two schools involved in her district were supportive of the staff recommendation.

Mrs. Yock agreed that the Belvedere school community in her area also welcomed the Bren Mar students, despite some concerns about overcrowded conditions there, recognizing the need to provide space for the relocated students. She mentioned some concerns in the immediate area from civic associations regarding added bus traffic and said that she had been assured that those concerns were recognized and that the situation would be monitored by school staff and County staff. She congratulated both the staff and the communities involved for their cooperative efforts to devise a solution to an unusual situation.

Ms. Whitney called for a vote on the motion to approve the staff recommendation for housing the Bren Mar Park student body in 1990-91. The motion passed 10-0. The student representative asked that his support for the motion be entered into the record.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Award of Contract for Renewal of Bran Mar Park Elementary School - Recommendation to award the contract for renewal of Bren Mar Park Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit G)

There were no questions from Board members.

- B. Award of Contract for Renewal of Garfield Elementary School - Recommendation to award

the contract for renewal of Garfield Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit H)

There were no questions from Board members.

- C. Award of Contract for Renewal of North Springfield Elementary School - Recommendation to award the contract for renewal of North Springfield Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit I)

There were no questions from Board members.

- D. Award of Contract for Additional Roof Replacement at Woodburn Elementary School - Recommendation to award the contract for additional roof replacement at Woodburn Elementary School to J.E. Wood & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$142,980 (FcS; Exhibit J)

There were no questions from Board members.

- E. Award of Contract to Replace 17 Multizone HVAC Rooftop Units at Laurel Ridge, Franconia, and Hunters Woods Elementary Schools - Recommendation to award the contract to replace 17 multizone HVAC rooftop units at Laurel Ridge, Franconia, and Hunters Woods Elementary Schools to the lowest responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit K)

Mrs. McDowall observed that for several meetings there had been a number of contracts on the agenda for renewals, air conditioning older schools, and major maintenance projects. She commented that there was great excitement at those schools and that she was glad the Board was proceeding with school renewals and upgrades, pursuing priority objectives to renovate and maintain existing schools.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Items Introduced by the Superintendent

Dr. Spillane said he had nothing further to report to the Board.

- B. Items Introduced by Board Members

Dr. Cardinale referring to the discussion of middle schools at the Tuesday night work session, said he would feel better about that subject if the Superintendent and staff were asked to develop a plan for incorporating the middle school concept into all Fairfax County schools. He suggested that the Board had not given the staff good direction and since there must be a plan in place for middle school education by 1992

in order to meet state requirements he thought there was a need to begin detailed planning now. Dr. Cardinale moved that the School Board ask the Superintendent and school staff to develop a plan for incorporating the middle school program into Fairfax County Public Schools on a countywide basis, with the plan to be presented to the School Board not later than 1 October, 1990, and with quarterly progress reports submitted to the School Board in the interim. He said that the motion would not affect the recommendation presently before the Board regarding three specific schools but that it would give a countywide impetus and direction for meeting the state mandate.

Ms. Whitney observed that one reason for the work session just announced for January 18 had been to provide another opportunity to discuss middle schools and clarify the Board's direction. She indicated Mrs. Yock also had something to introduce regarding the middle school issue and asked, rather than making a decision immediately, whether the proposed motion could be discussed on Thursday night, with some decision made then. Dr. Cardinale accepted that suggestion, mentioning that although the Board could not make decisions at work sessions, perhaps some consensus could be reached. In response to Ms. Whitney's question to the rest of the Board there was no objection from the Board members about proceeding that way.

Mrs. Fleetwood asked at which meeting the Board would know what work had been done on the drug-free work place regulation, which the Board had asked to see again. Dr. Ned Carr, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, agreed that staff had been asked to send the revision back to the Board and said that he was currently meeting with the employee groups for their input and then would be ready for the Board to review the regulation again. Mrs. Fleetwood asked if the Board could anticipate that information at the January 25 meeting. Dr. Spillane suggested that he could send the revision to the Board and ask for their comments before publishing it. Ms. Whitney said that if Board members felt a need to discuss the regulation further, then a meeting could be scheduled after seeing the revision.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that he had visited Groveton Elementary School to observe the newly initiated Academy Program which helped recent arrivals become acclimated to their new school and surroundings. He observed that the program had a good start, but that teacher pay and funds for materials were still lagging. He said he had been told that the program was also going very well in Area II and urged faster support for a very promising program.

Mr. Rodriguez also mentioned attending the West Potomac SPTA and said the large group there had been grateful for the quick response in maintenance done at that facility and had asked him to pass along their appreciation to the staff.

Mrs. Yock asked for more information about the operation of the Academy Program in Area II.

Referring to Dr. Cardinale's motion on the middle schools which addressed concerns similar to her own, Mrs Yock said, at the January 25 Board meeting, she would offer a substitute motion for the staff recommendation regarding middle school configuration in three intermediate schools, and commented that she wanted to read the proposed substitute motion into the record so it would be before the public and everyone would know what she intended to propose at that meeting. She said the substitute motion would specify: (1) that the School Board approve the Middle School program in concept, consistent with Virginia State Department of Education guidelines, for all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in Fairfax County Public Schools; (2) that the School Board support facilities modifications to create a six-seven-eight grade-level configuration when it is feasible and when it reflects community interest; (3) that the School Board approve the middle school concept and configuration of grades six, seven, and eight, for Holmes, Poe, and Glasgow Intermediate Schools, effective at the beginning of the 1991-92 school year. Further, that the Board direct staff to come back by February 22, with a detailed plan and time line for developing specific alternatives for those three schools to include: (1) costs, (2) program impact, (3) staffing needs, (4) student composition, (5) facilities modifications, (6) boundary adjustments. She explained that at the work session several Board members had commented on the difficulty of grappling with the many issues and said she thought that the Board needed to give some policy direction to the staff to get something besides "jello" to talk about, but that the Board also needed to address the overcrowding and facilities needs in that area without further delays. She observed that the substitute motion addressed many concerns raised at the work session, but at the same time proposed some definitive action in terms of critical space needs that had been identified more than two years before and had not been resolved. She agreed that the January 18 work session would be an opportunity to discuss Dr. Cardinale's proposal and hers and to get a clearer picture of the Board's thinking.

Ms. Whitney asked Dr. Cardinale to provide copies of his motion so the Board would have both proposals to review on January 18.

Mrs. McDowall requested that staff provide copies of the State Department of Education guidelines on middle school structuring before Thursday night. Mrs. McDowall asked Mrs. Yock to clarify the "plan and timeline" to develop alternatives, which appeared in her motion. Mrs. Yock said the intention would be to have alternative proposals with supporting data by February 22. Wayne Harris, Area II Superintendent, commented that much of the information was available in the agenda item. Al Hlavin, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Services, responded that the staff expectation was to provide a workplan by February 22, in terms of what would be considered, cost figures

to be determined and how a timeline for implementation would be developed. Mrs. Yock replied that the Board had been talking about the concept and the space problems for some time and that she hoped the timeline for addressing the space needs could be very short. She requested more definitive information as soon as possible, remarking she had been told most information could be provided quickly. Mr. Harris indicated that staff could address some of the itemized concerns quickly, such as reviewing and defining costs and working more on staffing needs, but that additional work would be needed in some other areas. He asked Mrs. Yock to clarify what was meant by student composition. Mrs. Yock said she would do some "wordsmithing" on the motion for clarification..

Mrs. Fleetwood asked, before the work session, if she could be provided with a written definition of exactly what the middle school concept for Fairfax County Public Schools was, with more specific description of what the system was trying to do in terms of the concept. Dr. Spillane replied that he had planned at the opening of the upcoming work session to do exactly that kind of presentation. He noted that the intermediate principals, the Leadership Team, and the study group had all been working on the concept for a year or two and that the assumption, perhaps wrongly, was that everyone had the same background information in common. He agreed that some definition of the collective vision of a middle school would be articulated to the Board, along with some practical issues regarding the program and the academic aspirations for children.

Mr. Choate suggested, in Mrs. Yock's motion, that the concept of feasibility should include affordability. Dr. Spillane replied that costs were generally assumed when talking about feasibility, but that perhaps it would be clearer to break that issue out separately.

Mr. Frye commented that he had been reading recently of some local efforts to improve minority students' performance; specifically, Montgomery County's hiring a Yale professor to conduct a critique of their system's efforts and the Superintendent of Prince Georges County proposing a Blue Ribbon Commission to determine ways to improve the achievement of young black males. He asked staff to monitor those kinds of efforts closely and to provide the Board with some periodic information about what was happening in neighboring counties. He stated that Fairfax County Public Schools' problems were faced by other school systems and that he thought Fairfax schools could learn from others.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Fleetwood moved, and Mr. Choate seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed, 10-0.

Robert A. Whitney
Chairman

Jane Timian
Clerk