

## MINUTES

### Fairfax County School Board Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 22

June 25, 1998

#### I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0020

Chairman Emery convened the Board in public session at 6:48 p.m. with a quorum of members present. Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the Board go into executive session (1) to discuss disciplinary matters involving students pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(2) of the Code of Virginia; (2) to discuss the disposition of publicly held property pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia; (3) to protect the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(4) of the Code of Virginia; and (4) to consult with legal counsel regarding personnel procedures pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed 7-0, with Ms. Amundson, Mrs. Brickner, Mr. Emery, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Moon, and Mrs. Strauss voting "aye"; with Mr. Braunlich, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Ward not present for the vote; and with Mr. Reese absent.

#### II. MEETING OPENING

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0045

##### A. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was convened in public session at 7:40 p.m. with Chairman Emery presiding, and with the following members present:

Kristen J. Amundson (Mt. Vernon)	Ernestine C. Heastie (Providence; arr. 6:50)
Christian N. Braunlich (Lee; arr. 6:54)	Ilryong Moon (Braddock)
Mychele B. Brickner (At-Large)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Mark H. Emery (At-Large)	Carter S. Thomas (Springfield; arr. 6:57)
Robert E. Frye (At-Large)	Fred Ward (Mason; arr. 7:02)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)	

Also present were student representative to the Board Kenneth S. Prince; Division Superintendent Daniel A. Domenech; Deputy Superintendent Alan E. Leis; Deputy Executive Assistant Pam Goddard; Deputy Clerk Norma J. Bailey; and certain other members of staff.

##### B. **Certification of Executive Session Compliance** (Exhibit A)

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0060

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened an executive meeting on June 25, 1998, 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 meeting was 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 the executive session, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion passed 9-0-2, with Ms. Amundson, Mrs. Brickner, Mr. Emery, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Strauss, and Mr. Thomas voting "aye"; with Mr. Braunlich and Mr. Ward abstaining; and with Mr. Reese absent.

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**C. Announcement of Changes in the Agenda**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0100

Mr. Emery announced that Agenda Item IV.A.3., School Board Advisory Committees, had been updated; that Attachment B of Agenda Item V.A., School Board Mission and Priorities, had been revised; and that Agenda Item IV.C.2., Additional Appointments to Textbook Review Committees, would be added. Mr. Gibson requested that Agenda Item IV.A.3., School Board Advisory Committees, be removed from the consent agenda, and Mr. Emery announced that it would become Agenda Item IV.B.2.

**D. Other Announcements**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0135

Mr. Emery announced that Mr. Reese would be unable to attend the meeting because he had an important business commitment.

**E. Resolution Honoring Kenneth S. Prince**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0145

Mr. Emery said that Mr. Prince had been the student representative to the Board for the 1997-98 school year; that Mr. Prince had served his constituents extremely well and had been an outspoken advocate for FCPS students; and he offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION HONORING  
KENNETH S. PRINCE**

**WHEREAS**, Kenny Prince, a senior at McLean High School, has served with distinction and dedication as the student representative to the School Board for the 1997-98 school year, participating fully in the work of the School Board, attending meetings, work sessions, and special functions, and contributing valuable observations to discussions of issues before the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, he has throughout his academic career at McLean served as an exceptional and outstanding role model for his peers and other students as evidenced by his service as Student Advisory Council representative, president of the Key Club, and second vice president of his sophomore class; and

**WHEREAS**, he has been active in service to his community, attending the 1997 Civitan Youth Seminar and being rewarded for his exemplary efforts by receiving the 1997 McLean Youth, Inc., Youth Leadership Award and the 1996 Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar Award in recognition of his many contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, he has been involved in extracurricular activities, which include being a member of McLean High School's varsity golf and wrestling teams and participating in the junior varsity and varsity math leagues; and

**WHEREAS**, he has been a tireless advocate for all students in Fairfax County during his tenure as School Board representative and has provided capable and conscientious leadership--initiating the first student representative web page on the Fairfax County Public Schools intranet, enabling him to communicate directly with students and receive feedback to questions he developed for the site and to solicit students' perspectives on a variety of topics, while keeping the county and area Student Advisory Councils informed about Board actions, and working with the county SAC on the Student Feedback to Teachers initiative--always focusing on the importance of education and keeping students' needs foremost in all deliberations; and

**WHEREAS**, he has met all responsibilities and fulfilled all duties with diligence, intelligence, responsibility, and humor, enhancing the stature of the School Board's student representative;

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***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Fairfax County School Board acknowledges the exceptional service of Kenneth S. Prince during the 1997-98 school year and expresses its sincere appreciation and great respect for all his accomplishments; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the School Board wishes Kenneth S. Prince the very best of luck in the bright future that lies ahead.

Mr. Emery moved, and the balance of the Board in attendance seconded, that the Board adopt the Resolution Honoring Kenneth S. Prince. The motion passed 11-0, with Mr. Reese absent.

Mr. Prince accepted a framed, certified copy of the Resolution, and a plaque; and photographs were taken. Mr. Moon presented Mr. Prince with a copy of Lao Tze's *Tao Te Cheng* for his summer reading, from which he read the following translation from Chapter 27: *Good walking leaves no track behind it*; he said that he felt that the passage was more accurately translated as *Good deeds do not leave any trace*; and that he expected Mr. Prince would perform many good deeds in the years to come, because he was a true leader.

Comments included the following: that it had been a pleasure to work with Mr. Prince (Braunlich, Emery, Gibson, Heastie, Strauss); that Mr. Prince was a principled young man who was recognized as a leader by his peers (Strauss); that Mr. Prince had been a courageous advocate for his constituents; that they expected Mr. Prince would have a very successful future (Amundson, Braunlich, Brickner, Emery, Frye, Heastie, Strauss, Ward); that they wished Mr. Prince good luck at the University of Virginia, and in his future pursuits (Amundson, Brickner, Emery, Frye, Gibson, Heastie, Moon, Strauss, Thomas); that he felt he shared a number of Mr. Prince's views; that Mr. Prince could be described as *the student representative who boldly went where no student representative had gone before* (Thomas); that Mr. Prince had brought the significant issue of providing student input in teacher evaluations to the Board's attention (Brickner, Frye, Thomas); that Mr. Prince was bright and articulate (Amundson, Thomas); that Mr. Prince had learned many lessons from his Board service which could not be taught in classes on civics or government; that Mr. Prince had developed great skill at working effectively with students and adults; that he had learned how to listen to students based on his experience with Mr. Prince; that the Board could learn many important things from students (Gibson); that Mr. Prince had the conviction to stand up for his beliefs--however unpopular they might be--and accepted disappointment graciously (Gibson, Ward); that Mr. Prince had always been thoroughly prepared to discuss the issues facing the Board; that she appreciated Mr. Prince's assistance with technology issues (Heastie); that she had worked with eight student representatives to the Board who each brought unique and special qualities to the position; that it was extremely challenging to undertake to represent 150,000 students (Amundson); that Mr. Prince was extremely hardworking and persistent (Amundson, Brickner); that she greatly appreciated the input provided by student representatives (Brickner); that in coming of age, individuals went through a rite of passage in which they believed in certain ideals and principles; that individuals were not always able to fulfill their own objectives; that Mr. Prince cared deeply about a broad range of issues which had come before the Board (Braunlich); expressions of thanks to Mr. Prince for his service (Braunlich, Frye, Gibson); that he ranked Mr. Prince among the best student representatives with whom he had served; that Mr. Prince made a unique contribution during his term on the Board by advocating strongly, but respectfully, on behalf of FCPS students (Frye); that the student representative to the Board invested a great deal of time and effort to prepare for Board meetings and to work with constituents, while maintaining a challenging academic schedule; and that Mr. Prince was to be commended for his service (Emery).

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0860

Mr. Prince expressed his appreciation to the Board for their kind comments; he said that his term on the Board had been the greatest learning experience of his life; that he had benefitted from each of his many experiences with the Board; that Board members worked to overcome political differences to act in the best interests of FCPS students; that the Board could learn how its policies

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were impacting the student body by soliciting input from students; he expressed the hope that the Board would continue to work with the Student Advisory Council to develop a method for students to provide feedback for teacher evaluations; he implored the Board to pay attention to the perspectives and opinions of students; and he expressed his appreciation to the Board, School Board Office staff members, Dr. Domenech, Dr. Leis, and his family members for their assistance and support.

Mr. Emery welcomed Wesley Hottot, who would begin his term as student representative to the Board on July 1, to the Board room. Mrs. Strauss expressed her thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Prince for having supported their son throughout the past year, and for having agreed to let Kenny undertake the great responsibility which he had handled so capably. Dr. Domenech extended his congratulations to Mr. Prince; he said that, in 20 years of service as a school superintendent, he had never previously had an opportunity to work with a student representative; that Mr. Prince had established a high standard for his successors to live up to; that Mr. Prince's comportment was generally indistinguishable from that of the elected Board members; and he wished Mr. Prince the best of luck in his future endeavors.

### III. PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD

#### A. **Spotlight on Learning** (Exhibit B) TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1040

Dr. Domenech introduced Woodson High School chemistry teacher Darlene Donelson, who made a presentation on Laboratory Safety in the Chemistry Classroom Environment. Ms. Donelson said that laboratory safety focused on educating students on safety wear, chemical usage, equipment usage, general lab procedures, and emergency procedures; and that such instruction provided opportunities for students to transfer and incorporate knowledge learned in the classroom to the home and workplace.

Mr. Emery said that safety was a vital part of the effective operation of all science laboratories; and that he was encouraged that the topic of safety was stressed in FCPS.

Assistant Superintendent of the Department of General Services Johnnie Forte said that Ms. Donelson came to work in the Safety Office during the summer to develop instructional programs on safety for students.

#### B. **Citizen Participation** TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1220

No speakers addressed the Board during the time reserved for public comment.

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. **Adoption of Consent Agenda** TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1270

Mr. Ward moved, and Mr. Frye seconded, that the Board adopt the six items remaining on the consent agenda:

1. **Minutes** - Approve minutes of June 11, 1998, regular Board meeting (SB; Exhibit C)

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2. **Monthly Report of Separations** - Confirm separations for the period beginning May 1, 1998, and ending May 31, 1998 (HR; Exhibit D)
3. **Appointments to the ERFC Board of Trustees** - Approve the reappointment of Ellen A. Fizer, Deirdra M. McLaughlin, and Joseph P. Romeo as appointed trustees to the Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC) Board of Trustees for a one-year term, and confirm the appointment of Robert P. DeConcini as the seventh trustee (HR; Exhibit E)
4. **Award of Contract** - Award the contract for renewal of London Towne Elementary School to PEC Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$4,701,000 (FcS; Exhibit F)
5. **Award of Contract** - Award the contract for renewal of Westbriar Elementary School to Twigg Corporation in the amount of \$3,894,695 (FcS; Exhibit G)
6. **Award of Contract** - Award the contract for installation of a new hydraulic elevator at Hayfield Secondary School to Golden Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$123,041 (FcS; Exhibit H)

The motion passed 11-0, with Mr. Reese absent.

**B. Approval of Other Action Items**

1. **Proposed Technical Amendments to ERFC** - Approve the amendments to the Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC) plan document as detailed in the agenda item (HR; Exhibit I)  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1330

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Ward seconded, that the Board approve the amendments to the Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC) plan document as detailed in the agenda item.

Mr. Moon asked how the changes to Sections 1.20(vi) and 11.06 would impact the financial obligation of FCPS, and staff responded that the result of the change would be cost-neutral, and no additional expense would be incurred; and that members who bought in would purchase at their current age and salary rate.

The motion passed 11-0, with Mr. Reese absent.

2. **School Board Advisory Committees** - Appoint individuals to serve on the Adult Education, Gifted and Talented, Human Relations, Minority Student Achievement Oversight, Professional Technical Studies, School Health, and Students With Disabilities advisory committees as listed in the agenda item (SB; Exhibit J)  
TAPE REFERENCE: 2-1390

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the Board appoint individuals to serve for two-year terms ending June 30, 2000, on the Adult Education, Gifted and Talented, Human Relations, Minority Student Achievement Oversight, Professional Technical Studies, School Health, and Students With Disabilities advisory committees as listed in the updated agenda item, as amended to correctly reflect the spelling of the Hunter Mill District appointee to the Human Relations Advisory Committee to Sharon Eisenberg.

Ms. Amundson moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the motion be amended to include the appointment of Lois Passman to serve as the Mount Vernon District representative on the Adult Education General Advisory Committee.

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Mr. Moon moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the motion be amended to include the appointment of the following representatives from the Braddock District: Lawrence Smerin to the Advisory Committee for the Gifted and Talented, Max E. Pettibone to the Human Relations Advisory Committee, Brenda Greene to the School Health Advisory Committee, Candace Cortiella to the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities, and Laura McDowall to the Adult Education General Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Ms. Amundson seconded, that the motion be amended to include the appointment of the following representatives from the Dranesville District: Joanne Field to the Adult Education General Advisory Committee and Herbert Schandler to the Human Relations Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Heastie moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the motion be amended to include the appointment of Rodney Williams as the Providence District Representative to the Minority Student Achievement (MSA) Oversight Committee.

Mrs. Brickner moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the motion be amended to include the appointment of Richard Shin to the Advisory Committee for the Gifted and Talented.

Mr. Gibson accepted the foregoing amendments offered by Ms. Amundson, Mrs. Brickner, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Moon, and Mrs. Strauss as friendly amendments.

The motion that the Board appoint individuals to serve for two-year terms ending June 30, 2000, on the Adult Education, Gifted and Talented, Human Relations, Minority Student Achievement Oversight, Professional Technical Studies, School Health, and Students With Disabilities advisory committees as listed in the updated agenda item, as amended to correctly reflect the spelling of the Hunter Mill District appointee to the Human Relations Advisory Committee to *Sharon Eisenberg*, and as further amended to include the appointment of: Lois Passman, Laura McDowall, and Joanne Field to the Adult Education Advisory Committee; Lawrence Smerin and Richard Shin to the Advisory Committee for the Gifted and Talented; Candace Cortiella to the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities; Max E. Pettibone and Herbert Schandler to the Human Relations Advisory Committee; Rodney Williams to the Minority Student Achievement (MSA) oversight Committee; and Brenda Greene to the School Health Advisory Committee **passed 11-0**, with Mr. Reese absent.

**C. Other Matters Requiring Board Action**

**1. Confirmation of Action Taken in Executive Session**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1500

Ms. Amundson moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to expel a student from the Fairfax County Public Schools for possession of a weapon on school grounds. The motion **passed 8-0-3**, with Ms. Amundson, Mrs. Brickner, Mr. Emery, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Moon, and Mrs. Strauss voting "aye"; with Mr. Braunlich, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Ward abstaining; and with Mr. Reese absent.

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mrs. Heastie seconded, to expel a student from the Fairfax County Public Schools for assaulting another student. The motion **passed 9-0-2**, with Ms. Amundson, Mr. Braunlich, Mrs. Brickner, Mr. Emery, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Moon, and Mrs. Strauss voting "aye"; with Mr. Thomas and Mr. Ward abstaining; and with Mr. Reese absent.

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Mr. Braunlich moved, and Ms. Amundson seconded, to expel a student from the Fairfax County Public Schools for threatening to assault a teacher and for violating a probationary term of an alternative placement. The motion passed 10-0-1, with Ms. Amundson, Mr. Braunlich, Mrs. Brickner, Mr. Emery, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Strauss, and Mr. Thomas voting "aye"; with Mr. Ward abstaining; and with Mr. Reese absent.

Ms. Amundson moved, and Mrs. Heastie seconded, to exclude three students from the regular school program of the Fairfax County Public Schools for illegal acts in the community; the charges were rape in two cases and malicious wounding in the third case. The motion passed 11-0, with Ms. Amundson, Mr. Braunlich, Mrs. Brickner, Mr. Emery, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Strauss, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Ward voting "aye"; and with Mr. Reese absent.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Ms. Amundson, Mr. Braunlich moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, to expel a student for endangerment of the well-being of other students. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Thomas moved, and Ms. Amundson seconded, to exempt certain students from school attendance in accordance with Section 22.1-247(A)(2) of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed 10-0-1, with Mr. Ward abstaining; and with Mr. Reese absent.

Mr. Gibson moved, and Ms. Amundson seconded, to authorize the Chairman to refer two grievances to fact-finding panels. The motion passed 11-0, with Mr. Reese absent.

Mr. Ward moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the School Board authorize the Division Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent for Facilities Services to sign all documents associated with the sale of the third lot (Lot Two) of Condon Manor of McLean, Section Two, and to rescind the authority given on June 11, 1998, with respect to Lot Three. The motion passed 11-0, with Mr. Reese absent.

2. **Additional Appointments to Textbook Review Committees** - Appoint individuals to serve on textbook review committees as listed in the agenda item (SB; Exhibit K)  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1655

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Frye seconded, that the Board appoint individuals to serve on textbook review committees as listed in the agenda item. The motion passed 11-0, with Mr. Reese absent.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **School Board Mission and Priorities** - Recommendation to approve divisionwide strategic targets for 1998-99, confirm its mission statement, and adopt priorities for FY 2000 and FY 2001 (SB; Exhibit L)  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1675

Mr. Gibson said that he questioned the advisability of setting targets based on SAT scores; that the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which designed and administered SATs, admonished school divisions against using SAT scores for such comparative assessments; and he asked that staff respond to that issue.

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- B. University Intern Programs** - Recommendation to award the contracts for university intern programs to George Washington University in the amounts of \$327,032 and \$46,476; to George Mason University in the amount of \$203,635; and to Marymount University for a professional development academy at Sunrise Valley and Graham Road Elementary Schools in the amount of \$112,500 (HR; Exhibit M)  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1735

There was no discussion on this issue.

- C. Award of Contract** - Recommendation to award the contract for renewal of Cunningham Park Elementary School to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit N)  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1755

There was no discussion on this issue.

- D. Award of Contract(s)** - Recommendation to award the contract(s) for network infrastructure upgrade at Chantilly, Herndon, Oakton, and Stuart High Schools to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder(s) (FcS; Exhibit O)  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1765

There was no discussion on this issue.

**VI. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES**

**A. Reports**

- 1. Human Resources**  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1780

Mr. Gibson, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, said that at the work session on June 1, the Board discussed the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the office personnel study; that the Board was updated on the RFP for an independent review of the supplemental retirement plan; that the committee which developed the RFP had unanimously agreed on the scope of the study, and recommendations made by Board members would be incorporated in the bid process; that the Board received a presentation on the status of coverage for dental insurance, and the following year changes would be made which would make the dental plan more responsive to the needs of employees; that the Board discussed improving the group life insurance plan in which FCPS and the County government jointly participated; that information had been presented on the business changes which would result from implementation of the new Human Resources Information System; that Board members were encouraged to schedule briefings with staff members for an opportunity to become more familiar with the specific details of the upcoming changes; and that the Committee would meet on July 16 to hear the report of the Human Relations Advisory Committee.

- 2. Instruction**  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1890

Ms. Amundson, Chairman of the Instruction Committee, said that at the work session on June 22, the Minority Student Achievement (MSA) Oversight Committee presented its annual report; that the MSA Oversight Committee had developed specific accountability measures long before the Board agreed to establish numerical targets for student achievement; that the Board had always appreciated the MSA Oversight Committee's candor, forthrightness, and

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willingness to work collaboratively on problem areas; that there were concerns expressed about the disproportionately large number of minority students who were suspended, and the disproportionately low number of minority students enrolled in gateway classes, including Algebra I; that the Board had already begun to address those issues through its own strategic targets; that the Board also learned about an exciting program, which would initially be instituted for ninth- and tenth-grade students in up to six high schools; that the program had been developed at Cambridge University in England, and would enable students to take the O-Level examinations; and that high academic expectations for upper-level high school students were being increased through the International Baccalaureate Program and the expansion of Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings, and the Board was anxious to similarly increase academic opportunities in the curricula for grades nine and ten. Ms. Amundson said that the Board also reviewed a focus school proposal from Glasgow Middle School to address specific needs at Glasgow; that two other middle schools were expected to present proposals at the next Instruction Committee meeting; that the Board had set aside a placeholder of \$300,000 in the budget to fund such initiatives, but would have to take action on the specific proposals; that KPMG Peat Marwick had previously evaluated the Adult and Community Education (ACE) program, and representatives of that firm were present to respond to questions from Board members; and that the new directors of the ACE program were in attendance to discuss their vision for the program.

### 3. **Audit**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2020

Mrs. Strauss said that at the Committee meeting on June 24 she and Mr. Reese, Mr. Emery, and School Board Auditor C. Kevin Deckard met to begin to develop Mr. Deckard's work plan for the upcoming year; that Board members would receive a list of prioritized recommendations for consideration and input; and that the Board would have to approve the final work plan.

### 4. **Strategic Planning and Evaluation**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2090

Mr. Moon, Chairman of the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee, said that at the meeting on June 24 the Board continued the discussion about setting measurable goals for the upcoming school year; that one goal was to have 100 percent of Fairfax County schools meet or exceed the Virginia Standards of Accreditation (SOA), measured by Standards of Learning (SOL) tests; that other goals were related to SAT scores, the number of students taking IB and AP courses, the number of students taking Algebra I (with specific goals for the percentage of minority students enrolled), and decreasing the suspension rate of minority students; and that the Board would be taking action on the goals at its next regular business meeting.

## **B. Referrals**

### 1. **Instruction (Exhibit P)**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2160

Mrs. Brickner read the following referral to the Instruction Committee which had been submitted by Mr. Reese: *That the School Board request the Superintendent and staff to prepare a report on the Traditional School in Arlington; its curriculum, organization, support, evaluations, etc., and present the same at the first Instruction Committee Meeting after September 1998.*

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**2. Policy Review (Exhibit Q)**  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2190

Mr. Emery presented the following referral to the Policy Review Committee: *Request that the Policy Review Committee examine and develop a policy whereby appointees to all advisory committees to the School Board (both ad-hoc and standing) would agree, as a condition of their appointment, not to disseminate all or part of their report to the public or media prior to the School Board receiving a copy of the report. This would include both paper and electronic dissemination. Appointees would be asked to accept this limitation at the time of their acceptance of an appointment to an advisory committee.*

Mr. Emery said that the purpose of advisory committees--to provide advice and counsel to the School Board--was thwarted when reports were released to the public prior to Board review.

Mr. Thomas asked whether the proposal was intended to limit communication between Board members and their appointees, and Mr. Emery responded negatively.

**3. Student Behavior**  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2285

Mr. Ward said that a number of students who were involved in disciplinary proceedings had shown a long pattern of non-responsiveness to available alternative settings; and he asked whether staff members could work on developing new methods for addressing the needs of such students. As Chairman of the Student Behavior Committee, Mrs. Brickner accepted the referral.

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2360

Dr. Domenech said that over 9,300 seniors had graduated from FCPS the previous week; that all of the ceremonies had proceeded smoothly despite unfavorable weather conditions and scattered power failures; and that Board members had been in attendance at each of the ceremonies. Dr. Domenech extended his congratulations to Waples Mill Elementary School Principal Ann Erler upon her retirement; he said that his daughter had attended Waples Mill and the faculty had been very welcoming; and he expressed his thanks to Ms. Erler for her efforts. Dr. Domenech announced that Director of the Office of Business and Industry Relations Donna Caudill would also be retiring from FCPS; that he had been impressed with the excellent relationship which FCPS had with the business community; that FCPS benefitted from an outstanding number of business-school partnerships; that the Business and Industry Advisory Council was very active, and the Education Foundation supported many FCPS programs; and that Mrs. Caudill had been totally responsible for running the program and would be missed.

**VIII. BOARD MATTERS**  
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2455

Mr. Prince expressed his thanks to the Board for their support over the past year.

Mrs. Strauss extended her congratulations to all of the young men and women who had graduated the previous week; and she said that it had been a pleasure to participate in the ceremonies. Mrs. Strauss thanked Mr. Prince for having done his job so well; she said that there was nothing worse than having

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a student representative to the Board who unconditionally supported the Board's decisions; and she encouraged him to maintain his courage and integrity.

Mr. Thomas extended his congratulations to the seniors who had graduated; he said that he had been proud to see his son graduate; that he had been privileged to participate in the graduation ceremonies for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Robinson, Lake Braddock, and Hayfield Secondary Schools, and West Springfield, Lee, and Centreville High Schools; and he expressed his thanks to the principals of those schools for having conducted such wonderful events.

Mr. Gibson said that he had had the privilege of attending the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) School Law Conference on June 5; that a number of his colleagues had expressed interest in the Conference; that he would be happy to discuss the issues which had been raised about charter schools; and that a wealth of information had been provided which could be purchased from the VSBA. Mr. Gibson recommended that anyone who was interested in issues regarding student discipline and student behavior should read the book, *A Tribe Apart* by Pat Hersch of Reston; that the book followed the lives of eight students through middle and high school, and provided great insight into the lives of adolescents in modern society; and that while the students who were depicted attended FCPS, the book was relevant far beyond the borders of Fairfax County. Mr. Gibson said that over the May 29-31 weekend the Mid-Atlantic Wind Conductors had held their conference and workshop at South Lakes High School; that he had been fortunate enough to have been invited to attend the performance of the Honor Band, which included students from Herndon, Langley, Robinson, South Lakes, and T. C. Williams High Schools, as well as students from Broad Run, Loudoun County, Loudoun Valley, Parkview, and Potomac Falls; and that the Band had been fortunate to have been directed by Dr. Frederick Fennell. Mr. Gibson said that he had been impressed with the commencement speech made by former student representative to the Board Sarah Goldman when he attended the graduation ceremony at Madison High School; and that Ms. Goldman continued to be a source of pride for FCPS.

Mrs. Heastie congratulated all of the graduates from Oakton, Marshall, and Falls Church High Schools, and she wished them well; she said that at Oakton High School, Dr. Leis and Mr. Reese presented their daughters with their diplomas, and Mr. Reese's daughter had received the faculty award; and she wished all students a healthy and enjoyable summer. Mrs. Heastie shared a poem which had been written by Cedar Lane School student Jackie Scanlon with her colleagues (Exhibit R); she said that the poem had been published in Cedar Lane's literary magazine, *The Dark Side*; that the students at Cedar Lane were extremely bright and talented; and she extended her best wishes to Ms. Scanlon, and expressed confidence in her future success.

### TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2810

Ms. Amundson said that she had been delighted to attend the graduation ceremonies at Mount Vernon and West Potomac High Schools, and Hayfield Secondary School, and the sixth-grade graduations at Newington Forest and Woodley Hills Elementary School; that all of the commencement speeches made by students were wonderful; that she was very proud that her daughter was a valedictorian at West Potomac High School; that she had been pleased to have been able to maintain a reasonable degree of composure during the ceremony; she complimented the staff at each of the schools on the excellent behavior exhibited by the students; she said that the students had acquitted themselves exceptionally well; and that she was very proud of FCPS students. Ms. Amundson said that Stratford Landing Elementary School Principal Claudia Chaille would soon retire from FCPS; that she had attended the retirement ceremony for Ms. Chaille; and she expressed her congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Chaille, who she said would share her talents with FCPS on a part-time basis during the coming year. Ms. Amundson said that Peggy Guerra served as secretary to the School Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and had made her own life infinitely easier over the past 2.5 years; that Mrs. Guerra would soon be retiring and moving to Florida; that while the School Board Office was staffed with bright, talented, capable, dedicated, and hard-working people, Mrs. Guerra was exceptional for never losing her sense of humor

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or a single piece of paper; and she expressed her heartfelt thanks and appreciation for Mrs. Guerra's service, and wished her and her family the very best in Florida.

Mr. Ward said that the previous year Stuart High School had graduated less than ten students with IB diplomas, and 25 students had received IB diplomas in 1998, which was an absolutely wonderful increase; and that he was confident that the number of students graduating with IB diplomas would continue to increase. Mr. Ward said that a number of Stuart High School students had not accepted scholarships to the University of Virginia in order to attend extremely prestigious universities; and that he was extremely proud that FCPS had graduated such an incredibly bright class of students.

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-3110

Mrs. Brickner said that the staff members of the Richard Milburn school had sent a letter of commendation to the Office of Hearings and Legal Issues, under the direction of Dick Doyle; that the letter commended FCPS staff members for handling potentially explosive situations in a calm, compassionate, and wise manner, and for utilizing the highest level of professionalism; that, as Chairman of the Student Behavior Committee, she had worked with the staff of the Office of Hearings and Legal Issues, and could attest to the commitment and high level of professionalism which they exhibited; and she extended her congratulations to those staff members. Mrs. Brickner said that she had attended four graduation ceremonies the previous week, which each reflected the character of the individual schools; that she had been deeply touched by the patriotic theme which ran through the ceremonies; that *The National Anthem* and *America the Beautiful* had been performed by school bands and orchestras, the *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited, and one school's band, orchestra, and choir performed a combined rendition of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*; that she had been deeply touched by the display of patriotism; and that she had very much enjoyed attending an all night graduation party.

Mr. Braunlich said that he was concerned that many of the calculators which had been provided by the State were not being returned by students; that he understood that over 100 calculators had not been returned to one high school; and he asked staff members to compile data on the number of calculators and textbooks which were not returned and for which reimbursement had not been received. Mr. Braunlich said that most Board members worked closely with one or two members of the School Board Office staff, and he did not have occasion to work with Mrs. Guerra very often; that it was critically important for the School Board Office staff to be able to work well as a team; and that Mrs. Guerra had always been able to answer any questions he had posed, and her contributions had been an integral part of the successful operation of the School Board Office. Mr. Braunlich expressed his thanks to Dr. Domenech for attending many commencement exercises, and for having spoken at Key Center; he said that Key Center was a small program which was easy to overlook in such a large school division; that the parents, teachers, administrators, physical therapists, and other personnel at Key Center did a wonderful job of preparing students for life after school; and that it had been very meaningful to have Dr. Domenech attend the graduation. Mr. Braunlich said that he had attended graduation ceremonies for Hayfield Secondary School, Edison and Mount Vernon High Schools, and Bryant Alternative High School; that 87 students graduated from Bryant, and the speeches made by the students bore witness to the importance of the program; that a 35-year-old housewife told about growing up in her native country, where she spent her childhood searching the woods for food; that a teenager in the Project Opportunity program had overcome many obstacles to graduate with a full scholarship to Marymount University; that another student had immigrated to the United States from a country which was torn apart by totalitarian insurgencies; that the man was in his 20s, had two sons, did not have solid English skills, and only received five years of education in his native land, but worked to receive his high school diploma while holding down a full-time job, because he wanted to set an example for his children; that Alexis de Tocqueville had written, *Americans judge that the diffusion of knowledge must necessarily be advantageous, and the consequences of ignorance fatal; they all consider society as a body in a state of improvement, humanity as a changing scene, in which nothing is, or ought to be, permanent, and what appears to them today to be good, may be superseded by something better tomorrow*; that the following week the United States would celebrate its 222<sup>nd</sup> birthday; that the optimism of the American spirit at

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its best could be witnessed at Bryant Alternative High School; and he encouraged his colleagues to attend future graduation ceremonies at Bryant.

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0105

Mr. Moon said that he had attended the graduation ceremonies at five schools; he commended the staff members, administrators, and teachers at Fairfax High School for being especially resourceful and prepared for all contingencies; and he said that even though the lights went out in the middle of the ceremony because a thunderstorm caused a power outage, the staff members were all prepared with lots of flashlights, and every graduate received a diploma. Mr. Moon said that he had attended awards ceremonies at Kings Glen and North Springfield Elementary Schools; that his children were elementary school students and it was wonderful to see sixth-grade students moving on to middle school; and he extended his congratulations to all the parents who had worked very hard raising their children. Mr. Moon said that he had been at Falls Church High School on June 13 to congratulate the recipients of Annual Women's Sports Achievement Awards. Mr. Moon said that Mrs. Guerra had a perfectly good reason to move to Florida which he clearly understood; and he wished her the best of luck.

Mr. Frye said that Mrs. Guerra would be missed in the School Board Office, and he wished her and her family the best of everything in Florida. Mr. Frye said that he had participated in the graduation ceremonies for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, South Lakes and Centreville High Schools, and Lake Braddock Secondary School; and he extended his compliments to the faculty, students, graduates, and parents at those ceremonies, for having conducted very decorous events.

Mr. Emery said that in the educational community June was a mix of both the best and worst of times; that it was wonderful to see so many students graduating but very difficult to say goodbye to many individuals who were retiring from FCPS; that Mrs. Guerra had been his secretary for the past three years and had always been a tremendous asset; that Mrs. Guerra always maintained her sense of humor and had made many contributions to the school system; he said that weather forecasters predicted a difficult winter for the northeast, and he joked that Mrs. Guerra should be prepared to receive houseguests from Fairfax County in her new home near the Florida coast. Mr. Emery said that he had had the pleasure of attending the graduation ceremonies for Annandale, Centreville, and Woodson High Schools; that it had been particularly meaningful for him to see his son graduate from Woodson High School; that it was a touching moment and an honor to be able to present a diploma to one's child; that the students made wonderful commencement speeches; that a marvelous violin concerto had been performed at Centreville which had been composed by a student; that a 12-year-old student led the Woodson High School concert band in a performance of a piece which he had written; that the caliber and abilities of FCPS students were evident during the graduation ceremonies; he read the following lyrics of a song titled *Never Forget* which had been written by Woodson High School senior Cheryl A. Nystrom: *Beyond the road of separation lie the tears for all the time we formed as one; received the knowledge in our teachers' minds from day to day; our friendships grew strong, and after a while, we knew we belonged; some memories will fade, but must remain with our mind until we meet at a reunion, or if we're crossing paths along the street; roads must diverge to make their way, creating paths rejoin some day; never forget these things you learned; put behind you all that binds you; have no regrets when you return; I recommend you tell your friends to keep in touch throughout the years; while holding back the longing tears, you wish them well along the way; spreading our wings, we make indentations in this world in which we've grown; we're silencing this generation's apathetic drone; weeding the ground on which we stand, we're making changes in this land.*; and he congratulated all of the graduates of the Class of 1998 and wished them God speed.

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**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0415

At 9:12 p.m., with a quorum of members present, Mrs. Heastie moved, and Ms. Amundson seconded, that the Board go into executive session to discuss the salary and performance of specific public employees pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed 10-0, with Ms. Amundson, Mr. Braunlich, Mrs. Brickner, Mr. Emery, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Strauss, and Mr. Thomas voting "aye"; with Mr. Ward not present for the vote; and with Mr. Reese absent.

**X. MEETING CLOSING**

**A. Certification of Executive Session Compliance (Exhibit S)**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0435

The Board reconvened in public session at 10:50 p.m. Ms. Amundson moved, and Mr. Ward seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened an executive meeting on June 25, 1998, 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 meeting was 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 the executive session, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion passed 11-0, with Mr. Reese absent.

**B. Confirmation of Action Taken in Executive Session**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0470

Ms. Amundson said that the Superintendent's residence in New York was currently under contract for sale.

Ms. Amundson moved, and Mr. Ward seconded, that the Superintendent's contract be amended to extend a net monthly payment of \$2,000.00 until such closing, but not to exceed three additional months without further action by the Board; and further, that the Chairman be authorized to execute this amendment. The motion passed 11-0, with Mr. Reese absent.

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mrs. Heastie seconded, to add another step on the Leadership Team pay scale for the purpose of placing Loretta C. Webb and Alan E. Leis on that step. The motion passed 10-1, with Ms. Amundson, Mr. Braunlich, Mr. Emery, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Strauss, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Ward voting "aye"; with Mrs. Brickner voting "nay"; and with Mr. Reese absent.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0515

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m.