

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 15

March 9, 2000

I. CLOSED MEETING

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0003

Chairman Frye convened the Board in public session at 6:35 p.m. with a quorum of members present. Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Castro seconded, that the Board go into closed session (1) to discuss disciplinary matters concerning students pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(2); and (2) to discuss the employment, performance, discipline and resignation of specific public employees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(1); and (3) to consult with legal counsel regarding legal rights of public employees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(7). The motion **passed 7-0**, with Mrs. Brickner, Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Reese, and Mrs. Strauss not present for the vote; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

II. MEETING OPENING

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0030

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

Chairman Frye convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The following Board members were present:

Catherine A. Belter (Springfield)	Ernestine C. Heastie (Providence; arr. 6:37)
Christian N. Braunlich (Lee)	Gary A. Reese (Sully; arr. 6:37)
Mychele B. Brickner (At Large; arr. 6:37)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville; arr. 6:50)
Isis Castro (Mt. Vernon)	Rita S. Thompson (At Large)
Robert E. Frye (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)	

Also present were student representative to the Board Reid G. Voss; Division Superintendent Daniel A. Domenech; Deputy Superintendent Alan E. Leis; Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board Grace H. Winters; Deputy Clerk Norma Bailey; and certain other members of staff.

B. **Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance (Exhibit A)**

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Reese seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed session meeting on March 9, 2000, 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 closed meeting, 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 unanimously**, with Mrs. Kory absent.

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C. Announcement of Changes in the Agenda

Mr. Frye announced that pages 15 and 16 of Agenda Item No. IV.A.1, Minutes of February 24, 2000, regular School Board Meeting, had been corrected. Additionally, Agenda Item No. IV.A.2., Adoption of Textbooks for Foreign Language, was removed from the consent agenda and became Agenda Item No. IV.B.4, at the request of Mr. Gibson.

D. Other Announcements

Mr. Frye announced that Mrs. Kory was ill and would not be attending the meeting. Mrs. Belter recognized Boy Scout Troop 856 from the Springfield United Methodist Church, and their leader Mrs. Carol Rychlick, noting that they were working on their Citizenship in the Community badge. Mr. Gibson announced for all parents and students who would be attending the new west County high school that there would be an organizational meeting on Saturday, March 11, 2000, at 10 a.m. at Stone Middle School; that the purpose of the meeting would be to organize the PTSA and booster clubs; that this would be the first of many meetings, and he urged everyone involved to attend. Mr. Frye thanked the students of the Spring Hill Elementary School string ensemble who had done a wonderful job serenading everyone in the lobby earlier in the evening.

III. PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD

A. Spotlight on Learning – “Improving SOL Scores” (Exhibit B)

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0190

Dr. Domenech introduced Holmes Middle School teacher Sean O’Sullivan and noted that Holmes’ principal, Roberto Pamas, was also present at the meeting. Mr. O’Sullivan reported that during the 1998-99 school year, Holmes had initiated a schoolwide philosophy on reading across the curriculum; that by spotlighting this program, all teachers had been able to assist students in developing their academic skills and increasing their success in all classes. Mr. O’Sullivan’s comments were followed by a brief video featuring Natalie Grayson and Karri Iaquina, teachers at Holmes, and some of their students.

Mr. Frye thanked Mr. O’Sullivan for his presentation and noted that Holmes Middle School was one of the few middle schools in Virginia that had scored extremely well on the Standards of Learning tests.

B. Citizen Participation (Exhibits C-E)

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0392

Three speakers addressed the Board during the time reserved for public comment. Rick Nelson (Exhibit C) addressed Agenda Item V.A., FY 2000 Third Quarter Budget Review; Gina Hibbitts (Exhibit D) spoke about the fine arts program; and Kelly Bryce (Exhibit E) spoke about the orchestra program.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Adoption of Consent Agenda

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0732

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Mr. Reese moved, and Mr. Braunlich seconded, that the Board adopt the five items on the consent agenda.

1. **Minutes** – Approve the minutes of February 24, 2000, regular School Board Meeting (SB: Exhibit F)
2. **Telecommunication Lease** – Authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designees, to negotiate and sign the telecommunication lease with AT&T Wireless PCS, Inc., involving Chantilly High School (FcS; Exhibit G)
3. **Award of Contract** – Award the contracts for reroofing projects at the following schools: Armstrong Elementary in the amount of \$288,851 and Woodley Hills Elementary in the amount of \$347,687 to Colbert Roofing Corporation; Cub Run Elementary in the amount of \$299,915, Union Mill Elementary in the amount of \$280,019, and Woodlawn Elementary in the amount of \$473,344 to Orndorff & Spaid, Inc.; and Fairfax Villa Elementary in the amount of \$310,490, and Oakton Elementary in the amount of \$366,180 to R. D. Bean, Inc., (FcS; Exhibit H)
4. **Deed of Easement** – Authorize the School Board Chairman to sign the deed of easement for the dedication of public street, temporary construction, and permanent grading easements at Chantilly High School (FcS; Exhibit I)
5. **School Activity Fund Audits** – Award the contract for the audits of all school activity fund accounts to Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, in the amount of \$2000,000 (FnS; Exhibit J)

The motion to adopt the consent agenda **passed unanimously** with Mrs. Kory absent..

B. Approval of Other Action Items

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0832

1. **Adjustments to School Attendance Areas** – Approve adjustments to school attendance areas, to be effective for the 2000-2001 school year, as described in the agenda item (FcS; Exhibit K)

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Reese seconded, that the School Board approve boundary adjustments related to the opening of a new school, effective for the 2000-2001 school year, involving the following schools: the new high school at the “west County” site, Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Oakton, and Robinson High Schools, and Lanier and Robinson Middle Schools; and that the School Board be advised of other “Administrative Adjustments” provided for information only. [as described in the agenda item].

Mr. Reese moved, and Mrs. Heastie seconded, to amend the motion to provide that the Navy attendance area--consisting of the existing communities of Fair Oaks Estates, Century Oaks, Oakton Chase, Oakton Chase Preserve, and Camberly East, etc.--remain at Chantilly High School; and that all new developments in the West Ox and Thompson Road corridors be designated for the Oakton attendance area.

Discussion included the following: that Board members had received a large amount of correspondence and attended many community meetings, including a Facilities Committee work session and were all aware of the Navy attendance area concern; that in 1984 a portion of the Navy attendance area had been moved from Oakton High School to Chantilly High School to relieve overcrowding; that the communities of Fair

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Oaks Estates and the surrounding areas that had been reassigned to Chantilly High School had not complained at that time of the rapidly built open classroom high school, but had involved themselves in helping to make Chantilly one of the greatest high schools in the country; that these communities were approximately one to two miles from Chantilly and eight miles from Oakton; that the number one issue at all of the boundary meetings held last fall, in which more than 3500 people participated, had been transportation and the proximity of the communities to the high schools; that the Fair Oaks Estates community was across the street from Chantilly High School; that the effect of the proposed amendment by 2004-2005 would result in Chantilly being slightly overcrowded and Oakton being slightly under capacity; that the Oakton community had seen much development recently with the final impact still unknown; that the Chantilly attendance area was losing most of the area available for future development, such as Centreville Farms, and was, therefore, entering a period of more static population while Oakton was entering a period of expanding population; that this amendment would allow these communities to remain at Chantilly High School while providing for future growth at Oakton High School; (Reese); that she supported the proposed amendment; that the Board had a responsibility to do what was best for the school system and for students, and she did not believe that Oakton High School would remain under enrolled (Heastie); that one of the most difficult jobs for Board members was to balance doing good things for kids while maintaining good stewardship of school facilities; that he was concerned about asking voters for the authority to build a new school while ensuring that the system made optimum use of the existing buildings; that he was not sure if leaving Oakton High School at 144 students under capacity was static or not; that the amendment would retain only the currently occupied portion of the area from scenario three [as discussed at the community meetings] at Chantilly; that by not moving portions of the Floris and Hutchison attendance areas out, Oakton High School would still be 450 students over capacity in the out years even taking into account the additional 144 spaces created by the proposed amendment; that Chantilly would be approximately 200 students over capacity which was much better than today's situation; that although this might be the least unacceptable alternative for most people, some would disagree; that Mr. Reese had attempted to accommodate the community in a way that would not overburden Chantilly while allowing room for future growth at Oakton; that the amendment would also accommodate younger siblings of students who would be grandfathered into Oakton from the Floris and Hutchison areas, which was a key component; that he would support the amendment (Gibson); that she would support the amendment; that the Board often heard from parents concerned about students riding school buses for extended periods of time and this was an opportunity for the Board to shorten some rides; that she supported keeping kids close to their schools (Brickner); that she appreciated everyone in the audience attending this meeting; that she had read every one of their e-mail messages; that she supported the amendment because she believed students should be close to their homes; that she hoped that in the future Board members would support similar efforts on the other side of the County for students who wanted to attend school near their homes (Castro); that she supported the amendment; that there had been many comments made about a sense of community and the need across the County to keep communities together, although it was often difficult to accomplish as Fairfax County continued to grow; that she hoped that some of these boundary changes would foster better community spirit among other schools (Belter); that she would support the amendment; that she hoped those communities that would be going through the boundary process as more new schools were built would see that the process was not cut and dry without any variations; that the Board and staff had worked hard to reach consensus on the boundary plan and had listened to the communities'

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suggested adjustments; that boundary changes were inevitable because it was important to use existing building space efficiently; that the Board always tried to do what was best for the education of students (Strauss); that he would support the amendment; that he commended the staff for their outstanding work on the boundary process, and Mr. Reese for meeting with, and assessing the options available to, the families and students in the west County area; that Mr. Reese had a good grasp of the transportation system, roads, capacities, and driving times, as well as the desires of the citizens in that part of the County (Frye).

The motion to amend the main motion to provide that the Navy attendance area consisting of the existing communities of Fair Oaks Estates, Century Oaks, Oakton Chase, Oakton Chase Preserve, and Camberly East, etc.--remain at Chantilly High School; and that all new developments in the West Ox and Thompson Road corridors be designated for the Oakton attendance area, **passed unanimously**, with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mr. Frye noted that Mrs. Kory, who was absent, had reviewed and concurred with Mr. Reese's amendment. Mr. Reese thanked his fellow Board members for supporting the amendment and said that he believed this community would continue to do great things at Chantilly High School.

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1310

Mr. Reese moved, and Mrs. Brickner, moved to amend the main motion to provide that the community of Gatepost Estates be included in the new high school's attendance area and not in Centreville High School's attendance area, which would not in any way prejudge the boundary deliberations for the new middle school.

Discussion continued as follows: that the effect of this amendment was that in 2004-2005 there would a total of 40 students who would move from Centreville High School to the new high school attendance area; that Gatepost Estates was presently 40 feet away from the new boundary; that since the beginning of this boundary process last fall, Gatepost Estates had been asking to attend the new west County high school; that this was a small community and moving these 40 students would have no effect on the west County attendance situation; that he wanted to address some concerns that had been expressed; that heading west on Route 29, after passing under Interstate 66, a warehouse area and a group of townhouses and apartments followed on the left; that this townhouse/apartment complex had been silent throughout the process, indicating they did not object to remaining at Centreville High School; that the Cub Run/Spring Valley area and power lines followed, creating another boundary, and then Gatepost Estates and Bull Run Elementary School, followed by the County line; that the community of Gatepost Estates wanted to attend the west County high school whose boundary was 40 feet away (Reese).

The motion to amend the main motion to provide that the community of Gatepost Estates be included in the new high school's attendance area and not in Centreville High School's attendance area, which would not in any way prejudge the boundary deliberations for the new middle school, **passed unanimously**, with Mrs. Kory absent.

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1435

Discussion continued as follows: that since the boundary process had begun a few months ago, there had been much discussion about the proximity of communities to schools and having students attend high school with students from their own

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communities; that he had worked with the Floris community members on the boundary issue since late November, and had met twice with the Floris Elementary School PTA; that he thanked Teena Carone, President of the Floris PTA, and Dennis Nelson, principal of Floris, for inviting him to attend those meetings, and the members of the Floris community who had invited him to address them in December and February; that he had heard consistently that even though the recommended boundary was a continuous, unbroken line around a parcel of real estate that adjoined the new high school, there were acres and acres of unoccupied land between that school and the Floris and Hutchinson communities; that it was often said that children should go to school with students with whom they play, worship, and shop; that this would not be true for members of the Floris and Hutchison communities under the recommendation; that there were people in Hunter Mill District who wanted him to adamantly oppose moving 600 students out of Oakton High School, but in the out years, Oakton would be 400 students over capacity; that he could not oppose the move for a number of reasons; that the Board had adopted a process whereby community members would come up with boundary scenarios that would make the most sense for the most children and that had been done; that it took seven votes for the School Board to pass a motion, and he did not believe there were seven Board members who would vote to keep Oakton High School 400 students over capacity after spending \$50 million to build a new high school in the western part of the County; that key issues had been identified by the Floris community after the boundary town meetings; that one issue had been the provision of transition relief for rising sophomores at Oakton High School who had attended four different schools in the past four years; that the Superintendent's proposal tonight allowed current freshmen at Oakton High School to graduate from Oakton with no contingencies, thereby avoiding the possibility of attending a fifth school in as many years; that the proposal also allowed rising seniors and juniors at all three schools—Centreville, Chantilly, and Oakton—to remain through graduation; that approving the Gatepost Estates amendment would help to ensure enough students at the new west County school to reach approximately 300, which would allow those students who wanted to finish their last two years at Oakton to do that; that the community had noted that their children had made an investment when they were six years old to study the Japanese language, and the County needed to live up to its end of the bargain; that the recommendation would allow those students to take advanced-level Japanese courses at their base high school; that he thanked the Superintendent, Dale Rumberger, principal of the new west County high school, and all the parents of the Japanese immersion students at Floris Elementary and Rachel Carson Middle Schools; that the last issue was family sensitive pupil placements; that he had received a phone call from a parent of an Oakton High School freshman who was involved in the athletic program and who was pleased that her son would be able to graduate from Oakton High School, but wondered about his sister who was 17 months younger and would be a rising freshman next year; that he had talked with the Superintendent, staff, and his Board colleagues, and had found that there was a possibility of accommodating siblings through family sensitive pupil placements under the current process; that John F. Kennedy had once said that "politics is the art of the possible"; that the Board had done what was possible and had worked for students in the Floris and Hutchison attendance areas; that he hoped the community would embrace and actively support the new high school; recognizing Mrs. Temlack in the audience the question whether staff was committed to reuniting the Sycamore Lakes community in the same elementary, middle, and high schools next year when the boundaries were considered for the McNair Farms elementary school site (Gibson); the response that staff would be reviewing that alignment issue during the boundary process for McNair Farms (James Johnson, Jr., Director of Facilities

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Planning); the request for confirmation that the Board was not limited by the high school boundaries being set at this time (Gibson); an affirmative response (Johnson); that she had watched as Oakton High School hallways had grown more congested and the number of trailers had increased to ten; that Centreville had over 50 trailers and Chantilly had 31; that she was pleased about the new high school, but she was aware that Floris and Hutchison families would be sorry to leave Oakton; that even though those families had been further away from Oakton, they had contributed a lot to the school, and she thanked them on behalf of the Oakton community for their efforts; that she believed those students would enjoy being part of a brand new school; that she was pleased that Advanced Japanese would be offered at the new high school and also that rising 10th and 11th grade students would be allowed to remain at Oakton; that she supported the motion, because it would provide relief for Oakton, Centreville, and Chantilly High Schools; that she commended Mr. Gibson for working hard on every issue of community concern; that although Oakton might not have every seat filled, she did not consider it under enrolled (Heastie); that all Board members had received a lot of correspondence and had participated in many discussions with community members throughout the boundary process; that she commended staff for a job well done, noting that the task of rearranging boundaries for these high schools had been significant; that although some would be disappointed with the boundary decisions, it was not possible to please everyone; that Board members had looked at all of the issues and had tried to address each one if at all possible; that the Board was sensitive to the fact that it was difficult to ask students to change schools three or four times within a few years; that she was pleased that the Board could offer an option to both sophomore and junior students who wished to stay at Oakton because she knew how her own children would feel in that situation; that she was also pleased that Advanced Japanese would be offered for students from the language immersion program; that the boundary process had allowed everyone to work together in an organized manner, but there were some adjustments she felt should be made to that process and she looked forward to a future discussion of those issues; that she hoped community members would continue to be involved in the boundary process (Brickner); that she wanted to acknowledge Dale Rumberger, new principal of the west County high school, who was in the audience; that only the finest principals were selected to open a new school, and she wished him the best of luck; that she encouraged parents to attend the organizational meeting at Stone Middle School on Saturday, March 11; that she recalled the 1984 difficult boundary process when she had been a PTA president and the School Board had realigned nine high school boundaries in a time of declining enrollment; that it was more enjoyable to open a new facility where all the students were new and had an opportunity to be leaders, and she wished them luck (Strauss); that although she had voted in favor of the Gatepost community amendment, there had been some concerns about the communities near Gatepost that would not be attending the new school; that she believed Centreville High School was a good school and one she was proud to have in her district; that letters from some Gatepost community members had indicated that they had raised this concern at one of the boundary meetings, and it had been addressed; that she appreciated the recognition of that by Gatepost community members as it had helped her in making her decision, and she applauded them for looking beyond their own boundaries (Belter); that he supported the motion; that he felt compelled to comment that although this Board had sometimes been noted to be partisan, Board members had worked together on this boundary adjustment in a marvelous fashion, with Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Reese, Mr. Gibson, and others working together to do the best thing possible for the children of Fairfax County; and that the whole Board should be commended (Frye).

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The motion to approve boundary adjustments related to the opening of a new school, effective for the 2000-2001 school year, involving the following schools: the new high school at the "west County" site, Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Oakton, and Robinson High Schools, and Lanier and Robinson Middle Schools, as amended to provide that the Navy attendance area--consisting of the existing communities of Fair Oaks Estates, Century Oaks, Oakton Chase, Oakton Chase Preserve, and Camberly East, etc.--remain at Chantilly High School; that all new developments in the West Ox and Thompson Road corridors be designated for the Oakton attendance area; that the community of Gatepost Estates be included in the new high school's attendance area and not in Centreville High School's attendance area--which would not in any way prejudice the boundary deliberations for the new middle school; and that the School Board be advised of other "Administrative Adjustments" provided for information only **passed unanimously**, with Mrs. Kory absent.

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2060

Mr. Reese commended staff who had worked so diligently throughout the boundary process and read the following letter into the record;

"Dear Dr. Domenech:

I wish to take this opportunity to commend the performance of the Department of Facilities Services, and more particularly the performance of Thomas Brady, Assistant Superintendent, and James Johnson, Gary Chevalier, and John Bertocchi. I wish to also commend the performance of the Office of Planning, Testing and Evaluation, and more particularly Maryanne Roesch, Director, and Michael Harrison and Mary Ann Nocerino.

The work of these offices and individuals was outstanding in the furtherance of what has to be one of the most onerous and delicate duties of a school system--the establishment of a new high school's boundaries. A new boundary system was piloted last year at Bull Run Elementary. This process was then dramatically enlarged for this year's high school boundary. In three public meetings, over 3,500 students and parents participated in establishing the boundary. These participants were broken down into focus groups managed by the Office of Planning, Testing and Evaluation through facilitators.

When its participants defend the end result of the process because they bought into the process, you are doing something right. Thomas Brady, James Johnson, Gary Chevalier, John Bertocchi, Maryanne Roesch, Michael Harrison, and Mary Ann Nocerino labored far beyond normal hours to produce an open and informed process, to listen to and respond to the concerns of the public, and to produce a boundary that, with a very few adjustments, was approved by the vast majority. It was not an easy task. We all learned many lessons. But I believe the affected communities are the better for this experience, an experience in democracy and citizen participation.

As the Board member from Sully, I acknowledge, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Sully District, a debt of gratitude to the

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Department of Facilities Services, Thomas Brady, James Johnson, Gary Chevalier, and John Bertocchi, and to the Office of Planning, Testing and Evaluation, Maryanne Roesch, Michael Harrison, and Mary Ann Nocerino. Please provide a copy of this letter to the above individuals.”

Comments continued as follows: that this had been a long and arduous task, but the west County high school now had boundaries and the people of Chantilly, Centreville, Floris, and Hutchison had their new high school; that he knew there were some people in the Floris and Hutchison communities who had wished to maintain their ties to Oakton High School, but that the future of these communities was in the west; that these communities shared homes, hopes, and challenges as well as the traffic challenges of the Route 28 corridor, the need for rail, and a continuing concern over tremendous, unremitting growth and overwhelmed public facilities; that these communities would also share the tremendous opportunities provided by a Smithsonian Annex, “Silicon Valley East”, Dulles International Airport, a world-class recreational facility, and the newest and most technologically advanced high school; that there would be problems of communication, but everyone was in this together; that he was reminded of an old Irish lyric that began “together we will dream our dreams, and together we will sing our songs” (Reese); that the difference between opening the new middle school two years ago and opening the new high school this year had been tremendous; that the staff in the Department of Facilities Planning and the Office of Planning, Testing, and Evaluation were to be commended for their efforts; that she also wanted to thank the new Area II Superintendent, Michael Glascoe, and his team for their hard work (Heastie); that he wanted to remind everyone about the first organizational meeting for parents and students to set up the PTA and the booster clubs on Saturday, March 11, at Stone Middle School at 10 a.m.; the request that the Superintendent ask the principals of the schools that would now feed into the west County high school to provide some notice to their families prior to the organizational meeting, and to include the elementary feeder schools and middle schools (Gibson); an affirmative response (Domenech); that as the boundaries had now been established for the new high school, the process for naming the school would begin; and that he encouraged those within the attendance area to participate in the process (Frye).

2. **Request for School Calendar Waiver** – Authorize Dogwood Elementary School to adopt a modified school calendar for the 2000-2001 school year, using the Timber Lane Elementary School model, and to request a waiver from the state Board of Education of the pre-Labor Day opening requirement (S; Exhibit L)

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2360

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Heastie seconded, that the School Board authorize Dogwood Elementary School to adopt a modified school calendar for the 2000-2001 school year, using the Timber Lane Elementary School model, and to request a waiver from the state Board of Education of the pre-Labor Day opening requirement. The motion passed unanimously with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mr. Frye commented that he knew the community well and was delighted to see the Dogwood community moving to this calendar, as he was aware of the success of the Timber Lane program; and that it would be an exciting time for Dogwood students.

3. **Northern Virginia Standards of Quality Summit** – Issue a call for a Northern

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Virginia summit on Standards of Quality funding and potential revisions, including revisions for technology funding, as described in the agenda item (Reese; Exhibit M)

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2408

Mr. Reese moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, that the School Board issue a call for a Northern Virginia summit on Standards of Quality funding and potential revisions, including revisions for technology funding; that such call designate a date in October 2000, and include all members of the Northern Virginia legislative delegation as well as school board members and superintendents for the following jurisdictions: the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, and the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park; and that the Chairman of the Board designated an ad hoc committee of two school board members to work with the Superintendent and staff to coordinate this multi-jurisdictional effort and to reach agreement on the agenda, program, and other logistics. The motion **passed unanimously**, with Mrs. Kory absent.
.[Clerk's Note: the city of Alexandria was inadvertently omitted from the agenda item and, therefore, from the motion.]

Mr. Frye noted that Mr. Reese and Mrs. Belter had agreed to work on this summit.

4. **Adoption of Textbooks for Foreign Language** – Adopt textbooks for foreign languages (French and Spanish), as recommended by the textbook adoption committees (IS, Exhibit N)

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2472

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Braunlich seconded, that the School Board adopt basal instructional materials for foreign languages (French and Spanish) as recommended by the textbook review committees.

Discussion included the following: that he had requested that this item be removed from the consent agenda because he had been confused by the positive comments accompanied by the seemingly negative ratings; that he had finally realized that the evaluation form instructions said “please rate each item on a scale of 1 through 5, with 1 indicating that you strongly disagree, and 5 that you strongly agree,” while the scale itself reversed the scale with “1—strongly agree and 5—strongly disagree”; that people’s comments were important to the Board and it was difficult to understand those comments when the instructions were contradictory, and he asked that staff check the instructions in the future (Gibson); that staff had discovered the scale reversal after a number of comment sheets had already been completed; that the written comments had been positive, and staff had wanted to share those positive comments with Board members (Nancy Sprague, assistant superintendent of instructional services); that some of the comments appeared to be from students; that although she felt students should have an opportunity to participate in the process, she was concerned about comments on the Spanish books not being rigorous enough or being “dumbed down” from Spanish books currently in use (Brickner); the response that the comment in question had been made by an advanced language student currently studying three languages; that the textbook selection advisory committee had considered the recommended texts to be challenging (Marty Abbott, Coordinator, Foreign Language) that she commended the foreign language textbook adoption committee for their efforts; that in 1989 she had served on such a committee and had found it to be the most challenging of all the committees on which she had served (Castro); that he had reviewed both the French and Spanish textbooks and had found the French textbook to be outstanding in its depiction of the diversity of our student population; that he had been disappointed in that aspect of the Spanish text, although he respected the textbook review committee’s opinion and would support the motion; that he understood textbook

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companies found it very expensive to completely revise a textbook, so had included different kinds of faces in the front of the book, but as the text progressed it resembled a traditional 1950's version of the text; and that he understood this was the best available to the system at this time (Frye).

The motion that the School Board adopt basal instructional materials for foreign languages (French and Spanish) as recommended by the textbook review committees, **passed unanimously**, with Mrs. Kory absent.

C. Other Matters Requiring Board Action

Confirmation of action Taken in Closed Meeting

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2693

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Castro seconded, to expel a student from Fairfax County Public Schools for possession of a weapon on school grounds. The motion **passed 10-0**, with Mrs. Strauss not present for the vote and Mrs. Kory absent.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Heastie, Mr. Reese moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, to expel a student from Fairfax County Public Schools for assaulting another student. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Heastie, Mrs. Belter moved, and Mr. Reese seconded, to expel two students from Fairfax County Public Schools for making a bomb threat and vandalizing a school building. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a two-member committee chaired by Mrs. Heastie [Clerk's Note: Due to a last minute illness, the third committee member was unavailable for the hearing; all parties involved agreed to proceed with a two-member committee], Mrs. Brickner moved, and Mrs. Heastie seconded, to expel a student from Fairfax County Public Schools for multiple violations of school system regulations. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a two-member committee chaired by Mrs. Heastie [Clerk's Note: Due to a last minute illness, the third committee member was unavailable for the hearing; all parties involved agreed to proceed with a two-member committee], Mrs. Brickner moved, and Mrs. Heastie seconded, to expel a student from Fairfax County Public Schools for possession of a weapon on school grounds. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a two-member committee chaired by Mrs. Heastie [Clerk's Note: Due to a last minute illness, the third committee member was unavailable for the hearing; all parties involved agreed to proceed with a two-member committee], Mrs. Brickner moved, and Mrs. Heastie seconded, to expel a student from Fairfax County Public Schools for possession of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia on school grounds. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Brickner, Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Frye seconded, to expel a student from Fairfax County Public Schools for assault and disrespectful behavior towards school staff. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Brickner, Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mrs. Castro seconded, to expel three students from Fairfax County Public Schools for improper actions involving other students. The motion **passed unanimously**.

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V. NEW BUSINESS

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2874

- A. FY 2000 Third Quarter Budget Review** – Recommendation to approve revenue and expenditure adjustments reflected in the agenda item (FnS; Exhibit O)

Charles Woodruff, Assistant Superintendent of Financial Services, reviewed the adjustment items and other fund accounts included in the agenda item. He noted that revenue adjustments totaled an increase of \$387,180; that expenditure adjustments totaled a decreased of \$2,612,820; and that these adjustments allowed \$3 million to be reserved for the next fiscal year's beginning balance. Mr. Woodruff pointed out that Attachment 5 of the agenda item provided a summary of grants development; that the school system's acquisition of grants had improved significantly with the addition of the grants coordinator who was actively seeking grants; that in order to keep the Board apprised of that activity, a summary would be provided with each quarterly review; that success in this area included winning \$7 out of \$10 applied for, or 70%; and that FCPS had won 40% of the applications submitted, which indicated great success when compared to the national win ratio of 10%.

Discussion included the following: the question whether the compensation accounts adjustment was in recognition of the lapse factor (Gibson); the response that the compensation accounts were over \$1 billion this year, and this was a small adjustment; that the lapse factor had been budgeted at 2.1%, but the actual lapse was projected to be about 2.8% (Woodruff); the question how much had been recognized earlier (Gibson); the response that \$4 million had been recognized as part of the mid-year budget review (Woodruff); the question whether this brought the lapse up to 2.8% (Gibson); the response that it was not quite up to the 2.8% point; that he would speculate that by year end it would be in the \$3 million range (Woodruff); the question whether the item on the time-out rooms included funding for all the schools that had requested time-out programs (Gibson); an affirmative response (Woodruff); that it would useful to have information on the difference between the cost of providing Standards of Learning (SOL) remediation and the amount of money provided by the state to assist in covering that cost (Gibson); the response that FCPS would spend approximately \$5.1 million on SOL remediation and would receive approximately \$400,000 from the state (Woodruff); that the state was bearing less than 10% of the cost of SOL remediation; that FCPS would do twice as well if the state used the basic aid index to calculate the funding (Gibson); and that the Board would vote on the third quarter budget review on March 23 (Frye).

- B. Public – Private Partnership** – Recommendation to approve the resolution supporting a public-private partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Fairfax Count Department of Community and Recreation Services, and Eckerd Drug Corporation for the development of a soccer field at Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences (FcS; Exhibit P)

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-3593

There was no discussion of this item.

- C. Award of Contract(s)** – Recommendation to award the contract(s) for the gym floor replacement at Lake Braddock Secondary School and for the gym floor refinishing at Robinson Secondary School to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder(s) (FcS; Exhibit Q)

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TAPE REFERENCE: 1-3624

There was no discussion of this item.

- D. Deed of Vacation** – Recommendation to authorize the School Board Chairman to sign the deed of vacation at McLean High School (FcS; Exhibit R)

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-3649

Mr. Frye commented that this action was necessary to consolidate adjacent parcels for development purpose and that the easement should have no negative impact on McLean High School.

VI. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0007

A. Reports

1. Legislation

Mr. Reese reported that state funding for the Governor's School and for the Cost of Competing would probably be approved; that the funding cap for the Governor's School would probably be lifted; that state funds for the 2.4 percent teacher salary increase also looked promising and would not involve substituting savings from the Virginia Retirement System; that it appeared that \$13 million for the biennium would be realized from the state lottery proceeds including the hold harmless provision; that the technology grants program would provide \$10.2 million for the biennium; that House Bill 588, relating to permissive drug testing, had been passed by both houses of Congress and was expected to be signed by the Governor; that Senate Bill 545, relating to the extended school year calendar, such as that implemented at Timber Lane Elementary, passed unanimously; that the Commission for Youth had been directed to review for possible revision the student discipline section of the Code of Virginia; and that all Labor Day bills had failed in the House and were expected to fail in the Senate. Mrs. Strauss asked what total amount of additional state funding could be expected at that time, and Mr. Reese responded that the estimated amount expected was \$10 million.

2. Facilities

Mr. Frye reported that Facilities Committee chairman Kaye Kory was ill; that the March 2 Facilities work session had been very beneficial to Board members in making their final boundary decisions and that he thanked staff for their efforts in assisting Board members during the recent process.

B. Referrals

Mr. Frye suggested that Mrs. Thompson's recent motion to have alternative education sites and programs evaluated be referred to the Strategic Planning and Evaluation (SP&E) Committee for discussion; that items to be evaluated by staff and the schedule for those evaluations would be

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discussed at an upcoming SP&E work session; and that following the work session, Mrs. Thompson's motion could be scheduled for new business and then for action at regular Board meetings.

Mrs. Wilson referenced a recent article from the *Fairfax Journal* regarding public use of buildings, noting that she had heard other concerns regarding this issue, and requesting that the policy governing public use of school system facilities be reviewed at a Policy Review work session. Mrs. Belter accepted the referral. Mr. Frye noted that the School Board, as required by the State of Virginia, conducted periodic reviews of all its policies.

Mrs. Heastie requested that the Facilities Committee discuss the inclusion of special education program enrollment figures in calculating the capacities of our buildings; and that changing facilities to accommodate special education programs is listed on school bonds and involves millions of dollars. Mr. Frye requested that the School Board Clerk transmit the referral request to Mrs. Kory, Facilities Chairman, who was ill that evening.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0208

Dr. Domenech announced that an article had recently been published in *Newsweek* Magazine written by Jay Matthews listing his top ranked high schools in the nation; that the schools were ranked according to the number of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests taken by all students in schools in 1999 divided by the number of graduating seniors; and that 21 Fairfax County high schools had been included in the list; that he was pleased to announce that Dr. Vera Blake, principal of Falls Church High School, had been named the Outstanding Virginia Middle School Principal of the Year by the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals; that Dr. Blake had been selected as Fairfax County Public Schools Principal of the Year based on her accomplishments while principal of Holmes Middle School; that he congratulated Dr. Blake and offered best wishes in the competition for the National Middle School Principal of the Year Award; that for the first time in the history of Fairfax County Public Schools, 2,000 teachers had been hired during one school year; and that he commended staff in the Department of Human Resources for their hard work in recruiting and hiring outstanding teachers for our schools. It was noted by both Mr. Frye and Dr. Domenech that the need to hire so many new teachers was due in part to the student population growth and in part to the large number of retirees. Mr. Frye said that the Board needed to take note of the success of the schools as mentioned in the *Newsweek* article; that the school system had worked very hard to provide a challenging program in every high school and that the effort was reflected by the article; and that he was pleased to note that Dr. Domenech had been quoted in the article.

VIII. BOARD MATTERS

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0369

Mrs. Thompson noted that she had recently spoken with a group of Area I kindergarten parents who were concerned that their children were not being exposed to phonics early enough in the reading program; that the Board needed to work diligently to provide the right balance of explicit phonics in kindergarten classes; that she had assured parents that great progress was being made toward having every student read as soon as possible, and certainly by grade level; that she had visited some Area III schools, with Area III Superintendent Loretta Webb, for Dr. Seuss's birthday; that she had read to some fantastic second graders

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in the Herndon area; and that she had also visited a middle school and a high school and was very impressed with how well behaved and polite the students were and how clean the buildings were.

Mr. Reese thanked Board members for their patience with and understanding of the difficult boundary issues in the western portion of the county; that he appreciated their attention to the concerns expressed by residents during recent meetings and in the correspondence sent to the Board; that he also appreciated their understanding of the role of a district Board member during the boundary process; and he commended Mr. Gibson for his efforts toward meeting the needs of Hunter Mill District residents during the process.

Mrs. Belter said that she had read to first-grade students at Newington Forest Elementary in honor of Dr. Seuss Day; that several of the students had recognized her from her position as librarian in Fairfax County; that she had also attended the "Preparing Our Students for the New and Emerging Careers in Information Technology" conference held on March 7; that she had enjoyed the discussions between the schools and business communities; that she was pleased to see the displays from Fairfax County Public Schools regarding career connections and professional technical studies; that many people had stopped at the displays to ask questions and get information on the programs; that one of the keynote speakers had stated that in this area alone, over 23,000 new employees were needed in the information technology field; that the Fairfax County area was said to have surpassed California's Silicon Valley in state-of-the-art information technology and growth; and that the business community was very interested in providing support to students interested in the information technology field.

Mrs. Heastie congratulated Marshall High School on being named state champions for one-act plays; that she had attended the dedication and naming of Beech Tree Elementary School's playground in honor of Fred Ward, former School Board member from Mason District; that Mr. Ward, along with Board of Supervisors representative Penny Gross, School Board member Kaye Kory, and many parents and students, had also attended; and that she could think of no greater honor for a School Board member than to have a playground dedicated to him or her.

Mrs. Castro said that she had attended the New Hope Housing Gala the previous week where Fairfax County Public Schools had been awarded the Good Neighbor Award for the Year 2000; that she felt it was very important for schools to be an active part of the community; that information had been shared at the gala on how our teachers, and the school system as a whole, were working with less fortunate neighbors both during and after school hours; that she had visited several Area I schools in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday; that she had given each school a book; that the first graders at Washington Mill Elementary School had read to her instead of having her read to them; that she had been very pleased to see how well they were reading; that she had also visited Sandburg Middle School, where all students enroll in Introduction to Foreign Language classes, and had taken one of Dr. Seuss's books printed in Spanish; that she had enjoyed the visit very much; that she had also visited Whitman Middle School, where the creative writing teacher, had students read Dr. Seuss books earlier and then write poetry about them; that the students then shared their poetry during lunchtime; and that she, like Dr. Domenech, was very proud that so many Fairfax County schools had ranked so high in the *Newsweek* article.

Mrs. Brickner said that she had visited Hayfield Elementary School several weeks earlier and heard their presentation on the Coordinated Services Model (CSM); that she had visited with members of the Advisory Committee for Students With Disabilities the previous evening; that the CSM had been discussed, as well as the complaint filed by the Department for Rights of Virginians with Disabilities; that during the past winter months she had had the opportunity to become familiar with the indoor track programs in Arlington, where Fairfax County Public Schools students, including her own son, participated in track meets; that she commended the students for their hard work and dedication to the

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sport and to their studies; that she also commended the many parents who supported this and other sports in Fairfax County; that she had received an update on Title I accountability and public school choice; that she had not realized that schools receiving Title I funds and not performing up to the required level would have to be provided public school choice, permitting the students to place into other higher performing schools; the question how many Fairfax County schools were affected by this ruling. Dr. Domenech responded that public school choice had only been proposed by the President and had not yet been approved as part of Title I. Dr. Sprague noted that a school would have to receive two warnings as a "failing school" before the program would be applied; that because the state accreditation standards had changed, the criteria had changed and would have to be clarified; that even if passed, the program could not be implemented for the 2000-2001 school year; that notice had just been received by the school system that the Standards of Accreditation were not expected to be acted upon until the coming summer; and that, in summary, even if the program were to pass the legislature, implementation of the program would not occur right away.

Mrs. Wilson said that she had read to students at Bonnie Brae and Kings Park Elementary Schools in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday; that she had very much enjoyed her visits; that the Fairfax County School Board Election Coalition had sent a letter and a check for \$300 in support of the Laura Ashley Piper Scholarship; that Laura Ashley Piper had been a student representative to the School Board and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School who had been killed in active duty; that she would address this issue again at a future meeting; that she congratulated the Robinson High School girls' basketball team, who won the Virginia Group AAA Northern Region Championship; that the team would play again on March 11 at Lake Braddock; and that she hoped everyone would support the team.

Mr. Gibson noted that at the previous week's state track meet, Alan Webb, a junior at South Lakes High School, had set a record in the 3,200-meter run, running it in under nine minutes; that he had broken the 21-year-old state record by ten seconds; that Alan had broken the United States record during the 1998-99 school year, running the fastest mile by a high school student in American history; that he wanted to thank principal Linda Clark and her staff at Flint Hill Elementary School for inviting him, along with Mrs. Heastie, to attend their annual Patriot's Day celebration; that he had suggested that the school's performance of "We Are The Children of the 21st Century" be videotaped and shared throughout the school system; that it had been a very festive event, especially since Mrs. Clark would be retiring at the end of the school year; that he also wanted to thank the staff at Terraset Elementary School, including first grade teacher Allen Rubnitz, for allowing him to read to students on Dr. Seuss's birthday; that they had read several of Dr. Seuss's books, from his last complete book, *Oh, The Places You'll Go*, back to *And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*, written in 1939; that he appreciated as well the kindergarten students and their teachers, Mrs. Hickman and Mrs. Volpe, at Wolfrap Elementary School, for sending him their books, *Our Favorite Things In School*, to share with School Board members; and that March was Youth Art Month, and that on March 11 an exhibition of art by students at South Lakes High School would be presented at the Greater Reston Arts Center at Reston Town Center; that on March 12 at 2 p.m. at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, a kick-off of Youth Art Month would be held by elementary students in Reston; that the artwork was really impressive; and that he urged everyone to come out to see the wonderful things students are doing in art classes.

Mr. Braunlich thanked Jim Johnson for joining him at the Pinewood Lake Community Association meeting earlier in the week to discuss what the citizens felt would be happening in their community as a result of facilities issues; that he and Mr. Johnson had shared school facilities needs in the Richmond Highway Corridor area of Fairfax County and had invited the community to participate in the process during the coming year; that he had read to students in Mr. Veasley's class at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School; that he had read one of the *Cat in the Hat* books as well as *Androcles and the Lion*; that a discussion had followed about slavery and freedom, the climate in the area where the book had been written, and what it was like to live in Roman times; that the conversation and discussions had been

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fascinating; that he had had the pleasure of joining Mr. Frye and Assistant Superintendent of Facilities Services Tom Brady at the boys' basketball finals; that it had been a close and exciting contest and he congratulated the Hayfield boys' team for winning the contest, the Lee High School boys' team for making it into the semifinals, and the Mount Vernon girls' team for making it to the finals; that at a Board meeting in July of 1996 he had become involved in the issue of foreign exchange students participating in high school graduation ceremonies; that at that time, principals had wanted the flexibility of making the decisions; that the Board consensus at that time had been that even though foreign exchange students could not legally graduate, they should participate in the graduation ceremony; that he requested that Dr. Leis review the records from that Board discussion and confirm what the consensus on this issue had been. Dr. Leis agreed to do that.

Mrs. Strauss, referring to the *Newsweek* article on the top schools, thanked Kris Amundson, former School Board member, for her role in bringing the International Baccalaureate program to Fairfax County Public Schools; and noted that the Board believed all students could learn at high levels and that it was necessary to bring rigorous programs to schools; that she was pleased that all schools were required to have either the AP or the IB diploma program, that all IB and AP students were required to take the exams, and that the school system would pay for the exams; and that she thanked Spring Hill Elementary School and Cooper Middle School for inviting her to read to students on Dr. Seuss Day.

Mr. Frye congratulated the boys' basketball teams at Oakton and South Lakes High Schools and the girls' teams from Mount Vernon High School and Robinson Secondary School for their outstanding performances during the recent tournaments; that he also wanted to congratulate Wendell Byrd, the boys' basketball coach at South Lakes High School, who had been selected as Coach of the Year; that he and Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Heastie, and Mrs. Castro had attended a dinner with the Fairfax Association of School Social Workers; that the dinner had been held just after the report of a first grader shooting another first grader in Michigan, and the incident had been discussed during the meeting; that having social workers in the school system, as well as elementary school counselors and others, to work with students and their families was very important; that school system social workers work with their counterparts in the County Health Department and other agencies to ensure that families in need received the services that the student

in Michigan apparently had not received, and that the Board had hired a fine cadre of school psychologists and social workers who endeavored to make sure that Fairfax County students received the best possible services.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Chairman of the Board

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Clerk of the Board