

**MINUTES**  
**Fairfax County School Board**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Special Meeting No. 11

June 9 and 10, 2000

**Friday, June 9, 2000**

Doubletree Hotel  
Tysons Corner

**I. PUBLIC SESSION:**

**A. *“You’re in the checkout line, and you hear behind you, ‘Why are you ruining our schools?’”***

The Fairfax County School Board convened in public session at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Frye presiding and with the following members present:

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

Also present were Division Superintendent Daniel A. Domenech; student representative-elect Chris Giovarelli; Executive Assistant/Clerk of the School Board Grace H. Winters; and certain other members of the Leadership Team.

Mr. Frye welcomed School Board and Leadership Team members and their spouses to the first session of the 2000 Annual School Board Conference, and introduced Christopher Giovarelli, a rising senior at Marshall High School, who had recently been elected to serve as the Student Representative to the School Board for the 2000-2001 school year.

Following dinner, Mr. Frye welcomed and introduced Mr. Arch Lustberg of *Arch Lustberg Communications*. Mr. Lustberg, a leading trainer in effective communications, had coached leaders in politics, business, industry, and the professions, and taught in the Speech and Drama Department of The Catholic University of America for ten years. Mr. Lustberg entertained and advised the Board regarding effective communications—such as getting your message across, what not to do when making speeches, facial and body language. A question and answer period followed his presentation.

On behalf of the Board and staff, Mr. Frye thanked Mr. Lustberg for his informative as well as entertaining presentation.

**B. ADJOURNMENT**

The session was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**Saturday, June 10, 2000**

American Management Systems (AMS)  
Fairfax

**II. CLOSED SESSION**

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The Board was convened in public session at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Frye, with a quorum of members present. Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Braunlich seconded, that the Board go into closed meeting to discuss the performance of specific public officers pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed 9-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Braunlich, Mrs. Brickner, Mrs. Castro, Mr. Frye, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Heastie, Mrs. Thompson, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mrs. Strauss away from the table, Mrs. Kory not present for the vote, and Mr. Reese absent.

### III. PUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Frye convened the Board in public session at 10:52 a.m., with the following members present:

Cathy Belter (Springfield)	Ernestine Heastie (Providence)
Christian Braunlich (Lee)	Kaye Kory (Mason, arr. 8:40)
Mychele Brickner (At Large)	Jane Strauss (Dranesville)
Isis Castro (Mt. Vernon)	Rita Thompson (At Large)
Robert Frye (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)
Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill)	

Also present were Division Superintendent Daniel A. Domenech; Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board Grace H. Winters; Deputy Clerk Norma Bailey; and certain other members of staff.

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

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Braunlich seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened an executive meeting on June 10, 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, (2) 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. **Boardsmanship & Board Development: *How Your Board Can Govern More and Manage Less*** (Exhibit B)

Tape 1A

Dr. Randy Quinn, founding partner of *The Aspen Group International*, presented and discussed the concepts of "policy governance" with the School Board. Expressing a concern that such a method of governance would be a leap into the unknown for a school district the size of Fairfax, Chairman Frye led the discussion of Board member concerns and questions. Board members sought information regarding: other districts using the policy governance method; the possibility of gradual transition; whether the method would work with an elected school board; the need for agreement of all board members if method were to work; issues of accountability; FACPS processes that would fit comfortably with this method; need to see if community would agree to new method of school board governance; and working with community organizations.

Other topics of discussion included: policy governance vs. administration; variations on the process; evidence of policy governance in some areas of FCPS; reconciling the budgeting process to policy governance; obstacles of partisanship; level of trust required between school board and

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superintendent; dealing with state mandates; board members' ability to maintain a knowledge base; monitoring process; need for discipline to make process work; place for goal-setting in policy governance; concern about monitoring "ends" that are not data driven; and state-mandated responsibility for curriculum vs. policy governance.

Dr. Quinn noted that it was important for boards entering into this type of governance to understand the meaning of the model and how it worked, and to have a reasonable comfort level with the process; that policy governance did not guarantee the elimination of problems in a school system; and that he hoped the session had provided a basis for thinking about how the board operates. He agreed to return for a follow-up session if the School Board so desired.

### **C. *Key Works of School Boards* (Exhibit C)**

Barbara Allen, Director of Board and Caucus Development at the National School Boards Association (NSBA), presented an overview of NSBA's *Key Works of School Boards*. Ms. Allen discussed changes in how education was delivered over recent years and how school boards must change the way they operated in order to meet the needs of the schools. She explained the components of *Key Works* as functioning in a continuous circular pattern—Vision to Standards to Assessment to Accountability to Alignment to Climate to Collaboration to Continuous Improvement returning to Vision.

Board members discussed issues such as the following: FCPS vision, mission, and strategic targets; various strategic planning documents and processes; community involvement; FCPS reorganization plans; need for school board members to get to know each other; life cycles of visions; ownership of issues; need to review school board member orientation process; evaluation of all aspects of school system; and the affects of state mandates on the local school system.

### **D. *Building for Education of the Future* (Exhibit D)**

Michael Hall, Architect and Chief Marketing Officer of Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc., presented information to the School Board regarding trends and statistics in architectural design of school buildings, including the following: dealing with growing enrollments, aging infrastructure, increasing technology and energy efficiency requirements, changing safety needs, and expedited timeframes; reconnecting with community stakeholders in planning; schools as community centers; security and serious crime issues; need for school boards to develop facilities goals/criteria; and project design teams that involve staff, students, parents, and community/business representatives. Mr. Hall showed a series of slides illustrating some of his firm's innovations in school design.

School Board members sought information on the following: school-county partnerships in planning/building schools; school renewals; open classroom styles vs. technology needs; overcrowding; school capacities; forecasting growth; temporary and modular structures; access to public utilities; and the need for developers to be more aware of school system needs.

### **E. *Board Members' View of the Future of FCPS* (Exhibit E)**

Dr. Randy Quinn led Board members in a discussion of their view of the future of FCPS. Board members expressed their hopes for future achievement and discussed expectations on the following topics: significant academic gains; increasing efficiency in administrative operation; improved curriculum alignment; increased accountability; ensuring that curriculum was not narrowed; budget driven by real needs; expanded school funding from state level; engaging the

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community in necessity for quality public education; successful management of diversity and poverty challenges; narrowing the student achievement gap; increased outreach to some parent groups; facilities equity among schools; improved minority student achievement; identified method for school board members to communicate with communities; raising the expected level of achievement for students with special needs; raising parent confidence in their role in influencing the system; schools responsive to community; and improved delivery of services to schools.

#### IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

The 2000 Annual School Board Conference was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.