

**Minutes
Fairfax County School Board
Jackson Middle School**

Special Meeting No. 1/**Recognition of Principals**

December 10, 2003

I. MEETING OPENING

Chairman Isis Castro convened the Board in public session at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Cathy Belter (Springfield)	Ernestine Heastie (Providence)
Christian Braunlich (Lee)	Kathy Smith (Sully)
Isis Castro (Mount Vernon)	Jane Strauss (Dranesville)
Robert Frye (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Student Representative Andrew Ramish; Division Superintendent Daniel Domenech; Chief Operating Officer Tom Brady; Acting Chief Academic Officer Brad Draeger; Administrative Assistant Madge Artley; Leadership Team members; and certain other individuals.

II. RECOGNITION OF PRINCIPALS

A. Recognition of Principals of the Year Nominees

Mrs. Castro gave welcoming remarks, introduced School Board members who were present, and thanked the Liberty Middle School Flute Ensemble for their performance during the reception. She then introduced Superintendent Daniel Domenech.

Dr. Domenech recognized members of the Leadership Team who were present. He acknowledged those who nominated the evening's honorees, PTA officers and members, former Principals of the Year, the nominees' colleagues, families and friends, and members of the 2004 Principal of the Year Screening Committee. He then introduced James Rosebush, Executive Director of the Fairfax County Public Schools Education Foundation, Inc., for brief remarks.

Nicholas Fischer, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, described the Principal of the Year Award process and gave an outline of the program for the evening. While leadership team members read profiles of the nominees and award winners, Board members and Dr. Domenech joined in presenting certificates to Principal of the Year nominees and plaques to the three Principal of the Year finalists and award winner.

B. Resolution Honoring the 2004 Principal of the Year

Mrs. Smith offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION
FOR
BARBARA GERNAT**

WHEREAS, Barbara Gernat, principal of Mountain View Alternative High School is an inspiring educational leader and an outstanding school administrator; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with staff members and parents, Mrs. Gernat has created and implemented innovative instructional programs designed to address the unique needs of her students; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gernat provides a safe, nurturing atmosphere for students and is a compassionate advocate for every student at Mountain View Alternative High School; and

WHEREAS, challenging, supportive programs that Mrs. Gernat has implemented have replenished her students' spirits, restored them with hope, and refreshed them with a new start; and

WHEREAS, students cite Mrs. Gernat's personal interest and high expectations as the reason for improving their academic success, lifting their self-esteem, and positively modifying their life goals; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gernat's efforts to secure grants, equipment, and instructional materials have benefited all FCPS alternative high schools; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gernat models professionalism, civic duty, and citizenship through her active involvement with numerous task forces, social agencies, businesses, and community organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia, honors Barbara Gernat as the 2004 Fairfax County Public Schools Principal of the Year and the recipient of the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. The Board expresses its appreciation to Mrs. Gernat for her leadership and bestows on her its highest commendation for having achieved these distinctions.

Mrs. Smith moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the Board adopt the Resolution of Commendation for Barbara Gernat, 2004 Principal of the Year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Gernat gave an acceptance speech. Mrs. Castro congratulated all of the nominees and award winners and thanked everyone for coming and for their participation in the awards process.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.