

MINUTES
Fairfax County School Board

Special Meeting No. 2 /**School Board Retreat**

February 28, April 12, and 28, 2004

Saturday, February 28, 2004
Fairfax County Government Center, Room 232

I. MEETING OPENING

Chairman Kathy Smith convened the Board in public session at 9:02 a.m., with the following members present:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Catherine A. Belter (Springfield) | Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence) |
| Brad Center (Lee) | Janet Oleszek (At Large) |
| Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill) | Kathy Smith (Sully) |
| Stephen Hunt (At Large) | Dan Storck (Mount Vernon) |
| Kaye Kory (Mason) | Jane Strauss (Dranesville) |
| Ilryong Moon (At Large) | Judith T. Wilson (Braddock) |

Also present were Division Superintendent Daniel Domenech; Chief Operating Officer Thomas Brady; Chief Academic Officer Brad Draeger; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Deputy Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk Linda Sabo; Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Mary Ann Knox; Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services Dean Tistadt; Chief Financial Officer Deirdra McLaughlin; Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources (Acting) Kevin North; Assistant Superintendent of Special Services Alice Farling; Chief Information Officer Maribeth Luftglass; Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Nicholas Fischer; Assistant Superintendent of Educational Accountability Michael Glascoe; Cluster I Director Denny Dearden; Cluster II Director Ellen Schoetzau; Cluster III Director John English; Cluster IV Director Calanthia Tucker; Cluster V Director Betsy Fenske; Cluster VI Director Ann Monday; Cluster VII Director Carma Norman, Cluster VIII Director Betsy Goodman; and Director of Communications Kitty Porterfield.

II. REVIEW OF VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC TARGETS
(Exhibit A)

The vision for Fairfax County Public Schools is to provide a gifted-quality education for every child in an instructional setting appropriate for his or her need.

The mission of the Fairfax County Public Schools is to education all students to meet high academic standards and to prepare all students for responsible citizenship in the 21st century.

Dr. Domenech suggested that the Board schedule another retreat, once a new Superintendent had been hired, to discuss whether or not the vision and mission statements should be changed. There was general agreement among the Board members.

Dr. Domenech stated that since there were six new Board members he would like to suggest that the Board use today as an opportunity to review and become familiar with each target, and to determine whether or not the targets were still appropriate or needed

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to be changed.

Discussion of the targets included the following comments and questions:

Target 1

All students will be reading at grade level by the end of second grade; goals will be established for students with limited English proficiency (LEP) and for students who have disabilities that affect reading achievement.

- Request for statistics by gender;
- question as to the definition of significantly above grade level; response that would indicate the score a student achieved on the Development Reading Assessment (DRA);
- request for longitudinal DRA data for the following subgroups: Project EXCEL schools, Success by Eight schools; ethnicity, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by level, and students with disabilities by subgroups;
- request for cohort data for first and second grade students taking the DRA for measures 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3; additional request that future work session be scheduled to discuss DRA;
- request for mobility rate of students from kindergarten, grade one, and grade two for each measure in the target;
- request for the calculation of the socio-economic gap and the current gap for measure 1.4;
- request for additional data combined into one chart to determine whether one program was more effective than another program;
- request for total population of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students as opposed to number of students tested;
- request for total special education population in second grade broken down by broad category of disability and level;
- request for data on students who attended summer school and their DRA results by ethnicity, including number and percent of students scoring in each category; and
- request for data for all targets as reported by *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* by respective numbers and percents, and mobility rate.

Target 2

All schools will meet or exceed the Virginia Standards of Accreditation, as measured by the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in mathematics, science, English, and history and social science.

- Request for work session presentation on *No Child Left Behind* and Annual Yearly Progress (AYP);
- question of implication of not meeting Standards of Accreditation (SOA); response that the state had not yet clarified; and
- request for hypothetical data chart of students who had participated in the

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SOL testing program last year to surmise what the AYP results could have been.

Target 3

The percent of juniors and seniors enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses will be maintained or increased, with at least two-thirds of students scoring a 3 or higher on an AP exam or 4 or higher on an IB exam. Enrollment for Black and Hispanic students will increase by 10 percent.

- Request for number of AP tests taken;
- request for number of schools with Black parent liaisons;
- request for chart of national data of International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses and student scores;
- request for longitudinal data of FCPS middle school IB exams/courses and student scores;
- request for a longitudinal chart displaying the performance gap of Black and Hispanic students taking IB and AP exams;
- request for longitudinal data of measure 3.2;
- request for demographic information by zip code;
- request for chart, by gender, of students passing the IB and/or AP exam;
- request to recalculate pertinent charts to include Asian students to see how the gap narrowed;
- request for data by ethnicity for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3; and
- request to disaggregate traditionally underachieving areas of the county from other parts of the county that had higher success rates from both; response that *No Child Left Behind* provided this information on the web page.

Target 4

By the end of 11th grade, all students scheduled to graduate with a standard or advanced studies diploma will have passed the Algebra 1 and the two English 11 SOL tests.

- Request for number of students that passed Grade 11 English and Writing and number of 11th grade students;
- question whether principals received a list of names of those students would will be able to graduate; response that this year every principal had a list by name and knew every child that was involved; and
- question whether official graduation numbers were calculated from both the spring and summer graduation numbers; affirmative response.

Target 5

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The percentage of students scoring above the national average on the verbal and on the mathematics sections of the SAT will exceed the previous year's percentage, and the gap between minority and majority students' scores will narrow by 10 percent.

- Request for SAT data by ethnicity for measures 5.1 and 5.2;
- request for SAT gap scores by Black and Hispanic students as one group, and Asian students as another group; and
- request for the names of the ten high schools that had narrowed their achievement gap by ten percent and to identify which of those schools had received additional funding.

Target 6

By better identifying all children who are entitled to receive GT services and by making those services readily available to all eligible students, the number of Black and Hispanic students in the gifted and talented program will increase annually and, over a five-year period, move towards the percentage of Black and Hispanic students in the general population.

- Recommendation for consistency in definition of minority and majority in all targets;
- recommendation to include a measure to monitor achievement of students once they were enrolled in the gifted and talented program; and
- request for number of students enrolled in gifted and talented programs at all levels.

Target 7

All schools will increase their capacity to serve a broader range of students with designated low incidence disabilities at their base schools. As a result, the percentage of students receiving special education services in their base school programs will increase.

- Request for correlation of the benefits of inclusion for students with low incidence disabilities;
- request for data for students with low incidence disabilities by area of disability; and
- recommendation that inclusion staff development and training be mandatory.

Target 8

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The minority student achievement gap for Black and Hispanic students taking the 8th grade SOL tests in reading and math will narrow by ten percent.

- Request for target data by NCLB subgroups.

Target 9

Through research-based alternatives to student suspension, staff training in methods of classroom management, and the provision of positive intervention measures that foster and promote civility within the classroom, student behavior will improve as measured by:

- ***a 10 percent reduction in the disparity of suspensions between minority and majority students, and***
 - ***a 5 percent reduction in the rate of recidivism for suspensions due to acts of violence.***
- Request for separate statistics for drug and alcohol versus violence;
 - request for monthly report on student behavior;
 - request for definition of violence per NCLB and the state's definitions to include state's persistently violent behaviors;
 - request for minority and majority students suspended for non-violent behavior to include the types of non-violent behavior;
 - request for national reports on suspensions for violence, drugs, and alcohol;
 - the target advocate collaborative efforts by all FCPS employees;
 - request for longitudinal data for school safety and school improvement projects; and
 - recommendation to craft a target for school environment that used surveys as a means for achieving the measure.

Target 10

FCPS will adopt a series of instructional accommodation plans that incorporate effective and innovative teaching methods while reducing by at least 5 percent annually the portion of students that otherwise would be receiving instruction in trailers.

- Request for projection enrollment information correlated to core capacity and structural capacity;
- request for the projected additional licensures for the Educational Decision Support Library (EDSL); question whether additional staff would be needed for measure 10.3; response that nine additional School-Based Technology Specialists (SBTS) positions would be needed;
- question regarding the ideal ratio for SBTS to computers; response that industry standard was 1:150, Fairfax County was 1:235, and FCPS was 1:325, recommendation was to lower FCPS to 1:300;

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- question whether FCPS staff had access to EDSL remotely; response affirmative if they had Internet access; and
- request for cost to provide high speed Internet access to principals at home.

III. **CLOSED MEETING**

Mr. Center moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, that the Board go into closed session to discuss and consider the performance, employment, and salaries of specific public employees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A) (1). The motion **passed unanimously.**

IV. **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING COMPLIANCE**

Mr. Center moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed session meeting on February 28, 2004, 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 closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law, the Fairfax County School Board hereby certifies 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 closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion **passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned 4:20 p.m. and will be reconvened on April 12, 2004.

Monday, April 12, 2004 (reconvened from February 28)

Burkholder Administrative Center

V. **MEETING OPENING**

Chairman Kathy L. Smith reconvened the meeting at 3:10 p.m., with the following Board members present:

Catherine A. Belter (Springfield)
Brad Center (Lee)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)
Steve Hunt (At Large; arr. 3:24)
Kaye Kory (Mason)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
Janet S. Oleszek (At Large)
Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Dan Storck (Mount Veron; arr. 3:24;
Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville; arr. 3:25)
Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Student Representative to the School Board Andrew Ramish; Interim Division Superintendent Brad Draeger; Chief Operating Officer Thomas Brady; Chief Academic Officer (Acting) Laura Thomas; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Deputy Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk Linda Sabo; Assistant

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Superintendent for Educational Accountability Michael Glascoe; Cluster I Director Denny Dearden, Cluster II Director Ellen Schoetzau, Cluster III Director John English, Cluster IV Director Calanthia Tucker, Cluster VIII Betsy Fenske; Cluster VI Director Ann Monday, Cluster VII Director Carma Norman; and Coordinator for Office of Educational Planning Gayle Wood.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Update: *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* (Exhibit B)

- Question how economically disadvantaged students were determined; response by free- and reduced-price meal statistics;
- request to explain “safe harbor”; response that if a school had made at least a ten percent improvement over the previous year they received a “pass”;
- question whether excused absences were removed from attendance rates; negative response;
- question about cost of school choice; response that although it was hard to predict at this time, school systems must set aside up to 20 percent of Title I funds for supplementals and school choice, and FCPS Title I funds had been reduced by \$3 million;
- four of 37 FCPS schools had not meet AYP due to overall achievement;
- question whether the state worked with local school divisions in the development of new tests; affirmative response;
- request to provide state’s criteria of persistently dangerous schools (scoring system); and
- request for clarification that if one subgroup failed in a school, school choice must then be offered to the entire school; affirmative response.

B. Divisionwide Strategic Targets for 2004-2006 (Exhibit C)

- Consensus of the Board that targets should be brief, limited to ten; and should focus on student achievement and behavior;
- goal of targets was to increase achievement for all students and to lower the gap between majority and minority students;
- recommendation to drop Target 7 [*All schools will increase their capacity to serve a broader range of students with designated low incidence disabilities at their base schools. As a result, the percentage of students receiving special education services in their base school programs will increase.*] and add a new target that addressed professional technical studies and academies; and
- recommendation to delete Target 10 [*FCPS will adopt a series of instructional accommodation plans that incorporate effective and innovative teaching methods while reducing by at least 5 percent annually the portion of students that otherwise would be receiving instruction in trailers.*] which had been achieved and include a measure in Target 2 to expand access and training of Education Decision Support Library to teachers and staff.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. to be reconvened on April 28, 2004

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Monday, April 28, 2004 (reconvened from April 12)

Jackson Middle School

VII. MEETING OPENING

Chairman Kathy L. Smith reconvened the meeting at 7:05 p.m., with the following Board members present:

Catherine A. Belter (Springfield)
Brad Center (Lee)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)
Steve Hunt (At Large)
Kaye Kory (Mason)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
Janet S. Oleszek (At Large; arr. 7:20)
Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Dan Storck (Mount Vernon; arr. 8:00)
Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Student Representative to the School Board Andrew Ramish; Interim Division Superintendent Brad Draeger; Chief Operating Officer Thomas Brady; Chief Academic Officer (Acting) Laura Thomas; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Deputy Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk Linda Sabo; Assistant Superintendent for Educational Accountability Michael Glascoe; Cluster I Director Denny Dearden, Cluster II Director Ellen Schoetzau, Cluster III Director John English, Cluster IV Director Calanthia Tucker, Cluster V Director Betsy Fenske; Cluster VI Director Ann Monday; Cluster VII Director Carma Norman; Cluster VIII Director Betsy Goodman; and Coordinator for Office of Student Testing Ray Diroll.

VIII. DISCUSSION

Divisionwide Strategic Targets (Exhibit D)

- Consensus of the Board that the overarching statement applied to all the strategic targets and stated "*The Fairfax County School Board is committed to increasing the academic achievement of all students, including the achievement of students with disabilities, and reducing the gap between students who are Black, Hispanic, or economically disadvantaged and the total school population.*"

The Board then discussed each strategic target and the associated measures:

Target 1

All students will be reading at grade level by the end of second grade.

- Consensus of the Board Target 1 applied to "all" students;

Target 2

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All schools will meet Virginia accreditation and meet No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress standards.

- Recommendation that the same measures for Title I schools applied to all schools;
- measure 2.2 revised to non-Title 1 schools and percentage increased; and
- request for explanation of change in goal for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Target 3

The participation and performance of juniors and seniors in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs will increase.

- Request for subgroups to be included in measure 3.2.

Target 4

All grade 11 students will have the required verified credits for graduation by the end of 11th grade.

- Request for reported data to be broken down by subgroups and gender.

Target 5

The achievement of all students taking the SAT will increase.

- Request that clarification be added that target was measured by the SAT scores of seniors only.

Target 6

The participation of Black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students in gifted and talented programs will increase.

- Black and Hispanic students had historically not participated in Gifted and Talents programs so measure needed to be set higher.

Target 7 (New)

The percent of students in professional technical courses who pass the corresponding industry certification tests will increase.

- Recommendation to look at grade point average or performance of students prior to entering professional technical students to measure motivation of students;
- question about process for enrolling in various technical programs; response that certain academies had prerequisites and a committee of principals would look at these issues; and

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- question whether there would be written prioritization; response the Board would prioritize in the FY 2006 proposed budget.

Target 8

The reading and mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) scores for all grade eight students will increase.

- Recommendation for a measure prior to 8th grade to determine progress; affirmative response; and
- request that data be reported same as Target 2.

Target 9

All schools will be safe and secure.

- Suggestion to use “achieve a divisionwide suspension rate ” rather than “decrease the divisionwide suspension rate” in measures; and
- recommendation to continue promotion of alternatives to out-of-school suspension.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.