

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 3

September 9, 2004

1. **MEETING OPENING**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0026

1.01 **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence/National Anthem**

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Catherine A. Belter (Springfield)	Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
Brad Center (Lee)	Janet S. Oleszek (At Large)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)	Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Stephen M. Hunt (At Large)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon)
Kaye Kory (Mason; dep. 11:25)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were student representative to the Board Ian Hurdle; Division Superintendent Jack D. Dale, Chief Academic Officer Brad Draeger; Chief Operating Officer Thomas Brady; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Deputy Clerk of the Board Linda Sabo; and certain other members of staff.

Mrs. Smith thanked the members of the Chantilly High School *Touch of Class Show Choir* students for their performance of the National Anthem.

1.02 **Announcements**

Chairman Smith welcomed student representative Ian Hurdle to his first regular meeting of the School Board. Chairman Smith announced that some changes would be made to the organization of Board meetings, and that announcements of noteworthy events would be made on a monthly basis.

Vice Chairman Kory announced that Hispanic American Heritage Month would be celebrated from September 15 through October 15, 2004; and that the Board encouraged school activities to celebrate Hispanic cultural heritage.

Chairman Smith recognized former School Board members Ernestine Heastie and Robert E. Frye, Sr., who were in attendance.

1.03 **Resolution Naming the Animal Care Laboratory at Burke School (Exhibit A)**

Mrs. Wilson offered the following resolution:

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RESOLUTION NAMING THE ANIMAL CARE LAB AT BURKE SCHOOL "THE SUSAN KNECHT ANIMAL CARE LAB"

WHEREAS, Mrs. Susan Knecht served Fairfax County Public Schools with distinction for 20 years as a psychologist, coordinator of student services, and principal until her retirement effective December 2004; and

WHEREAS, she demonstrated leadership, loyalty, insight, and a professional commitment with colleagues, staff members, and particularly special education students and their families, and, throughout her career, her enthusiastic personality supported them all and helped them grow; and

WHEREAS, she ensured the best possible education for all her students through her unique ability to inspire high expectations and collaboration among her staff members, resulting in a high level of professionalism and a commitment to innovation to benefit special education students through her constant encouragement, support, and modeling that made her a role model for teachers who sought to emulate her devotion to children and to special education; and

WHEREAS, she created a family within the school community, unifying children, parents, faculty members, and the local community to accomplish her goal-- reaching, touching, and teaching each and every child; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Public Schools has been served admirably through the tireless efforts, exemplary skills, creative talents, and pure dedication of Susan Knecht;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County School Board names the Burke School animal care lab "The Susan Knecht Animal Care Lab" in honor of her endless dedication and commitment to special education children and their families, to her loyal staff members, and to all those whose lives she touched.

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, that the Board adopt the Resolution Naming the Burke School Animal Care Laboratory "The Susan Knecht Animal Care Laboratory." The motion **passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Knecht accepted the resolution and she and her husband, friends, and family members joined the Board for photographs.

2. PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0322

2.01 Opening of School Report (Exhibit B)

Dr. Dale highlighted the achievements of FCPS during the 2003-04 school year, and the state of FCPS as school opened in September, 2004 with a PowerPoint presentation.

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2.02 Spotlight on Learning – Summer Reading Van Program at Groveton Elementary School (Exhibit C)

Dr. Dale introduced Groveton Elementary School Principal Christine Lamb, and teacher Sueanne Tupy who discussed Groveton's motto—*Literacy: A path to the future*—and a video was viewed.

Discussion included the following: the question how long the program had been in operation (Strauss); the response five years (Ms. Tupy); the question whether Groveton Elementary School worked in collaboration with the public library system (Strauss); an affirmative response (Tupy); the question how the van was subsidized (Strauss); the response that the van was supported by Community in Schools in Northern Virginia (Tupy); and expressions of thanks on behalf of the Board (Belter, Niedzielski-Eichner, Strauss, Storck). The Groveton staff members distributed tee shirts to the Board members.

2.03 Citizen Participation (Exhibit D)

Three speakers addressed the Board during the time reserved for public comment: Karl Polzer and Diane Barabera addressed Agenda Item No. 3.02, Telecommunications Lease, and Dennis Bilowus addressed transportation.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1646

3.01 Minutes – Approve minutes of July 22, 2004, regular School Board Meeting and August 23, 2004, special School Board Meeting (SB: Exhibit E)

3.02 Telecommunications Lease – Authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to negotiate and sign a telecommunications lease with Smartpole, Inc. (Milestone Communications) at McLean High School (FTS; Exhibit F)

3.03 Easement – Approve the grant of an easement at the Coppermine elementary school site with compensation in the amount of \$5,000 (FTS; Exhibit G)

Chairman Smith stated that, without objection, the three items on the consent agenda would be adopted. Hearing no objection, the consent agenda **passed unanimously.**

4. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1681

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4.01 School Board Policy – Approve Policy 3355.2, High School for Science and Technology, as reviewed and discussed by the Instruction Committee (IS; Exhibit H)

Dr. Draeger gave a presentation on the background related to the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) admissions process; that the Blue Ribbon Commission had determined that the admissions process for TJHSST was flawed; that the problem was systemic and would have to be addressed through the Board's strategic targets and gifted and talented centers, but would take time to resolve; that there were positive components of the admissions process, but it relied too heavily on standardized exam results; and that staff members had recommended that applicants first be screened by a sliding scale of grade point average (GPA) and test score.

Discussion included the following: the question whether staff members agreed that ensuring diversity in the student population was an essential part of the policy (Niedzielski-Eichner); an affirmative response (Draeger); the question whether the proposed policy would require the implementation of targets or quotas to increase the representation of African American and Hispanic students (Niedzielski-Eichner); a negative response (Draeger); the question whether the Blue Ribbon Commission had been critical of the low number of minority students at TJHSST (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that the Commission had expressed concern about the lack of diversity at the school, but its focus had been on the flaws in the admission process (Draeger); that he supported option B that established a minimum GPA of 2.67 and test score of 90 percent that was more stringent than the staff recommendation; the question whether changing the admissions process would ultimately degrade the quality of TJHSST as an academic institution (Niedzielski-Eichner); a negative response; that the proposed revisions to the admissions process would establish minimum standards for acceptance (Draeger); that he had requested that the Office of Educational Accountability develop a formal evaluation plan to provide for regular performance assessments (Niedzielski-Eichner); an affirmative response; that staff members would be monitoring the applicant pool, the resultant student body, and graduates of TJHSST (Draeger); the question how the staff recommendation would serve to widen the pool of applicants (Oleszek); the response that the process had previously focused on the top 800 applicants who were then either accepted, not accepted, or reconsidered; that the students who would now be considered would constitute a broader pool of applicants, (Draeger); that the Blue Ribbon Commission had recommended that applicants' test scores and GPA be considered separately; the question whether the proposed sliding scale would combine the two (Oleszek); the response that the recommendation placed equal weight on the GPA and test results (Draeger); the question when the Board could reasonably expect to reevaluate the policy (Oleszek); that the Board could revisit the policy when staff members presented evaluation data (Draeger).

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TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2700

Questions and comments continued as follows: the request that the follow-up evaluations and outreach efforts be detailed; the question what would prevent students from circumventing the intent of the policy revisions to gain admission to TJHSST (Kory); the response that the performance of the class that would be admitted as a result of the new process should be compared to previous classes of TJHSST students to determine whether there had been a dramatic difference; that longitudinal studies of TJHSST graduates should be conducted to determine how many students went on to complete four-year colleges, and what careers they pursued; that a letter announcing opportunities had been mailed to parents of all 8th grade students, and a sample of the test would be available on the FCPS web site; that while staff members would continue to develop ways to encourage applications from 7th and 8th grade students, the Board should recognize that there would have to be a focus at the elementary school level; that it would be important for students to maintain an impressive GPA as well as scoring well on the test (Draeger); the question what the Blue Ribbon Commission had identified as the primary problem with the selection process (Hunt); the response that an over-reliance on the test results, and a performance gap that existed between members of different demographic groups; that the Commission recommended making the admission process more holistic and multi-tiered (Draeger); that the Commission had also recommended increasing the number of applicants considered at the second stage of the process from 800 to 1,500, and staff had suggested the number be 2,000, but he was concerned those numbers would be too high; that he hoped the Board would consider a sliding scale starting at a score of 95 percent with a GPA of 3.0; that approximately 1,030 students would have been included in the second stage of the selection process during the 2003-2004 school year if such a scale had been in use; that his preference was option H (Hunt); that staff members should evaluate which students the holistic process would ultimately admit to TJHSST, and he would recommend starting the process with a large number of applicants for evaluative purposes (Draeger); the question whether the Board's policy and the actual selection process would be mutually supportive (Hunt); that the key issue before the Board was the policy under consideration, because implementation of the policy would drive the number of applicants considered; that the policy and admissions process would be intertwined (Dale).

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-3385

Discussion continued as follows: that staff members needed a sense of direction from the Board regarding the sliding scale (Smith); that they preferred a holistic admissions approach and supported option B (Storck, Strauss); that there should be some correlation between test scores and academic performance; that the data provided by longitudinal studies would be helpful; the request for a summary of the changes being implemented regarding outreach communications (Storck); the response that FCPS would work on narrowing the academic achievement

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gap beginning in kindergarten, and parents of elementary school students would be informed that they would need a strong foundation in mathematics; that the Board had adopted a policy to provide preparatory courses at underrepresented schools, and that program should be expanded; that the Board had committed resources, through the development of its strategic targets, to reducing achievement gaps (Draeger); that option B started with a GPA of 2.67 which was much lower than the average GPA of 3.8 earned by students who had reached the second stage of the selection process over the past three years; that he was concerned that option B would result in an applicant pool that was too large, and he would support option C; the question how diversity factors would be considered in selecting applicants (Moon); the response that the biographical sketches of applicants would be considered, and could influence the decision to accept applicants on the basis of demographic or cultural background, demonstrated leadership skills, or other factors (Draeger); that TJHSST had opened as a Governor's School in 1985 with 400 students in each grade level; the question how many times the number of students admitted to TJHSST had been changed (Moon); the response that the number had been increased once, to 430 students (Draeger); that the population of high school students in Northern Virginia had increased dramatically over the past 15 years; the question why the population of TJHSST has not continued to increase (Moon); the response that FCPS had not spent a great deal of time considering the size of the population of TJHSST; that there were space limitations imposed by the school facility, that currently accommodated approximately 1,700 students (Draeger); the question whether a modest increase in the student population would pose problems (Moon); and the response that provisions could probably be made to accommodate more students (Draeger).

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0350

Discussion continued as follows: that he preferred option C but did not have serious objections to option B; that he supported the policy statement since it provided a sufficiently broad definition of diversity and a framework for the admissions policy; that the previous admissions policy had been flawed because it placed too much emphasis on the standardized test, and reducing reliance on that test, as well as outreach efforts, and increasing the applicant pool, would improve the process (Center); that he requested that staff present the Board year with an analysis of how well the policy worked next year; that it was important for the Board to focus on minority student achievement and diversity within the school division; that FCPS should strive to give everything needed by every child to every child (Center); that he preferred option A but could support option B; that the Blue Ribbon Commission felt that the size of the initial cut should range between 1,000-1,500 students, but should not be rigidly fixed; that over the past five years, the average lowest GPA was 2.2, and the lowest GPA of students testing in December 2003 was 1.36; that the average verbal score over the past two years was higher than the average math score of students who were included in the selection pool; that any of the sliding scales proposed would

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include students, who otherwise would not have made the second cut, who had superior skills than those who would make the second cut; and that the Commission found that flaws in the admission and selection process disproportionately reduced the chances of admission for African American and Hispanic students (Gibson).

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0750

Questions and comments continued as follows: that the current policy reserved 30 seats for students from underrepresented middle schools; the question whether that would remain as part of the new admissions process (Wilson); the response that he suggested having the first elimination stage proceed without consideration to the applicants' schools; that there would be an opportunity to determine whether the middle schools were represented in that larger pool of applicants at the second elimination when biographical information was reviewed (Draeger); the question whether the goal of the admissions committee would be to identify 430 students through the admission process without any specific number of positions reserved (Wilson); an affirmative response (Draeger); the request for clarification of the information Assistant Superintendent of Educational Accountability Dr. Michael Glascoe had sent to the Board earlier that day (Wilson); the response that, since the Board had appeared to favor the third option, now called (option E), he had provided some details to give examples of how the top 800 candidates would be ranked using option E; that he would review the figures further (Glascoe); the question whether those students who had scored at the advanced level on any SOL exam would be receiving specific letters as part of the outreach effort (Wilson); an affirmative response (Draeger); that she favored option H (Wilson); that they preferred option B (Belter, Kory); that she favored option E, which closely embodied the intent of the Blue Ribbon Commission, the question whether it would be reasonable to expect that preparatory courses could be expanded to more middle schools during the current school year (Oleszek); an affirmative response (Draeger); the question how providing information on the Internet would serve families that did not have Internet access (Oleszek); the response that multiple mailings would be sent to communicate the information to the 20 percent of FCPS families for whom the Internet was not easily accessible (Draeger); that she preferred option E but could support option B (Smith).

Mrs. Belter moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the Board adopt Policy 3355.12, to read as follows:

I. PURPOSE

To establish a high school for science and technology to provide an environment that will allow those with the requisite skills and interest in mathematics, science, or technology to pursue higher levels of academic achievement in those subjects

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in preparation for the pursuit of a mathematics, science, or technology focused profession.

II. OPERATION OF SCHOOL

It shall be the policy of the Fairfax County School Board to operate a high school for science and technology for qualified Fairfax County Public Schools students in order to provide increased educational opportunities for those who have demonstrated high achievement, aptitude, commitment, intellectual curiosity, and creativity in mathematics, science, and technology. The School Board recognizes the importance of preparing future leaders in mathematics, science, and technology to address future complex societal and ethical issues. Diversity of the student body enhances the robust exchange of ideas and is an important factor in developing leaders who will be prepared to address future scientific and technological challenges. Diversity is broadly defined to include a wide variety of factors, such as race, ethnicity, gender, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), geography, poverty, prior school and cultural experiences, and other unique skills and experiences. The Division Superintendent shall develop a comprehensive admissions process that establishes specific minimum standards for initial consideration for admissions. These standards shall incorporate a sliding scale that balances the scores on an admissions test with that of a student's grade point average. Students meeting the minimum admissions standards shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation process that assesses their strengths and potential contributions relative to this policy and to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's mission and goals.

III. REGIONAL STATUS

The School Board may, at its discretion, cooperate with the Virginia Department of Education to operate such a school as a regional school and to admit qualified students from other school divisions in the Northern Virginia region.

Mrs. Belter said that TJHSST provided opportunities for students to excel in the areas of science, math, and technology; that the school had maintained an impressive reputation since its inception in 1985, when it had been recommended that counseling be implemented at the elementary and 7th grade levels to encourage females and minority group members to apply to TJHSST; and that the Board originally wanted to have some of the programs that would be available to TJHSST students offered at other high schools throughout the county, and should proceed to do so.

Mrs. Strauss said that the Board had expressed its intent to keep TJHSST's focus on the study of math, science, and technology, and defined the characteristics of students who would be best served at TJHSST, while maintaining a diverse student body, and that the Board should regularly review the policy to evaluate its success.

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Mr. Hunt moved, and Mr. Storck seconded, to amend the main motion by placing the word "high" in the last paragraph of the 'Operations of School' section, so it would read, "The Division Superintendent shall develop a comprehensive admissions process that establishes high specific minimum standards for initial consideration for admissions."

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-1545

Questions and comments included the following: the question whether the sliding scale denoted as option B would be acceptable under the amendment (Gibson); that it would be up to the Board to make that determination (Hunt); that option B set higher standards for admission than were currently being applied (Gibson, Storck, Strauss).

The motion to amend the main motion by placing the word "high" in the last paragraph of the 'Operations of School' section, so it would read, "The Division Superintendent shall develop a comprehensive admissions process that establishes high specific minimum standards for initial consideration for admissions" **passed unanimously.**

Mr. Hunt moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to amend the main motion by replacing the last sentence of the section 'Operations of School' with the following: "*Students meeting the minimum admissions standards shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation process which assesses their ability to meet the rigors of a demanding curriculum and be an effective contributor to the unique learning experience to be fostered by the school for all of its students.*"

Mr. Gibson expressed concern about the elimination of the word "potential" from the sentence, and offered the following "friendly" amendment to add three [underlined] words to the sentence, so it would read: "Students meeting the minimum admissions standards shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation process which assesses their ability to meet the rigors of a demanding curriculum and the potential to be an effective contributor to the unique learning experience to be fostered by the school for all of its students." Mr. Hunt accepted the friendly amendment.

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-2103

The motion to amend the main motion by replacing the last sentence of the section 'Operations of School' with the following: "*Students meeting the minimum admissions standards shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation process which assesses their ability to meet the rigors of a demanding curriculum and the potential to be an effective contributor to the unique learning experience to be fostered by the school for all of its students*" **passed unanimously.**

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Discussion on the main motion, as amended, included the following: that she wholeheartedly supported the policy but had serious concerns about the sliding scale; that although thousands of students could be successful at TJHSST, she felt the school was intended for students who had exceptional talents in the areas of science and technology; that she did not believe that the current admissions process would specifically select such students, and was therefore conflicted about the policy; that she would abstain from voting on the motion (Wilson); that the Blue Ribbon Commission had specifically been charged with developing a method to improve the admissions process; that academic achievement gaps were evident at the second grade level and continued through high school, and represented a systemic problem; that the selection process for TJHSST should be fair and equitable, and the pool of students who achieved high levels of academic success was reflected in the student body of TJHSST; that he could not support the policy (Hunt); that the impetus for the creation of the Blue Ribbon Commission was a recognition by the Board that the diversity of the TJHSST student body did not reflect the diversity of Fairfax County in the areas of race, ethnicity, and income; that the policy would provide an improved selection process for admission to TJHSST (Kory).

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-2880

Discussion included the following: that he supported a merit-based admissions procedure for TJHSST to select students who were capable and motivated to study math, science, and technology; that the new policy reaffirmed the Board's belief in the importance of diversity, but academic standards would not be compromised as a consequence (Moon); that the Board would closely monitor the new policy to determine the consequences of its implementation (Moon, Niedzielski-Eichner); that the policy did not make reference to the admissions process or students from other counties; that there was a difference between a magnet school that only attracted gifted students and a high school with a focus on science and technology; that the Board's discussion should focus on providing opportunities for students with different backgrounds, who would be able to succeed at the highest academic levels, that the applications of African American and Hispanic students had all been evaluated prior to 1998, but that process had been changed to reflect court decisions; that the proposed policy reflected an acknowledgment, by the Board, that future generations of leaders in the fields of science, math and technology should have an awareness of the diversity of the population of the world; that the Blue Ribbon Commission had determined that the current admissions process systematically discriminated against people of color and Hispanic heritage (Gibson); that, as a public institution, the Board was obligated to consider the public good, which in the context of TJHSST required that its student body be provided with an environment in which challenging issues could be considered in a manner that would allow students to exercise discernment as they investigated the scientific and technical advances of society; that he strongly supported the manner in which the Board had characterized diversity and its importance; and he believed that the admissions process that

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would follow the policy would be separable from the issue of academic performance gaps evident in the community; and that he was confident that TJHSST would be a better institution in future years as a result of implementation of the policy (Niedzielski-Eichner).

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-3550

The main motion, that the Board adopt Policy 3355.12, as amended:

I. PURPOSE

To establish a high school for science and technology to provide an environment that will allow those with the requisite skills and interest in mathematics, science, or technology to pursue higher levels of academic achievement in those subjects in preparation for the pursuit of a mathematics, science, or technology focused profession.

II. OPERATION OF SCHOOL

It shall be the policy of the Fairfax County School Board to operate a high school for science and technology for qualified Fairfax County Public Schools students in order to provide increased educational opportunities for those who have demonstrated high achievement, aptitude, commitment, intellectual curiosity, and creativity in mathematics, science, and technology. The School Board recognizes the importance of preparing future leaders in mathematics, science, and technology to address future complex societal and ethical issues. Diversity of the student body enhances the robust exchange of ideas and is an important factor in developing leaders who will be prepared to address future scientific and technological challenges. Diversity is broadly defined to include a wide variety of factors, such as race, ethnicity, gender, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), geography, poverty, prior school and cultural experiences, and other unique skills and experiences. The Division Superintendent shall develop a comprehensive admissions process that establishes high specific minimum standards for initial consideration for admissions. These standards shall incorporate a sliding scale that balances the scores on an admissions test with that of a student's grade point average. Students meeting the minimum admissions standards shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation process that assesses their ability to meet the rigors of a demanding curriculum and the potential to be an effective contributor to the unique learning experience to be fostered by the school for all of its students.

III. REGIONAL STATUS

The School Board may, at its discretion, cooperate with the Virginia Department of Education to operate such a school as a regional school and to admit qualified students from other school divisions in the Northern Virginia region.

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passed 10-1-1, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, and Mrs. Strauss voting "aye"; with Mr. Hunt voting "nay"; and with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

Mr. Moon moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, to increase the number of students who are offered admission to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) by 50, starting with the freshman class that will enter TJHSST in September 2005.

Mrs. Wilson raised a point of order; she said that it was not the Board's standard procedure to present and then vote on a motion during the same meeting, unless there was a pressing need to do so; she questioned why the Board would change its procedure; that she would not necessarily oppose the motion, but would ask that an analysis of the potential impact on facilities use and associated expenses be developed prior to a vote; and she suggested that the motion be postponed to a date certain.

TAPE REFERENCE: 3-0007

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Hunt seconded, to postpone until the September 23, 2004, regular meeting of the Board, Mr. Moon's motion to increase the number of students who were offered admission to TJHSST by 50 students, provided that staff members could develop an analysis of cost and facilities impacts by that date. The motion passed 7-5, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Storck, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Strauss voting "nay." [Clerk's Note: Chairman Smith did not call for the "nay" votes but the assumption was that the remaining School Board members were opposed to the motion.]

The meeting was recessed for ten minutes by Chairman Smith.

- 4.02 Sale of School Bonds** – Approve and adopt the resolution, in the form attached, requesting the Board of Supervisors to issue and sell \$125.59 million in school bonds approved by the voters in the November 6, 2001, School Bond Referendum, and authorize the Chairman or Vice Chairman to execute, on behalf of the School Board, a Tax Certificate substantially in the form provided and as approved by the School Board attorney, in connection with the issuance by the County of Series 2004B public improvement bonds (FS; Exhibit I)

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Storck seconded, that the School Board approve and adopt the resolution, in the form attached, requesting the Board of Supervisors to issue and sell \$125.59 million in school bonds approved by the voters in the November 6, 2001, School Bond Referendum, and authorize the Chairman, or Vice-Chairman to execute, on behalf of the School Board, a tax

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certificate substantially in the form provided, and as approved by the School Board attorney, in connection with the issuance by the County of Series 2004B Public Improvement Bonds. The motion **passed unanimously.**

- 4.03 Pohick School Site** – Schedule and provide notice of a public hearing to be held on September 23, 2004, in connection with school system staff's recommendation to declare as surplus and thereafter to sell the Pohick school site, as detailed in the agenda item (FTS; Exhibit J)

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, that the School Board schedule and provide notice of a public hearing to be held on Thursday, September 23, 2004, at 8:00 p.m., at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, Virginia, in connection with the school system's staff recommendation to declare as surplus, and thereafter to sell, the Pohick School Site, with the proceeds from such sale being retained and accrued to the school system's capital improvement fund, for use for new school construction and school renovation projects, in accordance with Section 22.1-129(a) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Wilson said that the speaker's list would remain open until September 22 at 4:30 p.m. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Center thanked Chief Operating Officer Tom Brady for his efforts concerning the matter.

- 4.04 Additional Appointments** – Appoint individuals to serve on committees as listed in the agenda item (SB; Exhibit K)

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the School Board appoint individuals to serve on committees as listed in the agenda item. The motion **passed unanimously.**

- 4.05 Pending Item** – Curriculum Advisory Committees – Recommendation to appoint individuals to serve on the English Language Arts, Family Life Education, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Health and Physical Education and Mathematics Curriculum Advisory Committees and on the High School Course Review Committee, as listed in the agenda item (IS; Exhibit L)

Chairman Smith said that the Board would vote on the appointments to Curriculum Advisory Committees at its September 23 regular meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

TAPE REFERENCE: 3-0215

- 5.01 Contract Amendment** – Recommendation to amend the contract for the Energy Performance Services with Noresco, LLC, dated November 8, 2002, to include

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improvements at additional buildings; enter into a lease/purchase financing agreement for such services and improvements with a recognized commercial financing company, all on the terms negotiated by school officials, with the advice of the School Board attorney; and authorize Thomas M. Brady, chief operating officer; or Dean Tistadt, assistant superintendent of facilities and transportation services, to execute the agreements and related documents for these services/improvements and the lease/purchase financing on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit M)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.02 School Board Policy** – Recommendation to adopt Policy 1400.3, Charter Schools, as reviewed and discussed by the Policy Review Committee (EA; Exhibit N)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.03 State Technology Grant Resolution** – Recommendation to adopt a resolution stating the Board's intention to be reimbursed for certain equipment purchases with proceeds of the FY 2005 and FY 2006 state technology grant which is funded with Virginia Public School Authority bonds (FS; Exhibit O)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.04 School Board Policy** – Recommendation to adopt Policy 1804.7, Committees of the School Board, as reviewed and discussed by the Policy Review committee (SB; Exhibit P)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.05 School Board Policy** – Recommendation to adopt Policy 1812.5, School Board Meetings, Types, Calendar Notification, as reviewed and discussed by the Policy Review Committee (SB; Exhibit Q)

Mrs. Wilson requested that "Keep in Touch" be included as one of the outreach efforts.

- 5.06 School Board Policy** – Recommendation to adopt Policy 1816.6, School Board Agenda, as reviewed and discussed by the Policy Review Committee (SB; Exhibit R)

Chairman Smith said that a work session was scheduled for Monday, September 13, to discuss the foregoing policies.

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6. SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS

TAPE REFERENCE: 3-0297

6.01 Reports

School Board Retreat, August 23, Kathy Smith, Chairman

The Board had proposed changing its committee structure to consist of the following four committees:

- Resource Management and Evaluation, Jane Strauss, Chairman, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Vice Chairman;
- Facilities and Operations, Tessie Wilson, Chairman, Ilryong Moon, Vice Chairman;
- Instruction, Special Services, and Youth Development, Cathy Belter, Chairman, Brad Center, Vice Chairman; and
- Legislation, Policy, and Future Issues, Stuart Gibson, Chairman, Janet Oleszek, Vice Chairman.

Staff members would work with committee chairs to develop future agendas at the September 13 work session.

Mr. Gibson raised a point of personal privilege; that the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, would begin on Wednesday, September 15; that many community members had expressed concern that many school events were scheduled without consideration of holidays celebrated by members of the diverse Fairfax County community; that the Superintendent should respond to the guidelines posted on the FCPS web site, that read, "teachers should let parents know of important class activities, such as tests, field trips, or presentations, as far in advance as possible; so that potential conflicts with religious obligations can be avoided or accommodated"; that the National Parks Service, the Wolftrap Foundation, and the Fairfax County Council for the Arts had collaboratively scheduled the International Children's Festival during Rosh Hashanah; that it was imperative that parents receive more timely and accurate notice well in advance of field trips that might conflict with the observance of religious holidays; and that school staff members should be sensitive to the fact that Passover would not coincide with the Spring Break established by FCPS for 2005.

7. SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS

TAPE REFERENCE: 3-0412

Dr. Dale announced that Governor Warner had visited Marshall High School that morning, and had discussed his "Senior Year Plus" initiatives that would be discussed at the Board's work session on September 13. Dr. Dale announced that FCPS had received the CIO 100 award for the second consecutive year, and he congratulated

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Chief Information Officer Maribeth Luftglass, and her staff members, for their vision. Dr. Dale announced that FCPS had also received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers association, and he congratulated Chief Financial Officer Deirdra McLaughlin on that accomplishment. Dr. Dale announced that closed captioning had been provided for the TV viewing audience effective that evening.

8. **CLOSED MEETING**

TAPE REFERENCE: 3-0455

8.01 Mr. Center moved and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, that the Board go into closed session to discuss and consider disciplinary matters concerning students pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(2). The motion **passed 12-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye".

9. **MEETING CLOSING**

TAPE REFERENCE: 3-0497

9.01 Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance (Exhibit S)

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed session meeting on September 9, 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 11-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent for the vote.

9.02 Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to expel a student for violation of the conditions of a probationary placement. The motion **passed 11-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent for the vote.

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Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Hunt seconded, to deny an application for readmission to a regular school program by a student previously expelled, but permit readmission to an alternative program on the terms recommended by the Division Superintendent. The motion **passed 11-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent for the vote.

Having served on a three member committee chaired by Mrs. Belter, Mr. Storck moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, to expel a student for endangering the well-being of a staff member. The motion **passed unanimously**. [Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Kory, Mrs. Belter moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to expel a student for conviction of a felony charge in the community. The motion **passed unanimously**. [Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Storck, Mrs. Belter moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, to expel a student for threatening a staff member with a weapon. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Storck, Mrs. Belter moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, to expel two students for involvement in an assault on another student. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Storck, Mrs. Belter moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, to expel a student for being in possession and under the influence of illegal drugs on school property. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Storck, Mrs. Belter moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, to expel a student for possession of two weapons on school property. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Gibson, Mr. Center moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to expel a student for possession and sale of illegal drugs and possession of a weapon on school property. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, to expel a student for possession and sale of illegal drugs on school property. The motion **passed unanimously**.

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Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, to expel two students for involvement in an assault on other students. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Oleszek, Mr. Hunt moved, and Mr. Moon seconded, to expel a student for an assault on another student. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Oleszek, Mr. Moon moved, and Mr. Hunt seconded, to expel a student for an assault on a school official. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a committee chaired by Mrs. Strauss, Mr. Storck moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, to expel a student for possession and distribution of an imitation controlled substance on school property. The motion **passed unanimously.** *[Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]*

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Strauss, Mr. Storck moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, to expel a student for chronic disruption of the educational program. The motion **passed unanimously.** *[Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]*

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Storck moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, to expel a student for an assault on another student. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Storck moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, to expel a student for misconduct at school, including possession and use of alcohol and inappropriate touching of another student. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Oleszek moved, and Mr. Storck seconded, to expel a student for possession and brandishing of a weapon on school property. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Belter moved, and Mrs. Smith seconded, to expel a student for chronic disruption of the educational program. The motion **passed unanimously.** *[Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]*

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Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Smith, Mr. Hunt moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, to expel a student for possession of a weapon on school property and participation in a fight with another student. The motion passed unanimously.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Hunt seconded, to expel a student for participation in a mob assault on another student. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Smith moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to go into closed meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding probable litigation pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), at Burkholder Administrative Center on Monday, September 13, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. The motion passed 11-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Olesek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent for the vote.

10. ADJOURNMENT

TAPE REFERENCE: 3-0730

10.01 The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.