

# MINUTES

## Fairfax County School Board

### Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 5

October 7, 2004

#### 1. **MEETING OPENING**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0014

##### 1.01 **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence/National Anthem— Girls Select Chorus, Franklin Middle School**

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 8:06 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Catherine A. Belter (Springfield; arr. 8:20)	Janet S. Oleszek (At Large)
Stephen M. Hunt (At Large)	Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Kaye Kory (Mason)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)	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 Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Norma J. Bailey; and certain other members of staff.

Mrs. Smith thanked the members of the Girls Select Chorus of Franklin Middle School, under the direction of Lorraine Neill, for their performance of the National Anthem.

##### 1.02 **Announcements**

Chairman Smith announced that Mr. Gibson was out of town on business and that Mr. Center was attending Back-to-School Night at his son's school, and that they would, therefore, not be in attendance; and that Mrs. Belter was expected to be arriving shortly from a Back-to-School-Night program.

Vice Chairman Kory announced that FCPS was currently celebrating National School Lunch Week. Mrs. Kory encouraged community members to participate in Lights On! After School Day, a national celebration of after-school programs that would be conducted on October 14 to promote the importance of quality after-school programs for communities; individuals were encouraged to visit one of the nine school sites holding open houses on October 14.

Mrs. Smith said that there had recently been media coverage of the Board's review of school-owned land in the Pohick community; that the growth in the

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student population had overwhelmed the ability of FCPS to build schools to accommodate them; that the projected capital needs of the school division totaled \$1.9 billion over the next decade; that the School Board also considered the needs of the community for parkland, athletic fields, teen centers, and affordable housing; that the community would be kept apprised of the Board's intentions, and public hearings would be held; and that community participation would be vital in the development of the plan.

### **1.03 Recognition of Custodian Appreciation Week**

Mrs. Kory announced that the week of October 18-22 had been designated Custodian Appreciation Week to recognize and thank the dedicated custodians of FCPS.

### **1.04 Recognition of National School Bus Safety Week**

Mrs. Kory announced that the week of October 17-23 had been designated National School Bus Safety Week; that the safe transportation of FCPS children was a matter of great concern for all citizens; that over 110,000 students traveled in more than 1,500 FCPS buses every day; and she invited the bus drivers in attendance to join the Board for photographs.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0516

### **2.01 Citizen Participation (Exhibit A)**

Six speakers addressed the Board in the time reserved for public comment. Karl Polzer, Richard Steinbronn, Diana Barbera, and Mary Lou Thompson addressed Agenda Item No. 4.01, Telecommunications Lease; Ed Saperstein addressed the FCCPTAs Calendar Survey; and Maria Allen addressed minority achievement.

## **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1235

**3.01 Minutes** – Approve the minutes of the September 23, 2004, regular School Board Meeting (SB; Exhibit B)

**3.02 School Board Policy** – Adopt Policy 2701.4, Student Personal Data, as reviewed and discussed by the Policy Review Committee (SS; Exhibit C)

**3.03 School Board Policy** – Adopt Policy 2501.3, Guidance and Counseling Services, as reviewed and discussed by the Policy Review Committee (SS; Exhibit D)

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Chairman Smith stated that, without objection, the three items on the consent agenda would be adopted. Hearing no objection, the consent agenda passed 10-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mr. Center and Mr. Gibson being absent.

#### 4. **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1263

- 4.01 Telecommunications Lease** – Authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to negotiate and sign a telecommunications lease with Smartpole, Inc. (Milestone Communications) for a telecommunications monopole at Robinson Secondary School (FTS; Exhibit E )

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, that the Board authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to negotiate and sign a telecommunications lease with SmartPole Inc. (Milestone Communications) at Robinson Secondary School.

Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services Dean Tistadt narrated a PowerPoint presentation describing the potential impacts of monopoles and the radio frequency (RF) energy emissions associated therewith; that he was confident that the RF emissions would be safe for FCPS students and staff members; and that FCPS would soon purchase a measuring device to conduct independent field tests at all sites where monopoles were located.

Discussion continued as follows: the question how far the monopole would be from the school (Storck); the response that the monopole would be situated 150 meters from the school (Tistadt); the question whether there would only occasionally be activity in the area where the monopole would be placed (Storck); an affirmative response; that exposure to RF emissions were not cumulative; that the concern was the density of exposure and not the duration of exposure (Tistadt); that people were concerned about continuous exposure over prolonged periods of time; that more data would be available to assess the impacts of RF emissions in the future, and he preferred to err on the side of caution; that individuals reacted differently to environmental stimuli, and a percentage of people could be expected to be affected by the projected emissions; the question whether studies had been conducted to compare emissions from cellular telephones to those from monopoles (Storck); that cellular phones were placed next to people's heads, and there were differences between near-field and far-field exposure; that people were constantly bombarded by RF emissions; that it would not be viable to cease all transmissions because some individuals were hypersensitive; that the Board would have to make that policy decision (Tistadt); that she appreciated that the

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existing monopoles would be tested since the Board did not want to do anything that would prove harmful to children or adults (Strauss); the question whether any monopoles were, or were proposed to be, mounted on school buildings (Hunt, Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that FCPS would not mount monopoles on school buildings (Tistadt); the request that RF emissions in classrooms be monitored, particularly in schools where wireless hubs had been installed (Hunt); the response that staff members would do so (Tistadt); the request that the process by which monopoles were placed on school properties be explained (Oleszek); the response that representatives from companies such as Milestone would meet with the school principals and PTAs to reach agreement about a site; that the County would have to grant approval, and then the matter was brought before the School Board (Tistadt); the question whether the community at Robinson Secondary School had approved the placement of a monopole (Oleszek); an affirmative response (Tistadt); the question whether the contracts included escape clauses if data became available that caused concern (Storck); the response that he was confident that if health or safety problems were found to be associated with monopoles, they would be disconnected (Tistadt); the question whether data was available on the effects of RF emissions on people who were particularly sensitive to electromagnetic fields (Hurdle); the response that staff members would research that issue (Tistadt); and that although the majority of Fairfax County residents would not be affected, there could be students who would be particularly vulnerable to RF emissions (Hurdle).

Questions and comments continued as follows: that he had requested that the matter be removed from the consent agenda to provide an opportunity for staff members to present their findings in a public forum; the question whether it had been determined definitively that individuals who were particularly sensitive to electromagnetic radiation were specifically affected by RF emissions, as opposed to other environmental factors (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that he had not yet been able to review the material provided by Mr. Polzer; that he was familiar with information relating to emissions resulting from the 60 Hz cycle on which FCPS ran its power grid, but RF emissions were about 1800 mHz (Department of Facilities and Transportation Services Environmental Health Specialist Doug O'Neill); that sensitivities had been identified at the 60 Hz level; the question whether staff members were prepared to respond to the Lenora Spain study (Niedzielski-Eichner); a negative response (O'Neill); the question whether Salzburg, Austria had established the most conservative standard (Niedzielski-Eichner); an affirmative response; that staff members believed that monopole emissions would be well below that standard on any typical given day (O'Neill); the request that staff members propose a minimum acceptable distance from school buildings prior to the placement of any additional monopoles (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that staff members would do so (Tistadt); the request that staff members outline Dr. Lai's credentials and how he is regarded by agencies that develop standards (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that Dr. Lai had not been able to replicate the data supporting his assertions within his own laboratory (O'Neill); the question whether Dr. Lai's work had been subjected to

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peer review (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that Dr. Lai's findings had not been accepted by the scientific community (O'Neill); the question whether there was any data to prove that exposure to RF radiation was safe (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that a standard had been established by sitting boards to promulgate a federal guideline, and there were no known health risks associated with exposure at those standards (O'Neill); the request that Mr. O'Neill outline his credentials (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that he earned his Bachelors degree in geochemistry at George Mason University, obtained a graduate certificate from the School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, and had received a graduate certificate from George Washington University, where he was sitting for a Masters Degree in engineering management; that he had been employed by FCPS for the past 12 years, and had worked as an industrial hygienist for the Department of Labor prior to that (O'Neill); the question whether he felt under any pressure to support the installation of monopoles (Niedzielski-Eichner); a negative response (O'Neill); the question whether staff members felt people's health would be jeopardized by the installation of monopoles (Niedzielski-Eichner); a negative response; that FCPS was a school division of high integrity that maintained high standards to ensure the health and safety of its students and staff members (Tistadt); that FCPS had recently been recognized as one of only a few school systems in the nation to have developed a model program of emergency response (Niedzielski-Eichner); that when it had been suggested that students were suffering adverse effects from diesel fuel fumes in school buses, FCPS had conducted its own study, which was cited nationally as a solid piece of research validating that students were safe; that FCPS had conducted its own tests to determine that its drinking water was lead-free; and that FCPS was extremely fortunate to have the resources and expertise to diligently protect the safety of its students and staff (Tistadt).

Discussion included the following: an expression of thanks to staff members for their thoughtful and thorough responses to concerns about RF radiation (Kory, Niedzielski-Eichner); the question whether health concerns had been raised at schools where monopoles had already been situated (Belter); the response that he was not aware of any such concerns (Tistadt); that monopoles were currently located at Centreville, Chantilly, Langley, South Lakes, and Westfield High Schools, and at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (Belter); that staff members were committed to conducting ongoing testing at sites where monopoles were located to ensure that any problems would be identified (Niedzielski-Eichner); that the health and safety of FCPS students and employees were the Board's utmost responsibility; that they appreciated the input provided by members of the community; that they would support the motion (Hunt, Niedzielski-Eichner); that human beings were electromagnetic organisms affected by electromagnetic fields and RF energy; that the impact was mitigated by the distance from and magnitude of the transmitter, and the duration of continuous exposure (Hunt); that during his four years of service on the planning commission, no application for the installation of a monopole had been rejected on the basis of health or safety concerns (Moon).

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The motion that the Board authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to negotiate and sign a telecommunications lease with SmartPole Inc. (Milestone Communications) at Robinson Secondary School passed 9-0-1, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mr. Storck abstaining; and with Mr. Center and Mr. Gibson absent.

- 4.02 Additional Appointments** – That the School Board appoint individuals to serve on committees as listed in the agenda item (SB; Exhibit F)

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, to appoint individuals to serve on committees as listed in the agenda item.

Mrs. Strauss requested that the School Board appoint individuals to serve on committees as listed in the agenda item.

Mrs. Strauss requested to amend the motion to include the appointment of Jane Scott Jones to the Health and Physical Education Curriculum Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Belter requested to amend the motion to include the appointment of Ann Harrahan to the Fine Arts Curriculum Advisory Committee.

The motion that the School Board appoint individuals to serve on committees as listed in the agenda item, as amended, passed 10-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mr. Center and Mr. Gibson absent.

### 5. **NEW BUSINESS**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-3060

- 5.01 Fairfax County Purchasing Resolution** – Recommendation to adopt the revised Fairfax County Purchasing Resolution (FS; Exhibit G)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.02 Social Studies Textbook Adoption** – Recommendation to adopt social studies textbooks for World Cultures (grade 5), United States History from 1877 to the Present (grade 7), and for the core social studies courses at the high school level: World History and Geography I and II (grades 9 and 10), United States History (grade 11), and Virginia/United States Government (grade 12), as recommended by the Social Studies Textbook Adoption Committee (IS; Exhibit H)

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There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.03 Science Textbook Adoption** – Recommendation to adopt textbooks and basal instructional materials for high school science courses in the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science, as recommended by the Textbook Review Committee (IS; Exhibit I)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.04 Award of Contract** – Recommendation to approve the award of contract, after final negotiations, for providing group term life insurance for employees covered by the Fairfax County Employees' Retirement System to Minnesota Life, effective January 1, 2005, as recommended by the Selection Advisory Committee (HR; Exhibit J)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.05 Proposed Sale of Pohick Site** – That the School Board, contingent upon the approval of the Board of Supervisors, which is expected to occur on October 18, 2004, declare as surplus and thereafter, sell, on the terms previously discussed in closed meeting, 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 (FTS; Exhibit K)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.06 Confirmation of Nomination** – Recommendation that the School Board approve the candidacy of Catherine A. Belter as the Fairfax County School Board nominee for vice president of the Northeastern Region of the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) (SB; Exhibit L)

There was no discussion of this item.

### **6. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

TAPE REFERENCE:1-3195

#### **6.01 Reports**

##### **Legislation; October 4; Janet Oleszek, Vice Chair**

Discussion of the 2005 Legislative Program that would be posted on the FCPS web site by October 15. The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) declared that November would be "Take Your Legislator to School Month." That

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the Virginia Board of Education would conduct hearings in Northern Virginia on the Standards of Quality during the week of October 11.

### **Instruction, Special Services, and Youth Development; October 4; Catherine Belter, Chair**

Discussion of earning college credit in high school; full-day kindergarten; and alternative learning programs.

#### **7. SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-3650

**7.01** Dr. Dale expressed his appreciation to the Fairfax County Council of PTAs for conducting its survey on the school calendar. Dr. Dale announced that Greg Lock, former principal of Oak View Elementary School, had passed away earlier that day; and he recognized Mr. Lock for his service to FCPS. Dr. Dale said that he had been honored to participate in the Cluster IV community forum on October 6; and he thanked the members of the School Board and the Board of Supervisors who had attended. Dr. Dale announced that Governor Mark Warner had visited Northern Virginia earlier that week and had delivered his State of Education address; that he was proud that the Governor had cited FCPS as the gold standard to which other school districts nationwide should be compared; and that the Governor had praised the General Assembly for having generated a \$1.5 billion increase for K-12 spending.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-4300

**8.01** The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.