

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 8

November 16, 2004

1. **CLOSED MEETING**
TAPE REFERENCE:

Chairman Kathy Smith convened the Board in public session at 5:35 p.m. with a quorum of members present. Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, that the Board go into closed session to discuss the acquisition of real property for public purposes, and the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3). The motion passed 11-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye".

2. **MEETING OPENING**
TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0006

2.01 **Call to Order/Presentation of Colors by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence**

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. with a quorum of Board members:

Catherine A. Belter (Springfield)	Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
Brad Center (Lee; dep. 9:05)	Janet S. Oleszek (At Large)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill; Absent)	Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Stephen M. Hunt (At Large)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon)
Kaye Kory (Mason)	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; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Deputy Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk of the Board Norma J. Bailey; and certain other members of staff.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard Blue and Gray Post #8469 from Fairfax presented the colors.

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2.02 Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance (Exhibit A)

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed session meeting on November 16, 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 10-0; with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mr. Hunt not present for the vote; and with Mr. Gibson absent.

2.03 Announcements

Chairman Smith announced that Mr. Gibson was out of town on business. Chairman Smith recognized McLean High School student Tracy Jenkins from Boy Scout Troop 869, who was working toward his Citizenship in the Community Badge. Mrs. Kory announced that FCPS would recognize December 6-10 as National Inclusive Schools Week.

2.04 Recognition of Veterans

Dr. Draeger said that the FCPS Office of Adult and Community Education, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Education, had offered honorary diplomas to veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and that FCPS was proud to present honorary diplomas to four veterans. Dr. Draeger read a short biography on each of the veterans: Mr. Russell Booth, Mr. Robert Lavinder, Jr., Mr. Eugene Raines, and Mr. Walter Sigrist.

Mr. Booth was unable to attend tonight's ceremony.

2.05 Resolution Honoring Thomas M. Brady (Exhibit B)

Mrs. Kory offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION HONORING THOMAS M. BRADY

WHEREAS, Thomas M. Brady served Fairfax County Public Schools with distinction as assistant superintendent of the Department of Facilities Services from July

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1999 to July 2002 and as chief operating officer from July 2002 until November 2004; and

WHEREAS, he initiated an instructional accommodation plan to proactively provide solutions to student overcrowding by incorporating innovative approaches to organizing and delivering instruction, resulting in increased instructional areas and the construction of 132 modular classrooms in 12 months for a savings of \$20 million; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brady planned and implemented an innovative energy performance contracting program, Energy Savings for Kids, which reduced Fairfax County Public Schools' \$2.5 million annual energy operating costs by replacing inefficient and antiquated building system equipment allowing it to pay for itself through energy savings in less than ten years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brady was instrumental in improving business practices resulting in renovation projects completed on schedule, including the rebuilding of Dogwood Elementary School, which was destroyed by a devastating fire, in less than a year; developing and implementing a public-private educational partnership agreement for construction of a new high school for a cost savings of \$25 million with an opening three years ahead of schedule; and mobilizing support for the recently approved proffer system that has generated \$5.5 million in cash and \$1.2 million in services to date; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brady developed a coordinated FCPS response including interagency cooperation and community outreach in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, and during the 2002 sniper crisis, Hurricane Isabel, and snow emergencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County School Board extends its highest commendation and deepest appreciation to Thomas M. Brady for his vision, leadership, and services, for his contribution to the quality of education, and for his unwavering dedication to all the children of Fairfax County Public Schools, and the entire Fairfax community extends its very best wishes to Thomas M. Brady as he embarks on this new chapter in his life of service to public education.

Mrs. Kory moved, and all School Board members present seconded, to adopt the Resolution Honoring Thomas M. Brady. The motion passed 9-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mr. Hunt and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner not present for the vote; and with Mr. Gibson absent.

Board members commended Mr. Brady for his service to the school division, expressed thanks for his dedication and contributions, and photographs were taken.

3. **PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1278

3.01 **Spotlight on Learning – Wakefield Forest Elementary School's Courtyard Habitat—(Exhibit C)**

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3.02 Citizen Participation (Exhibit D)

Five speakers addressed the Board in the time reserved for public comment.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2225

- 4.01. **Minutes** – Approve minutes of November 4, 2004, regular School Board meeting (Exhibit E)
- 4.02 **Monthly Report of Separations** – Confirm separations for the period beginning October 1, 2004, and ending October 31, 2004 (HR; Exhibit F)
- 4.03 **High School Course Offerings** – Approve the changes to the list of high school course offerings for the 2005-2006 school year, as recommended by the High School Course Review Committee and as detailed in the agenda item (S; Exhibit G)
- 4.04 **Award of Contract** – Award the contract for a modular addition at Canterbury Woods Elementary School to Modular Technologies, Inc., in the amount of \$695,423 and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit H)

Chairman Smith stated that, without objection, the four items on the consent agenda would be adopted. Hearing no objection, the consent agenda passed 9-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mr. Hunt and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner not present for the vote; and with Mr. Gibson absent.

5. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-2270

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

Mr. Center moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, that the School Board appoint individuals to serve on committees as listed in the agenda item. The motion passed 9-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mr. Hunt and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner not present for the vote; and with Mr. Gibson absent.

5.02 **Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting**

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Moon seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed meeting on November 9, 2004, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and since Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of

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Virginia requires 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 that 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 6-0-3**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mr. Center, Mrs. Kory, and Mr. Storck abstaining; with Mr. Hunt and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner not present for the vote; and with Mr. Gibson absent.

- 5.03 Pending Action Item** (Action 12/02/04) – 2005 Draft Legislative Program – Adopt the Fairfax County School Board 2005 Legislative Program, as reviewed and discussed at the Legislation, Policy, and Future Issues work session (S; Exhibit J)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.04 Pending Action Item** (Action 12/02/04) – Social Studies Textbook Adoption – Adopt social studies textbooks for World Cultures (grade 5), United States History to 1877 (grade 6), and 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) (IS; Exhibit K)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 5.05 Pending Action Item** (Action 12/02/04) – Science Textbook Adoption – Adopt textbooks and basal instructional materials for high school science courses in the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science (IS; Exhibit L)

There was no discussion of this matter.

- 5.06 Purchase of Office Building** – Approve the acquisition of an office building known as Dominion One at Jefferson Park and the adjacent, unimproved parcel of land known as the Dominion Two site at Jefferson Park (collectively, "the Property"), and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute a Purchase Agreement with Jefferson Park Venture LLC and such other documents as may be necessary and advisable to complete the acquisition and related financing, as described below, including an agreement pursuant to which the County of Fairfax acquires title to the Property and leases the Property to the School Board (FTS; Exhibit M).

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Moon seconded, that the School Board approve the acquisition of an office building known as Dominion One at Jefferson Park, and the adjacent, unimproved parcel of land known as the Dominion Two site at

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Jefferson Park, collectively, "the Property," and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute a purchase agreement with Jefferson Park Venture LLC and such other documents as may be necessary and advisable to complete the acquisition and related financing as described below [in the agenda item] including an agreement pursuant to which the County of Fairfax acquires title to the property and leases the property to the School Board.

Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services Dean Tistadt noted that FCPS administrators currently worked out of 17 different locations (twelve owned and five leased properties) which averaged 40 years old; that significant expenditures would be incurred to bring the buildings up to current standards; that after a rigorous evaluation of the costs of operation, maintenance, and renovation, staff members recommended the action; that customer service and efficiency would be improved with the consolidation of staff into a central administrative building; that there would be no negative impact on instructional or capital improvement programs, and that the Board of Supervisors was prepared to approve the necessary financing at its meeting on December 6.

Discussion included the following: the question why staff members were not recommending that business continue as usual (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that FCPS would recognize approximately \$61 million in cost savings through increased efficiencies over the next 30 years (Tistadt); the question to what degree Fairfax County Government officials had been involved (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that Chief Financial Officer Ed Long and County Debt Manager and financing expert Len Wales had been very supportive and cooperative throughout the evaluation process (Tistadt); that an article in the November 16 issue of *The Washington Post* had not accurately reflected that involvement of County staff members (Niedzielski-Eichner); that outside consultants had consistently recommended consolidating administrative buildings; that central office staff was required to maintain student records, prepare payrolls, hire new employees, and maintain technology throughout the school division; that FCPS paid approximately seven percent of its operating budget for overhead costs, which was extremely efficient; that consolidation would provide opportunities to reduce the total number of business positions (Strauss); that no funds from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or instructional budgets would be spent on the administrative consolidation project (Kory, Storck); the request for clarification of the funding that would be required as a consequence of consolidation (Niedzielski-Eichner); and the response that all payments would come from existing budget streams that were currently used to operate and maintain administrative buildings (Tistadt).

The motion that the School Board approve the acquisition of an office building known as Dominion One at Jefferson Park, and the adjacent, unimproved parcel of land known as the Dominion Two site at Jefferson Park, collectively, "the

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property,” and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute a purchase agreement with Jefferson Park Venture LLC and such other documents as may be necessary and advisable to complete the acquisition and related financing as described below including an agreement pursuant to which the County of Fairfax acquires title to the property and leases the property to the School Board passed 11-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting “aye”; and with Mr. Gibson absent.

Chairman Smith said that the motion would enable the Board to acquire a centrally-located office building that would eventually house approximately 1,300 central office employees, who were currently working in aging school buildings and leased properties spread across the County; that the Board and staff members had examined this opportunity thoroughly and had decided to move forward based on a carefully constructed, self-funded business plan that would not negatively impact future building of classroom space; that the consolidation would enable employees to work more efficiently and effectively to serve students and parents, and would provide community members access to multiple education services in one location; and revenue generated would be earmarked for the FCPS CIP.

6. NEW BUSINESS

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0248

6.01 **FY 2005 Midyear Budget Review** – Approve revenue and expenditure changes reflected in the FY 2005 midyear budget review, as detailed in the agenda item (FS; Exhibit N)

Chief Financial Officer Deirdre McLaughlin reviewed the agenda item, and noted that FCPS would receive an additional \$2.6 million in IDEA funds. Dr. Draeger said that FCPS had multiple formative assessment systems in place from different vendors, but needed to develop a program of formative assessments for grades 3-12.

Questions and comments included the following: that while pleased that another Alternative Learning Center (ALC) would be opened, the question whether a program similar to Richard Milburn was being developed (Wilson); an affirmative response (Assistant Superintendent of Special Services Alice Farling); that the Board had set aside \$950,000 to address gang issues; the question why funds had been reserved to develop new Family Life Education curriculum regarding gangs (Wilson); the response that those funds previously would not normally be shifted into curriculum development, because it had been allocated for hands-on activities for children (Draeger); that the review reflected that the general education population was 1,564 students below the previously-approved projections, generating \$2.2 million in savings, or approximately \$1,200 per

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student; the question whether more positions had been filled than necessary (Wilson); that 50 positions remained unfilled (Dale); the request for clarification of the Support to Schools proposal (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that a number of schools fell below 70 percent Annual Yearly Progress (AYP); and those schools would need different resources to reach the target; that cluster directors would determine what support to provide to individual schools (Draeger); the question whether that would become a recurring expense driven by the requirements established by the *No Child Left Behind* Act (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that the positions that would provide targeted assistance to specific schools would not remain static (Draeger); the request for clarification of the items directed toward transportation (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that there had been dramatic increases in the demands placed on the Office of Transportation Services relative to the programs supported and the number of hours worked; that transportation offices were open for 12 hours each day, and the two administrative support positions would provide coverage for additional hours of operation (Tistadt); and the request that a plan for reducing exception-based transportation services be devised in order to further the system's efficiency (Niedzielski-Eichner).

Discussion continued as follows: the request for clarification of the distinctions between the allocations for formative assessments and FY 2006 Strategic Targets (Storck); the response that staff members thought it prudent to develop their own formative assessment program and that funds were needed to begin to transfer some of the information developed into a nonproprietary database (Draeger); the question how targeted support would be allocated (Storck); the response that specific resources would be provided as needs arose (Draeger); the question whether the IDEA positions were for a web master and technology specialist (Hunt); an affirmative response; that using grant funds to pay for such positions freed general education dollars (Dale); the question how long the grant funding would continue (Hunt); the response that FCPS had received a 17-percent increase in IDEA grant funding that year and anticipated future increases (Farling); the question whether approval of the item for special support for schools would become a recurring expense (Hunt); the response that the funds would provide additional planning time for teachers through the end of the school year; that no positions would be created until the spring of 2005, when FCPS would begin advertising for the positions pending final budget approval (Draeger); the question why the item should not be delayed until the final budget review (Hunt); the response that the selection and training process would consequently be delayed (Draeger); that he would prefer to be presented with a more definitive plan for determining need and how the funds would be spent (Hunt); that she would work with the Superintendent on the best way to disseminate that information (Smith); that the \$1 million would be expended through June 30 to pay teachers to work additional hours to provide additional services (Dale); the request for a breakdown of how the funds would be allocated (Hunt); an affirmative response (Dale); the question whether the funds allocated for assessment would pay for software to track student achievement (Hunt); and

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the response that the funding would pay to transfer assessment items contained in vendor-driven databases to a nonproprietary database (Draeger).

- 6.02 Award of Contract** – Recommendation to award the contract for renovation of Navy Elementary School to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit O)
- 6.03 School Board Policy** – Adopt Policy 7325.1, External Video Surveillance, as discussed and reviewed by the Legislation, Policy, and Future Issues Committee (FTS; Exhibit P)

7. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-2003

7.01 Committee Reports

Legislation, Policy, and Future Issues; November 8; Janet Oleszek, Chairman

Discussion of Policy 7325 – External Video Surveillance.

Resource Management and Evaluation; November 8; Jane Strauss, Chairman

Current transportation issues; general education buses required by closing bell times; FY 2006 budget strategic consideration list.

Instruction, Special Services, and Youth Development; November 8; Cathy Belter, Chairman

Discussion of Project Excel schools and After-School Programs.

Board Forum; November 16; Kathy Smith, Chairman

Discussion of time management.

8. SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-2117

- 8.01** Dr. Dale announced that a collaborative effort between FCPS, the Fairfax County Government, and the school's business partner—Win-Win Strategy, a nonprofit foundation—had enabled Hybla Valley Elementary School to recently open a computer lab; that more than 200 students were making use of the lab after school every week and on Saturdays.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-2283

9.01 The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.