

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Luther Jackson Middle School

Work Session No. 33/Resource Management and Evaluation

February 3, 2005

MEETING OPENING

33.01 Call to Order

Resource Management and Evaluation Committee Chairman Jane Strauss convened the meeting in public session at 7:00 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Catherine A. Belter (Springfield)	Phillip 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)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack D. Dale; Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger; Chief Financial Officer Deirdra McLaughlin; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; and certain other members of staff.

DISCUSSION

33.02 FY 2006 Proposed Budget (Exhibit A)

- Suggestion to hire a transportation consultant to review bus driver pay and benefit plans and provide recommendations to decrease the current bus driver shortage;
- request for information on how much Arlington County recently spent on hiring a transportation consultant;
- additional suggestion that any consultant's review include the entire transportation system and exceptions to the bus runs that could be consolidated or eliminated to optimize the system for all purposes, including what impact it might have on any changes to the bell schedule;
- question whether there was a policy for focus schools; negative response;
- request for information on the definition from the state on the SOQ formula as it related to the number of Technology Support Specialists and School Based Technology Specialists for students; schools would have flexibility on deploying those positions with oversight from the Cluster Assistant Superintendents;
- question what would happen if the \$5.2 million to fund the formative assessment program was delayed; response that implementation would slow down, but staff would continue to research available software options; request for staff to provide a list of what programs the new system would replace and related improvements;

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- question whether teachers had an option to not contribute to a retirement plan; negative response; that every employee belonged to a retirement plan, and any change could drastically affect retirement rates for all employees; staff to discuss options with the ERFC Board of Directors;
- proposed membership projections for FY 2006 reflected slower growth than anticipated, with a decrease in general education teachers but an increase in English as a Second Language (ESOL) and special education teachers, and additional staffing for the new high school and advanced staffing for the new elementary school;
- request for staff to isolate the difference in costs that would be incurred as a consequence of the net change in membership;
- request for implementation and evaluation plans for instructional coaches and available resources that had been used; response that \$1 million had already been spent collectively by the Clusters, and the Board would have a full report on the program pending final budget approval in May 2005;
- request for report on how current resources for after school programming had been spent; and
- request for a copy of the job description for custodians.

CLOSED MEETING

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

CERTIFICATION (Exhibit B)

33.04 Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Moon seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed session meeting on February 3, 2005, 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 certified 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.**

Chairman Niedzielski-Eichner then read the following statement:

School Board member Mr. Steve Hunt recently sent a letter directly to all Fairfax County High School principals on the subject of homosexuality. The letter was written on personal letterhead, but was signed by Mr. Hunt, "Fairfax

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County School Board, Member At-large.” The School Board met tonight to discuss Mr. Hunt’s actions.

The letter sent by Mr. Hunt was not authorized by and does not reflect the views of the School Board. The School Board continues to support the family life education curriculum and its treatment of this sensitive subject.

Although Board members may speak out on issues of concern to them, Board members as individuals have no official or legal authority outside of Board meetings, except as the Board has delegated to them. Mr. Hunt violated School Board policy when he sent the letter to individual principals, and recommended changes to the school system’s instructional materials and programs. The Board has established procedures and guidelines for implementing curriculum changes. The Board is committed to maintaining the integrity of those procedures.

Mr. Hunt has apologized to the school principals and the School Board for his actions. The School Board accepts his apology and reiterates its expectation that Board members will respect the policies and procedures the Board has adopted. When Board members have concerns about aspects of the school system’s operations and curriculum, they should bring those concerns to the attention of the Board or the Superintendent.

Mr. Center moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, that the Board adopt the statement (as read by the Chairman). The motion **passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.