

## MINUTES

### Fairfax County School Board

### Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 13

February 10, 2005

1. **CLOSED MEETING**

There was no closed meeting.

2. **MEETING OPENING**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0021

**2.01 Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence/National Anthem—  
Spring Hill Elementary School String Ensemble**

Chairman Niedzielski-Eichner convened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. with a quorum of 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)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack D. Dale, Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Deputy Clerk of the Board Linda Sabo; and certain other members of staff. The student representative, Ian T. Hurdle, was absent.

Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner thanked the members of the Spring Hill Elementary School String Ensemble, under the direction of Ruth Donahue, for their performance of the National Anthem.

**2.02 Announcements**

Mr. Moon recognized boy scouts from Troop 1145, Troop 1313, and Troop 128, who were working on their Citizenship in the Community merit badges.

**2.03 Resolution Naming the Main Office Service Road at Mount Vernon High School (Exhibit A)**

Mr. Storck offered the following resolution:

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### RESOLUTION DEDICATING THE MAIN OFFICE SERVICE ROAD AT MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL "VICTOR KAZLAUSKY WAY"

**WHEREAS**, Victor Kazlauský served Fairfax County Public Schools with distinction as an athletic director and an assistant principal for 25 years until his retirement in 1979; and

**WHEREAS**, he gave tireless commitment to Mount Vernon High School and leadership within the community and endless support of "Major Pride" even to the present day; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kazlauský served as a role model for several generations of students and fellow faculty members through his positive demeanor and respect for others; and

**WHEREAS**, the school's faculty and community members join in requesting that his contributions to Mount Vernon High School be acknowledged in a lasting tribute;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fairfax County School Board names the main office service road at Mount Vernon High School "Victor Kazlauský Way" in recognition of Victor Kazlauský's unselfish dedication and service to the Mount Vernon community.

Mr. Storck moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, to adopt the Resolution Naming the Main Office Service Road at Mount Vernon High School. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kazlauský, with family and friends, accepted the resolution, and photographs were taken.

### 3. **PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0141

#### 3.01 **Spotlight on Support — Student Registration and Language Services, Department of Special Services** (Exhibit B)

Dr. Dale introduced Director of the Office of Student Services Eleanor Barnes; Multilingual Services Manager of student registration Sylvia Sanchez, and Director of Guidance and Student Registration Elsie Kirton. Dr. Barnes discussed the registration process for students for whom English was a second language; and a video was viewed.

#### 3.02 **Citizen Participation** (Exhibit C)

Ten speakers addressed the Board in the time reserved for public comment. Quinn Kratovil, Jared Cornell, Ryan Cornell, Andrew Ofsonka, Matthew Ofsonka, Tom Moore, Vickie Fogg, Randal Cornell, and Marianne Ofsonka addressed

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Agenda Item No. 6.02, Naming of School; and Jeff Antsen addressed concerns of gay students, faculty, and parents.

### 4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1481

*[Clerk's Note: Mrs. Wilson requested that Agenda Item No. 4.06, Award of Contract, be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.]*

- 4.01. **Minutes** – Approve minutes of January 27, 2005, regular School Board meeting (Exhibit D)
- 4.02. **Award of Contract** – Award the contract for a modular addition at Mosby Woods Elementary School to Henley Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$1,493,500 and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit E)
- 4.03. **Award of Contract** – Award the contract for a classroom modular building at Centreville High School to R. J. Crowley, Inc., in the amount of \$1,249,869 and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit F)
- 4.04. **Award of Contract** – Award the contract for a modular addition at Stratford Landing Elementary School to Henley Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$1,493,500 and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit G)
- 4.05. **Land Conveyance** – Approve the use of 13.81 acres of School Board property, known as Springfield Village, for use as the new residential construction site for FCPS Professional Technical Studies construction technology program in collaboration with the Foundation for Applied Technical Education Inc. (FATE) (FTS; Exhibit H)
- 4.06. **Local Voluntary Uniform Policy** – Endorse the local voluntary uniform policy proposed at Lemon Road Elementary School (SB; Exhibit I)

Chairman Niedzielski-Eichner stated that, without objection, the six items on the consent agenda would be adopted. Hearing no objection, the consent agenda passed unanimously.

### 5. **OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-1590

- 5.01. **Award of Contract** – Recommendation to award the annual contract for the lease/purchase of classroom trailers to Modular Technologies, Inc., in the amount of \$1,343,553; and award the contract for the outright purchase of classroom trailers to Modular Technologies, Inc., in the amount of \$1,302,972; and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute one or more contracts as requirements become known (FTS; Exhibit J)

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Mrs. Wilson asked for clarification of the agenda item, and Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services Dean Tistadt indicated that FCPS would not be committed to any specific purchase, but had established a fair process to establish a low bidder, if needed.

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, to award the contract for the lease/purchase of classroom trailers to Modular Technologies, Inc., in the amount of \$1,343,553, and award the contract for the outright purchase of classroom trailers to Modular Technologies, Inc., in the amount of \$1,302,972; and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute one or more contracts as requirements become known. The motion **passed unanimously.**

### **5.02 FY 2006 Budget – Adopt the Fairfax County Public Schools' FY 2006 proposed budget as detailed in the revised agenda item (FS, Exhibit K).**

Dr. Dale said that the revised proposal included a \$500,000 reduction in salary expenditures that was a more accurate reflection of the needs of the school division, but would not eliminate any programs.

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, to adopt the Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2006 Proposed Budget, as detailed in the revised agenda item.

Mrs. Strauss said that the budget addressed the needs of students, the requirement that FCPS comply with federal and state mandates, and the need to hire and retain high quality employees, while maintaining a broad and rich array of programs.

Discussion included the following: the question whether an increase in lapse savings had been included in the FY 2006 budget based on the school division's experience in FY 2005 (Gibson); an affirmative response; that the lapse rate was currently 2.1 percent, and the change represented a revenue increase of approximately \$0.5 million for FY 2006 (Chief Financial Officer Deirdra McLaughlin).

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, to amend the budget by adding a placeholder in the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of hiring one or more outside consultants to examine the student transportation system in the following respects: 1) ways to improve the recruitment and retention of bus drivers, and 2) ways to improve the effectiveness of the student transportation system, and to find cost-effective alternatives which would enable Fairfax County Public Schools to better align school start times with student sleep cycles, in accordance with the findings of the School Board's 1998 Task Force Report; the funds will not be spent unless and until the Board approves the issuance of one or more requests

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for proposals (RFPs), and the Board decides to enter into one or more contract(s) with successful bidder(s).

Mr. Gibson expressed his thanks to leaders of the Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal (SLEEP) organization, Phyllis Payne and Sandy Evans, for their diligence in pursuing the issue of adolescent sleep cycles; that there was conclusive scientific evidence that it was not advantageous for adolescents to begin school at 7:30 a.m.; and many school divisions had responded by changing their bell schedules which had provided significant positive impacts, including reduced rates of absence due to illness, disciplinary incidents, and crime, and increased attentiveness and performance on standard tests; that FCPS needed more bus drivers and a cost effective way to change the bell schedule; that his intent was to focus on changing bell schedules, and the Board would have to prioritize other areas of the study, including driver retention and maintenance of optional runs.

Discussion included the following: that she felt it most important to focus on hiring and retaining bus drivers; that passage of the amendment would not guarantee that the placeholder would be included in the final budget; that the Board should schedule work sessions to craft a Request for Proposal (RFP) that addressed the Board's priorities (Wilson); that the study should focus on changing bell schedules (Hunt, Storck); that the Board should acknowledge the need to revise the pay scales for bus drivers (Hunt); that she would not support the amendment since FCPS staff members could be directed to evaluate the situation; and spending could be focused on other areas (Smith); that FCPS had a task force evaluate the issue in 1998 and the County Council of PTAs had also worked on the problem, but neither could identify solutions; and that the Board needed input from an outside consultant (Strauss).

The motion to amend the budget by adding a placeholder in the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of hiring one or more outside consultants to examine the student transportation system in the following respects: 1) ways to improve the recruitment and retention of bus drivers, and 2) ways to improve the effectiveness of the student transportation system, and to find cost-effective alternatives which would enable Fairfax County Public Schools to better align school start times with student sleep cycles, in accordance with the findings of the School Board's 1998 Task Force Report; the funds will not be spent unless and until the Board approves the issuance of one or more requests for proposals (RFPs), and the Board decides to enter into one or more contract(s) with successful bidder(s) **passed 11-1**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mr. Stork, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Smith voting "nay."

Mr. Moon moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to reduce the FY 2006 Proposed Budget by \$6.4 million in the following areas: \$5.2 million from the formative assessment system, \$.7 million from non-compensation accounts, and \$.5 million

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from hourly salary accounts; and further direct the Superintendent to provide a description of the specific reductions prior to the adoption of the FY 2006 Approved Budget.

Mr. Moon said that Board members were elected to advocate for the educational needs for all students while prudently allocating resources, that the FCPS transfer request far exceeded the County transfer guidelines of 6.8 percent; and that the amendment totaled 0.003 percent of the budget but reflected an honest effort to respect the guidelines established by the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Discussion included the following: that she acknowledged the Board's responsibility to the taxpayers but was concerned that the needs of students and staff members were not being met; that FCPS continued to struggle in its ability to deliver the level of support demanded by constituents and *No Child Left Behind* Act (NCLB); that the budget would not provide teacher salaries that were competitive with Loudoun County; the request for clarification of the \$700,000 reduction in non-compensation accounts (Gibson); the response that specific cuts were not delineated but the motion directed staff members to make recommendations of areas to cut (Dale); that the superintendent's proposed budget left many needs unmet, and it did not make sense to implement additional budget reductions (Gibson, Smith); that the Superintendent's budget did not provide the required funding to equip two trailers at West Springfield High School, to satisfy the rate increase for the Virginia Retirement System, to develop the formative assessment system to satisfy the requirements of NCLB, to add School Based Technology Specialist (SBTS) and office assistants to elementary schools, to reduce class size by one student or to increase bus drivers' salaries by ten percent, which amounted to between \$50 to \$100 million in needed expenditures (Gibson); that School Boards were charged with adopting a budget that reflected the needs of the students, and the amendment did not reflect those needs (Belter, Gibson, Smith); that it was unlikely that the BOS would approve a 9.7 percent transfer, while still not meeting the need to improve teachers' salaries, expanding all-day kindergarten programs, and reducing class size (Belter, Smith, Strauss); that the Board was charged with approving a budget before state revenues were finalized, but the BOS had indicated it would approve a 6.8 percent transfer (Strauss); that the BOS provided 75 percent of FCPS revenues; that the Superintendent's proposal would leave many needs unmet, but it was important that the Board and the BOS worked collaboratively (Niedzielski-Eichner).

The amendment to reduce the FY 2006 Proposed Budget by \$6.4 million in the following areas: \$5.2 million from the formative assessment system, \$.7 million from non-compensation accounts, and \$.5 million from hourly salary accounts; and further direct the Superintendent to provide a description of the specific reductions prior to the adoption of the FY 2006 Approved Budget **passed 9-3**, with Mr. Center, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs.

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Oleszek, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Gibson, and Mrs. Smith voting "nay."

Discussion on the main motion, as amended, continued as follows: that he requested that staff members develop a policy to provide direction for communities that were interested in pursuing the development of a focus school, in light of the fact that an additional teaching position would not be provided at Terraset Elementary School in its attempt to implement the IB Primary Years Program (Gibson); the response that a forum discussion would be appropriate (Niedzielski-Eichner).

The motion to adopt the Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2006 Proposed Budget, as detailed in the revised agenda item, and amended as follows: adding a placeholder in the amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of hiring one or more outside consultants to examine the student transportation system in the following respects: 1) ways to improve the recruitment and retention of bus drivers, and 2) ways to improve the effectiveness of the student transportation system, and finding cost-effective alternatives which would enable Fairfax County Public Schools to better align school start times with student sleep cycles, in accordance with the findings of the School Board's 1998 Task Force Report; the funds will not be spent unless and until the Board approves the issuance of one or more requests for proposals, and the Board decides to enter into a contract(s) with the successful bidder(s); and further reduce the FY 2006 Proposed Budget by \$6.4 million in the following areas: \$5.2 million from the formative assessment program, \$.7 million from non-compensation accounts, and \$.5 million from hourly salary accounts; further direct the Superintendent to provide a description of the specific reductions prior to the adoption of the FY 2006 Approved Budget. These changes result in a reduction of the transfer increase from the County from 9.7 percent to 9.2 percent **passed 9-3**, with Mr. Center, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Gibson, and Mrs. Smith voting "nay."

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

Mrs. Smith 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.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-0985

- 6.01 Modified School Calendar Waiver** – Recommendation to authorize Annandale Terrace, Dogwood, Franconia, Glen Forest, Graham Road, Parklawn, and

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Timber Lane Elementary Schools, Glasgow Middle School, and Falls Church and Stuart High Schools to continue a modified school calendar for the 2005-2006 school year, contingent upon approval from the State Board of Education of a waiver to allow a pre-Labor Day opening (IS; Exhibit M)

There was no discussion of this item.

**6.02 Naming of School** – Recommendation to name the new secondary school to be opened in September 2005 at the South County site “South County Secondary School” (Cluster V; Exhibit N)

Discussion included the following: that at the naming meeting held at Halley Elementary School on February 7, 345 of 500 votes had been cast to name the new school the “South County Secondary School”; that the school principal was considering ways to honor the community members who had died on September 11, 2001 (Belter); that he had not definitively decided to support naming the school “South County Secondary School”; that FCPS policy required that three names be recommended and the School Board would select from those; that he would like to inform the community of the sense of the Board before its vote on February 24; and that the Board should be respectful of the need to select a name that reflected the values of the community (Storck).

**7. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-1235

**7.01 Committee Reports**

**Resource Management and Evaluation, February 3, Jane Strauss, Chair**

Budget review, with formal presentation to BOS scheduled on April 5 at 6 p.m. at the Government Center.

**Legislative Update, Stuart Gibson**

Senate Joint Resolution 338 proposing a constitutional amendment on binding arbitration had been defeated; delegates supported the authority of School Boards to make personnel decisions; General Assembly update would be posted on web page; the Governor sought minimal funding for school breakfast; and incentive fund was proposed to subsidize defibrillator purchases.

**Joint Meeting with Board of Supervisors and School Board, January 31, Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, Chair**

Joint session with BOS to discuss NCLB, coalition of community schools, and community use of schools had been very informative.

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### 8. **SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-1565

- 8.01** Dr. Dale announced that Governor Warner had declared the week of February 7 “Lifelong Learning Week” in Virginia with the goal of increasing the number of adults obtaining General Equivalency Diplomas; that FCPS provided many opportunities for adults to continue their education, and better educated parents were able to support their children’s academic success. Dr. Dale announced that the Governor had declared the month of February as School Board Appreciation Month, and he extended his appreciation to the Board members for their service.

### 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-1648

- 9.01** Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Center seconded, that the Board go into closed meeting on Monday, February 14, at 11 a.m. at the Burkholder Center, 10700 Page Avenue, Fairfax: 1) to discuss and consider disciplinary matters concerning students pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(2); 2) to protect the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(4); and 3) to consult with legal counsel regarding employment issues and telecommunications law pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7). The motion **passed unanimously.**
- 9.02** The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.