

## MINUTES

### Fairfax County School Board Burkholder Administrative Center

Work Session #39/Instruction, Special Services & Youth Development March 14, 2005

#### MEETING OPENING

##### **39.01 Call to Order**

Instruction, Special Services, & Youth Development Chairman Catherine Belter convened the meeting in public session at 11:04 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Catherine Belter (Springfield)	Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
Brad Center (Lee, absent)	Janet Oleszek (At Large)
Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill, absent)	Kathy Smith (Sully)
Stephen Hunt (At Large, arr: 11:11 a.m.)	Dan Storck (Mount Vernon, arr: 11:14 a.m.)
Kaye Kory (Mason)	Jane Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Student Representative Ian Hurdle; Division Superintendent Jack Dale; Chief Academic Officer Brad Draeger; Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Administrative Assistant Diane Thompson; Assistant Superintendent of Special Services Alice Farling; Director of Alternative School Programs Teresa Zutter; Coordinator of Program Support Services Margaret Byess; and certain other individuals.

#### DISCUSSION

##### **39.02 Alternative Schools Program Five-Year Plan (Exhibit A)**

- Current alternative program needs were addressed in a proposed five-year plan, outlining the goals to develop a continuum of services for at-risk students, establish a network of preventive options for at-risk students, and build a community of professionals dedicated to at-risk students;
- recommendation to develop four comprehensive alternative campuses to expand capacity from three and provide a range of services matched to student needs;
- collaboration with Fairfax County and development of partnerships with other entities, such as George Mason University, Northern Virginia Community College, and Partnership for Youth, was strongly suggested;
- alternative program attendance and expulsions had both increased approximately 30 percent;
- 85 percent of alternative center school program applicants were voluntary placements; 15 percent were placed through disciplinary action;
- the plan for expansion and improvement would be included in next year's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as a placeholder;
- resources were needed for additional facilities, and also for safety and security at each program location due to the current gang situation;
- transportation was cited as the largest stumbling block for the majority of students;
- staff to provide the School Board with information about the level of interest and/or preference of students in the Mountain View program; and

- the Support on Suspension (SOS) program was considered useful and would be reviewed by staff for consideration regarding disciplinary cases.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.