

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board Burkholder Administrative Center

Work Session No. 57/**Facilities and Operations**

June 13, 2005

MEETING OPENING

57.01 Call to Order and Announcements

Facilities and Operations Committee Chairman Tessie Wilson convened the meeting in public session at 1:13 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Catherine Belter (Springfield)
Brad Center (Lee; dpt: 1:31 pm)
Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill; absent)
Stephen Hunt (At Large)
Kaye Kory (Mason)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)

Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
Janet Oleszek (At Large; absent)
Kathy Smith (Sully)
Daniel Storck (Mount Vernon)
Jane Strauss (Dranesville; arr: 1:25 pm)
Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack Dale; Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger; Clerk of the Board Pam Goddard; Administrative Assistant Madge Artley; Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services Dean Tistadt; Office of Transportation Services Director Linda Farbry; Transportation Planner Tom Italiano; and certain other individuals. Student Representative to the School Board Ian Hurdle was not present.

DISCUSSION

57.02 Optional Transportation (Exhibit A)

- Optional transportation is provided to students for various reasons, i.e. magnet elementary schools, Gifted and Talented (GT) or special education, boundary issues or alternative schools;
- staff recommended that as part of the transportation study, the current optional transportation provisions be reviewed to achieve a more efficient use of buses or possible modification or elimination of some of these functions;
- consensus to have an overall boundary study of middle school GT centers, and to effectively make a change if necessary;
- regarding academy classes structure, a short term suggestion was to offer more popular courses in certain areas; adding more to high schools was limited by costs, resources, space;
- suggestion that transportation consultant could cull out transportations costs in complex areas of using buses for multiple uses; staff to consider that process;
- consensus to have consultant look into efficiencies in space allocation for Alternative Learning Centers and alternative high schools;
- consensus not to look into modified school transportation at this time;
- grandfather clause regarding school boundary changes will be reviewed as to what was actually happening;

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- providing transportation for movement to or from modified school had current limitation of six years;
- currently attendance to magnet school had no limits by geography; staff to devise limits, possibly provide transportation hubs and geographical limitations;
- no change in FECEP transportation at this time;
- exception to ride issue was demanding at beginning of school year; suggestion that some additional short-term help, with expertise in transportation, to assist; transportation staff should take care of these issues and School Board members should not be involved if at all possible;
- discussion of walking distances revealed that increase in distance would then increase traffic because kiss and ride would increase; safety issue at stake; studies had shown that buses were a safer mode of transportation;
- change in transportation stop as the result of sexual offenders in the area was accommodated if police believed there was an imminent threat; and
- only two vendors had applied to the RFP for the transportation consultant position.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.