

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Burkholder Administrative Center

Work Session No. 1/Instruction, Special Services & Youth Development

July 11, 2005

MEETING OPENING

1.01 Call to Order and Announcements

Instruction, Special Services, and Youth Development Committee Chairman Catherine A. Belter convened the meeting in public session at 11:05 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Catherine Belter (Springfield)	Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
Brad Center (Lee; ABSENT)	Janet Oleszek (At Large arr 11:28)
Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill; ABSENT)	Kathy Smith (Sully)
Stephen Hunt (At Large arr 11:07)	Dan Storck (Mount Vernon arr 11:16)
Kaye Kory (Mason; ABSENT)	Jane Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Student Representative Samantha Kunkle (arr 11:06); Division Superintendent Jack Dale; Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger; Deputy Clerk Norma Bailey; Administrative Assistant Kathy Partlow; Assistant Superintendent of Special Services Alice Farling; Director Office of Special Education Pat Addison; Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities Co-Chairs Carmen Sanchez and Brenda Cross; and certain other individuals.

DISCUSSION

The following points were made:

1.02 Advisory Committee for Students With Disabilities Annual Report (Exhibit A)

- Staff supported the eight recommendations proposed by the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) and will continue collaborating with the committee to implement these recommendations wherever feasible;
- question whether there was a process in place to provide more training for the teachers and parents; affirmative response, success will be achieved on a school by school basis;
- question whether, with the increased number of students with Asperger's syndrome and the behavioral challenges of students entering middle and high schools, there would be sufficient numbers of qualified teachers in the pool to meet the needs; response that ACSD was working with Human Resources to solve these issues and may seek additional funding through Target 9;
- comment that staff should continue to study those successful schools with inclusive practices and share ideas with others; that the school principal was key to the successful inclusion of special needs students;

- request for a briefing on the new Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act; response that the ACSD would brief the School Board after review of the changes;
- question whether the ACSD and Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee (GTAC) were working together in addressing Twice Exceptional students; response that ACSD had worked with the CCPTA and were working on a handbook for GT teachers in how to accommodate special education students; a fall meeting was also scheduled;
- question concerning numbers of suspensions versus expulsions for special ed students; response that suspensions were often considered a form of controlling behavior; when behavioral problems were identified, ACSD wanted an academic and behavioral assessment of the student to determine whether special services were required; Target 9 was reviewing the data on suspensions; and
- question what was one school that was identified as an “Island of Excellence”; response that Centreville High School was nationally recognized for its inclusion of special needs students.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.