

# MINUTES

## Fairfax County School Board

### Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 14

February 23, 2006

#### 1. **CLOSED MEETING**

- 1.01 Chairman Ilryong Moon convened the Board in public session at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum of 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; ABSENT)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, that the Board go into closed session: 1) to discuss and consider employment and performance of specific public employees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1); 2) to discuss and consider disciplinary matters concerning students pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(2); and 3) to discuss and consider the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3). The motion passed 11-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

#### 2. **MEETING OPENING**

##### 2.01 **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence**

Chairman Moon convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a quorum of Board members present.

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack D. Dale; Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Deputy Clerks Linda Sabo and Pat Charbonneau; and certain other members of staff. Student Representative to the School Board Samantha Kunkel was present (arr. 7:52).

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### 2.02 Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance (Exhibit A)

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mrs. Oleszek seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed session meeting on February 23, 2006, 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 requires a certification by the School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law, the Fairfax County School Board hereby certifies 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 11-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

### 2.04 Announcements (Exhibit B)

Mr. Center announced that Mrs. Kory was out of town on family business and would not be in attendance at this evening's meeting; that March was National Women's History Month; he recognized Read Across America Day and Virginia School Boards Association School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

### 2.04 Recognition of REX Teachers (Exhibit C)

Mr. Gibson offered the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING VISITING JAPANESE TEACHERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Fukuoka Prefecture and Fairfax County Public Schools have participated in the Regional Educational Exchange program (REX), sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education, since 1991; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Yumie Esaki, REX teacher at Floris Elementary School, and Ms. Misako Koizuka, REX teacher at Fox Mill Elementary School, have worked in the Japanese partial-immersion program since August 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, they have provided, to the Japanese partial-immersion program, invaluable assistance in creating instructional materials, in teaching students, and in sharing aspects of Japanese culture both with the students participating in the partial-immersion program and with students in the regular program; and

**WHEREAS**, they have fostered and promoted positive relations between the United States and Japan in helping American students and their parents learn to speak the Japanese language and to know more about Japanese culture;

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***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Fairfax County School Board extends its highest commendation and deepest appreciation to Ms. Yumie Esaki and Ms. Misako Koizuka for their contributions and dedicated service to the educational programs at Floris Elementary School and Fox Mill Elementary School.

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to adopt the Resolution Recognizing Visiting Japanese Teachers. The motion **passed 11-0** with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mr. Gibson invited Ms. Esaki and Ms. Koizuka to join the Board for photographs.

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

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-0438

#### **3.01 Spotlight on Learning – Dental Program at Falls Church High School (Exhibit D)**

Dr. Dale introduced Diane Pruner, Director, Office of Professional Technical Studies; Doug Wright, Academy Administrator, Chantilly HS; Ann-Marie Glynn, Coordinator, Health and Medical Sciences; Jennifer Howe, dental careers teacher; and Fairya Khan, a student at Fairfax High School, who presented an overview of the dental careers program, educational and occupational opportunities for students, and the job outlook in the dental industry.

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

No speakers signed up to speak in the time reserved for public comment.

#### **3.03 2004-2005 Strategic Target Report – Target 7: The percent of students in professional technical courses who pass the corresponding industry certification tests will increase (SB; Exhibit F).**

Dr. Dale noted tonight's report would be on Target 7 "The percent of students in professional technical courses who pass the corresponding industry certification tests will increase"; and he introduced Betsy Goodman, assistant superintendent for Cluster VIII schools and Target 7 sponsor.

Mrs. Goodman introduced her colleagues from the target team: Diane Pruner, director of Career and Technical Education; Paul Wardinski, principal of McLean High School and previous academy administrator at Marshall High School; Dave Watnee, educational specialist and guru of the testing data base; Beth Downey, business and information technology coordinator. An introductory video was shown.

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Mrs. Goodman explained that the target related to the attainment of certifications and licensures in career and technical education courses; that when students earned the licensures and certifications, they were able to perform at an industry-recognized proficiency level; that this particular target focused on increasing the number of students earning industry certifications and licensures by five percent; that in 2003-2004, 523 student certifications were earned and in 2004-2005, 1,286 student certifications were earned, an increase of over 200 percent; that several factors contributed to this success, including the School Board's decision to pay the test fees, the Virginia Board of Education's increase of the number of industry tests available to students, and the opportunity for teachers of these courses to become licensed and/or certified themselves; that FCPS had also begun offering some career and technical courses online; that the state allowed students to use credits in licensure/certification courses as verified credits for graduation when the teachers of the courses were licensed or certified; that consideration was being given to realigning the curriculum to offer two-credit courses on an every-other-day basis, so students spent less time traveling and more instruction would be offered over the course of a year; that staff hoped to offer some of the more popular, but expensive, courses strategically around the county to make them more accessible, and online course offerings would be expanded to alleviate some transportation difficulties.

Board members expressed their congratulations on such positive, tangible results on this target. Questions and comments from Board members included the following: that the return on the \$250,000 investment had been 1,200 students earning certifications, which was less than \$250 per exam (which was worth paying for the increased earning potential of a student); the question whether staff was exploring dual enrollment opportunities for students in programs such as the EMT program to allow them to go on to higher levels at schools such as Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) (Wilson); an affirmative response; that staff was working with the community college to develop a template for dual enrollment that would include a variety of options for students; that currently there was an articulation agreement with NVCC, and they had been instrumental in helping with FCPS curriculum development and teacher selection (Pruner); the question why there were some industry certifications not offered by FCPS although the courses were offered (Wilson); that in case of the culinary arts industry, where there were multiple industry certifications available, a group of industry professionals from Northern Virginia had worked together to make a recommendation to FCPS regarding the most beneficial option; that staff continued to evaluate different opportunities for students (Pruner); the request that staff provide a breakdown, showing the different fields of the 1,286 certifications, to see whether there was a particular field showing great growth (Center); the response that the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee annual report, presented to the Board in December, had included a list of industry certifications along with the number earned; that the area of greatest growth was in the area of Microsoft Office Specialist (Pruner); the question whether the demand for those courses was greater than their availability

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(Center); a negative response; that although it was difficult to hire industry-certified teachers, the school system was doing a good job of encouraging newly hired teachers to become certified (Pruner); that he hoped future plans would help alleviate the stress of academy runs on the transportation system; the question where staff was in the process of re-designing the career and technical education program to make it more convenient and accessible to more local areas (Gibson); that several issues—such as reviewing the overall bell schedule plan and grouping high schools were still under exploration (Goodman); that he understood that one of the issues being considered was grouping programs among schools in a particular geographic area so students could have options closer to home, making programs more accessible throughout the county (Gibson); that such a plan was the long-term staff direction; that the budget implications of such plans, especially related to equipment, still needed to be worked out; and that one of the biggest obstacles would be getting high school bell schedules aligned (Dale).

Other staff members provided insights into the programs being offered and their benefits. Board discussion continued as follows: the question whether there was an action plan for getting all career and technical education teachers certified (Niedzielski-Eichner); an affirmative response (Pruner); that he was intrigued by the evolution of the health and medical sciences program; that it had been asserted that public school systems across the country were not doing enough to motivate students to become involved in science and mathematics; the question whether there was a benefit in having an academy focused on health and medical science, with biology, chemistry, and physiology available at that school, (Niedzielski-Eichner); the response that over the past two decades, the school system had seen tremendous growth in the biology, chemistry, physics, and geosystems programs (Goodman); that to pass the cosmetology exam in the state of Virginia, students had to have chemistry and biology (Wardinski); that she was gratified to see the high interest among students to take these courses; the question whether there was anything in career and technical education that would further students' interest in the banking and finance industry (Strauss); that there was not currently a certification approved by the Virginia Board of Education in finance (Pruner); the suggestion that staff might explore this area with the PNC Bank president as an industry partner and craft something that the state would be interested in; the question whether students who chose to take required courses during the summer, in order to make time for career and technical courses during the school year, had to pay tuition for summer school (Strauss); an affirmative response, depending on the reasons for taking the course (Goodman); that because students needed more time for learning, she challenged the system to look at the tuition requirement for such students in summer school (Strauss); that he believed that FCPS had just scratched the surface, and wondered where and how far the system could go from here; the question whether the target population was everyone or a segment of students not interested in four-year college, or some combination (Storck); the response that it was a combination; that the key was in marketing the programs so

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students and parents knew about the variety of courses available and accessibility (Goodman); that one of the most impressive programs was the construction of new homes by FCPS students; and she requested that staff describe the home (Oleszek); that through the residential construction program sponsored by the Foundation for Applied Technical Education (FATE), FCPS students had built a 6,300 square foot, all-brick home on one acre in McLean that was currently on the market at \$2.15 million; and that the program had incorporated not only construction technology students, but also students from the Edison Academy in electrical construction and students from Chantilly and Edison Academies in construction technology (Macklin).

#### 4. ACTION ITEMS

TAPE REFERENCE: 1-3115

- 4.01 2006-2007 Program/Attendance Area Adjustments** - Approve 1) adjustments to school attendance areas, effective for the 2006-07 school year, related to the opening of a new elementary school at the West Fairfax site; and as described in the accompanying staff recommendation; and 2) maintain the existing school attendance areas related to West Springfield and Lee High Schools (FTS; Exhibit G)

Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, that the School Board 1) approve adjustments to school attendance areas, effective for the 2006-07 school year, related to the opening of a new elementary school at the West Fairfax site and as described in the accompanying staff recommendation; and 2) maintain the existing school attendance areas related to West Springfield and Lee High Schools.

Mrs. Oleszek moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, that the Rolling Valley Elementary School attendance area be assigned in its entirety to Washington Irving Middle School, instead of being split between Key Middle School and Irving Middle School, while maintaining current high school assignments.

Mrs. Smith raised a point of order, requesting that the motion be divided into three parts, one being the West Fairfax elementary, two being West Springfield and Lee High Schools, and three being Rolling Valley Elementary School, and that the three parts be voted on separately.

Hearing no objection, Mr. Moon asked for any discussion of the motion to approve adjustments to school attendance areas, effective for the 2006-07 school year, related to the opening of a new elementary school at the West Fairfax site and as described in the accompanying staff recommendation.

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Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner stated that there was broad support for the staff recommendation. Mrs. Smith commended the community members who had worked together on the boundary for the new school, which was an exciting event; that Brookfield Elementary would benefit through the move of the center program to the new school; and that she looked forward to the process of determining a name for it.

The motion to approve adjustments to school attendance areas, effective for the 2006-07 school year, related to the opening of a new elementary school at the West Fairfax site and as described in the accompanying staff recommendation motion **passed 11-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mr. Moon then called for discussion on the motion to maintain the existing school attendance areas related to West Springfield and Lee High Schools.

Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner explained although his motion did not reflect the staff recommendation, it had resulted from an extensive study of the area that had been undertaken out of concern that the assignment of the South Hunt Valley residential area during last year's South County Secondary School boundary process may have created an overcrowded situation in West Springfield; that the study had originally encompassed multiple high schools, but in July the Board had limited the scope of the study to West Springfield and Lee, while asking staff to also consider a few split-feeder middle school situations; that staff had done an admirable job of listening to the community and developing alternatives to address the various interests heard at the public meetings; that West Springfield was projected by staff to remain at or slightly over capacity and the Board should not add more students from one school while not transferring out other students; that he felt the process had put the Board in a disadvantageous position, through its own policy and practice; that the option of assigning Sangster Elementary to Lake Braddock Secondary School and potentially having Daventry and Rolling Valley areas assigned to West Springfield High School was not available because of the public perception that this option had been taken off the table; that another important consideration for the Board was that schools were most successful when they were socio-economically diverse, serving the full spectrum of students; and he advocated the Board's support for the motion.

Board member comments included the following: that this study had been an emotional and draining event for many people in the community, as well as for Board members, who took these issues very seriously and put in a great deal of time and effort trying to determine what was best for the students and community; that one comment that had concerned him was that there had been a failure of democracy; that Churchill had said that democracy was the worst form of government except for all the others; that the democratic process provided citizens an opportunity to meet in public, to express views and opinions, and to

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present arguments; that the United States was not a democracy but had a representative form of government, in which officials were elected to make decisions; that one of the responsibilities of a republic was to ensure that all citizens, including minority groups, were provided with a fair process where their arguments could be heard and judged on their merits, and a determination was made based on the merits and not on intimidation; that this was what the Board had endeavored to do in this process; that in the future he would prefer that a vote be taken up or down on the staff recommendation; that he would support the motion for no change (Hunt); that she supported the motion; that boundary changes were among the most difficult decisions that the School Board and community could make, and Board members had worked hard to make the best decision for everybody; that she thanked staff for their endless efforts and responses to the many questions asked (Strauss); that he had initially supported the staff recommendation, believing that it was the appropriate way to deal with the Daventry issue; that he had decided to abstain from voting on the motion, because he felt it would be disingenuous after having said he had support the staff's recommendation; that he thought it was imperative that everyone move on once this vote was taken and the Daventry community be given an opportunity to heal; that he had found everyone he met with in the Rolling Valley, Daventry, and Lee areas to be strong, passionate advocates for their children, and to say otherwise would be improper; that he still had concerns with the boundary process—that the Board needed to do a better job of laying out the parameters for a study before embarking on it; that the criteria needed to be in priority order, giving the community some guidance about how the Board decision would be made (Center); that she thanked everyone for their input and understood that it had been a long, trying process for many people; that she believed it was critical to be consistent and not treat one community differently from another; that current enrollment figures were hard facts, but future projections were estimates; that she had consistently opposed opening the West Springfield High School boundaries because the school was currently overcrowded; that she was in general support of the no-change option; that she had carefully considered impacts on both Daventry and the Rolling Valley Elementary pocket, and had concluded that she would oppose efforts to move either into West Springfield High School, as there was no basis for admitting one and denying the other, or vice versa; that the school system could afford some relief related to pupil placements at West Springfield High School; that if enrollment at West Springfield fell below capacity, she would support allowing pupil placement of any student who met the existing guidelines for pupil placement; that she hoped there could be reconciliation among the different communities as everyone moved forward (Belter); that this was his 11<sup>th</sup> year working on school boundaries, and he had found that patterns emerged; that he expected people to look out for their own interests and those of their children, but the Board had to act on the interests of the 165,000 children whom they served; that although he may not represent the Lee or Springfield Districts, Board members had to take ownership of all the schools in the County; that the boundary process tended to bring out emotions that were driven by very good motives but ended up with very bad

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things; that he recalled a boundary adjustment in Hunter Mill District nine years earlier that had pitted neighbor against neighbor, and it had not been productive and set a bad example for children; that ultimately it was the Board's decision to make, no matter how hard it was; that it was important to dispel the myth that Board members counted their e-mail messages and voted for the side that sent the most; that reason and thoughtfulness took precedence; that he could not support the motion, as he felt it would do a disservice to a very small number of students in the Daventry community; that he had urged this study last year, when a last minute change had moved the South Hunt Valley community into West Springfield, leaving out 20 Daventry students; that when he had questioned it, the answer had been that it could be fixed next year, and now next year was here and it was not being fixed, which he thought was a mistake; that over recent years, he had seen a proliferation of the use of PTAs to advance positions, which he felt was a slippery slope; that when PTAs became involved in boundary issues, they alienated many of the parents whose support they needed to fulfill their mission; that he urged parents to form pyramid solution groups, which was much more effective; that he felt the boundary process was broken and needed to be fixed, but as long as people thought from the first day of the first town meeting that they did not need to participate but only needed to count up to seven Board members for the vote, then everything that happened at the town meetings was a charade; that when the Westfield High School boundaries were being set, the Board had let the community tell staff what was important and let the staff develop alternatives based on what they heard; that as the alternatives were refined, Board members had become involved, but not before it was their turn; that the problem with the process now was that it was Board members' turn from day one and the process had never been originally designed that way; that he and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner planned to discuss with Board members at an upcoming work session how to address large high school boundary adjustments, and he hoped the Board could come to consensus; that he would have supported the staff recommendation (Gibson).

Board comments concluded with the following: that she supported the motion; that she knew there were people in the community who would not be happy with her decision, but Board members needed to look at the greater good; that she was proud of the Board members' comments this evening and it broken everyone's hearts to see communities pitted against others; that no one in the process should feel intimidated; that these communities needed to move forward and heal, no matter what the decision was; that she was struck by the fact that boundary decisions always took their toll on parents more than they did on kids, and it was amazing how resilient children were, as they would succeed and move forward; that she recalled a situation surrounding a boundary battle early in her tenure on the Board, where a parent would not let her children play with the children of a parent who was on the other side of the issue; that this kind of mentality had to stop (Wilson); that he had had some reservations about this process and his feelings had been cemented when the Board had received staff projections indicating that South Hunt Valley would not overcrowd West

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Springfield, as the original projections had indicated; that the Board recognized that enrollments were changing, and there were questions and concerns about that; that he wanted to develop a better understanding of where the numbers were going, in an effort to get students into the schools closest to their neighborhoods, enabling them to be part of a community; that Board members tried to respect each other's differences and asked the same of the public; that Rolling Valley clearly had some significant needs and he felt the obligation to advocate for their needs, which was part of his reservations about Daventry; that it was important to see whether the trends continued toward lower enrollment, at which time this issue could be reviewed again; that he would be going through at least two more painful boundary processes in the south county area over the next year, so he felt an urgent need to improve the process; that the Board needed to decide what it would be willing to accept or not accept, and to have the dialogue around those parameters, so they would understand the core of the discussion and where they needed to focus; that he hoped revisions could be made soon so the next studies would be an improvement over what was done in the past, although it would probably be a continuous improvement model (Storck).

Mr. Moon clarified that the boundary decisions to which Mr. Storck referred in the south county area had yet to be decided by the School Board; and that a work session was scheduled on March 13 where the topic would be discussed.

The motion to maintain the existing school attendance areas related to West Springfield and Lee High Schools **passed 9-1-1**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mr. Gibson voting "nay"; with Mr. Center abstaining; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mr. Moon then called for comments on the motion that the Rolling Valley Elementary School attendance area be assigned in its entirety to Washington Irving Middle School.

Mrs. Oleszek explained that there were currently 20 Irving Middle School students from the Daventry area who went to Lee High School and one of the community's concerns was the small number of students in that group; that there were also on average 20 students from Rolling Valley Elementary School who went to Key Middle School while the rest of their class went to Irving; that Irving was not over capacity, and in fact its enrollment was declining, and adding the Rolling Valley students to Irving would increase the number of students coming together at Irving and then going on to Lee High School; that the distance to Key Middle School from the Rolling Valley Elementary neighborhoods was essentially double the mileage to Irving, and the first pick-up of former Rolling Valley students occurred 6:15 a.m.; that 20.9 percent of Rolling Valley students currently assigned to Key received free and reduced price meals, and any movement of Rolling Valley students from Key to Irving would result in narrowing

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the gap in the socio-economic indicators between the two schools; that there were 40 elementary schools and 9 middle schools that were split feeders and she and other Board members had agreed that not all could or should be fixed, because there were not the resources or facilities to do so; and she urged her colleagues' support.

Mr. Storck moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to postpone action on the amendment (to move the Rolling Valley Elementary School attendance area assignment in its entirety to Washington Irving Middle School, while maintaining current high school assignments) to the March 23 School Board meeting, and to schedule a public hearing prior to the March 23 meeting.

Mr. Storck said that he felt the issue should be considered separately; that while it was not possible to move any neighborhood to West Springfield at this time, there was considerable support to have that option considered; that research had shown that there was value in having students remain together through eighth grade; that high school was a whole separate experience, with athletics and activities for building new communities and relationships; that this topic was a separate part of the conversation and he thought the Board should have an opportunity to hear from the parents about how such a change might impact their lives, negatively or positively, before voting.

Board discussion included the following: that last year the Board had held a separate public hearing because a proposal had been made after the boundaries public hearing to add a school to the mix that had not previously known it would be in the mix—West Springfield High School; that this was not the case this year; that 20 or 30 people from Rolling Valley had testified at this year's public hearing, and the Board had received e-mails from the neighborhoods involved, and postponing the vote would not change anything; that he did not like setting a precedent of scheduling a separate public hearing, even though those involved had had the opportunity to address the Board at the original public hearing (Gibson); that she could not support the motion to postpone; that several Board members felt that the boundary process was flawed, and they should suggest changes to the process; that she did not support having another public hearing, as that continued to put communities in agony and made it difficult for school staff to move forward; that there was a timeline and rationale involved in the boundary process so that schools could know what was happening in the fall and begin to prepare for it (Wilson); that he could not support either the motion or the amendment; and he agreed with Mrs. Wilson's and Mr. Gibson's comments about the process; that town meetings were not just about hearing parents' views but were also about getting new facts, information, and substantive arguments, and there had been an opportunity to hear from the communities involved; that most Board members had agreed that it was not appropriate to move a community just because of a split-feeder situation; that he did not feel it was fair to raise expectations in the community (Center); that she could not support a postponement because students were already beginning to pick classes for next

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year and parent information meetings were being held (Smith); that he respected the fact that the Rolling Valley community had had the opportunity to address proposed changes at the public hearing; the question whether this particular alternative had been considered as part of the process (Niedzielski-Eichner); that this specific option had not been considered; that staff had looked at an option of moving this group from Key Middle and Lee High Schools to Irving Middle and West Springfield High Schools, but not just moving the middle school portion (Chevalier); that he would support the postponement because he did not feel the community had spoken to this specific proposal (Niedzielski-Eichner).

The motion to postpone action on the amendment (to move the Rolling Valley Elementary School attendance area assignment in its entirety to Washington Irving Middle School, while maintaining current high school assignments) to the March 23 School Board meeting, and to schedule a public hearing prior to the March 23 meeting failed 4-5-2, with Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, and Mr. Storck voting "aye"; with Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss and Mrs. Wilson voting "nay"; with Mrs. Belter and Mrs. Oleszek abstaining, and with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mr. Moon noted that the discussion was back to the amendment to move the Rolling Valley Elementary School attendance area assignment in its entirety to Washington Irving Middle School, while maintaining current high school assignments.

Further discussion proceeded as follows: that she would not support the motion, as it would not solve any problem; that these people wanted their children to go to Irving and West Springfield, and if the Board would not do that, a half-way measure was not fair (Wilson); that he would have preferred a public hearing on the issue because he thought it might have garnered more support from the Board; that the conversations he had had with the Rolling Valley community had been unanimous in their support; that he did not think this would set a precedent (Storck); that there was no way of knowing that the expectation for Rolling Valley families was to go to West Springfield; that these neighborhoods were physically closer to Irving Middle School, and the school system was worried about reducing transportation costs and getting kids to school at a later time; that there was space available, which was an important commodity (Oleszek); that according to the CIP approved last month, the Irving population was dropping from 1,083 students this year to 1,010 in the year 2010; that Key was expected to drop from its current enrollment of 847 to 747 in five years; that Key's enrollment would be dropping further in the same window of time than Irving would be; that the Rolling Valley parents who had testified at the public hearing had asked that the split feeder be eliminated and that their children be allowed to go to Irving Middle and West Springfield High Schools; that the Board's consensus had been not to change the boundary for West Springfield High School, but now there was a proposal to create a half-way measure; that this had nothing to do with what time high school starts; that the real question was whether the Board would

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prolong the situation where year after year a small group asked for a boundary change; that although he supported the idea of Daventry students going to West Springfield High School because it was the right thing to do, he did not think it would help matters to move 20 students now so that next year they would ask for 40-50 students to move to West Springfield; that the community needed healing, and it would send the wrong message for the Board to help the Rolling Valley students now and then in two years consider moving more students to West Springfield again; that he was not sure what benefits it would provide for the children (Gibson); that she could not support the motion; that she agreed there had been communications from this group requesting to be moved to Irving and West Springfield, which was their original purpose (Smith); that in response to the idea that this issue was about going to West Springfield High School, it was not; that in the meetings she had with Rolling Valley parents, they were very happy with Lee and the IB program; that the reason Mr. Gibson had found numbers different from hers was because she had looked at the trend from 2003-04 when the student body at Irving had been 1,200, in 2004-05 it was 1,170, 2005-06 it was 1,075, and was projected next year to be 1,039; that Key was undergoing renovation and reducing the students there during that time was a good thing; that school start times related to middle schools as well as high school students, and this change had nothing to do with when Lee or West Springfield started school (Oleszek); that although he supported the motion to postpone this vote, he had wanted an opportunity to hear from the Key and Irving communities; and without that opportunity, he could not support this motion (Moon).

The motion to move the Rolling Valley Elementary School attendance area assignment in its entirety to Washington Irving Middle School, while maintaining current high school assignments failed 5-6, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, and Mr. Storck voting "aye"; with Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Moon, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "nay"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mrs. Smith noted that there would be a meeting at on March 15 at 7 p.m. at Liberty Middle School to begin the process of naming the elementary school at the West Fairfax site; and that a letter would be going out to the new school community.

#### **4.02 Additional Appointments (Exhibit H)**

There were no additional appointments.

#### **4.03 Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting**

Mr. Hunt moved, and Mr. Storck seconded, to expel a student for violation of the conditions of a probationary school assignment. The motion passed 11-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner,

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Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to expel a student for possession of weapons and illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed 11-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, to expel a student for possession of illegal drugs and a weapon at school. The motion **passed 11-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Center moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to expel a student for possession of illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Center moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to expel a student for participation in setting fires at school. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Center moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to expel a student for threatening a school staff member. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to expel a student for threatening students with a weapon at school. The motion **passed unanimously**,

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to expel a student for violation of the conditions of a probationary school assignment. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Smith moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, to expel a student for participation in vandalizing school property and assault of another student. The motion **passed unanimously**. *[Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]*

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Smith moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, to expel a student for misconduct at school including possession of a weapon at school. The motion **passed unanimously**.

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*[Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]*

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Smith moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, to expel a student for engaging in numerous acts of misconduct at school. The motion **passed unanimously.** *[Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]*

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Smith moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, to expel a student for participation in gang activity at school. The motion **passed unanimously.** *[Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]*

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Smith moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, to expel a student for threatening a school staff member. The motion **passed unanimously.** *[Clerk's Note: Although Mrs. Kory was absent for the public vote, she voted affirmatively when the three-member committee rendered its decision.]*

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Moon, Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to expel a student for violation of the conditions of a probationary school assignment. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Moon, Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to expel a student for possession of a weapon at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Moon, Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to expel a student for possession and distribution of illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Moon, Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to expel a student for engaging in misconduct that resulted in injury to a school staff member. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to expel a student for violation of the conditions of a probationary school assignment. The motion **passed unanimously.**

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Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to expel a student for participation in gang activity at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to expel a student for possession of weapons at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Oleszek moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, to expel a student for possession and distribution of illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Oleszek moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, to expel a student for possession and distribution of illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served on a three-member committee chaired by Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Oleszek moved, and Mrs. Belter seconded, to expel a student for possession and use of illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

- 4.04 Pending Action** - Award of Annual Contract (action scheduled 3/9/06) - Award the annual contract for lease/purchase of classroom trailers to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit I)

There was no discussion of this item.

### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-3030

- 5.01 Minutes** - Approve the minutes of February 9, 2006, regular School Board meeting (SB; Exhibit J)
- 5.02 Monthly Separation Report** - Confirm the separations as indicated below for the period beginning January 1, 2006, and ending January 31, 2006 (HR; Exhibit K)
- 5.03 Award of Contracts** - Award the contracts for electrical work for the twelve-classroom modular building at Cooper Middle School in the amount of \$243,951, and the ten-classroom modular building at Churchill Road Elementary School in the amount of \$231,585, to Creative Finishes Inc., and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contracts on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit L)
- 5.04 Award of Contracts** - Award the contracts for electrical site work for the eight-classroom modular building at Mantua Elementary School to New Spectrum Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$251,000, and the twelve-classroom modular building at Forestdale Elementary School to Creative Finishes Inc., in the amount

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- of \$270,319, and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contracts on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit M)
- 5.05 Award of Annual Contract** - Award the annual time and material contract for hazardous material removal to WACO, Inc., as the primary contractor and D&D Clean-Air Environmental, Inc., as the secondary contractor, and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contracts on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit N)
- 5.06 Award of Contract** - Award the contracts for site work and concrete slab for the eight-classroom modular building at Mantua Elementary School to Sagres Construction Corporation in the amount of \$420,000, and the twelve-classroom modular building at Forestdale Elementary School to Finley Asphalt and Sealing, Inc. in the amount of \$437,834, and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contracts on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit O)
- 5.07 Award of Contract** - Award the contracts for site work and concrete slab for the twelve-classroom modular building at Cooper Middle School to Sagres Construction Corporation in the amount of \$390,000, and the ten-classroom modular building at Churchill Road Elementary School to Fort Myer Construction Corporation in the amount of \$428,991, and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contracts on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit P)
- 5.08 Award of Annual Contract** -Award the contract for surveying and civil engineering services at the Coppermine Crossing site and to authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit Q)
- 5.09 Modified Calendar Waiver** - Authorize Annandale Terrace, Dogwood, Franconia, Glen Forest, Graham Road, Parklawn, and Timber Lane Elementary Schools, Glasgow Middle School, and Falls Church and Stuart High Schools to continue a modified school calendar for the 2006-2007 school year, contingent upon approval from the state Board of Education of a waiver to allow a pre-Labor Day opening (IS; Exhibit R)

Chairman Moon stated that, without objection, the nine items on the consent agenda would be adopted. Hearing no objection, the consent agenda **passed 11-0**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-3281

- 6.01 Award of Annual Contract** - Recommendation to award the annual contract for playground equipment, related components, and playground site work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder(s), and to authorize the Division

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Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit S)

Mrs. Wilson asked if this contract would affect PTAs that raised money for playgrounds; Mr. Tistadt responded that this would give PTAs choices about specific products.

- 6.02 Award of Contract** - Recommendation to award the contract for the replacement of boilers at Chantilly High and Forestville Elementary Schools to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder(s) and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract(s) on behalf of the School Board (FTS; Exhibit T)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 6.03 School Board Policy** - Recommendation that the School Board adopt Policy 2150.2, Prevention of Alcohol and Other Illegal Drug Use by Students (SS; Exhibit U)

There was no discussion of this item.

### 7. **SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-3297

#### 7.01 **Superintendent Matters**

Dr. Dale reported that 28 FCPS students were candidates for the 2006 Presidential Scholars Program, sponsored by the Department of Education and established in 1964 by executive order of the President to recognize some of the country's most distinguished graduating seniors. He noted that Human Resources would hold a Job Fair at Oakton High School on Saturday, March 4, 2006, for those interested in elementary school teaching positions.

### 8. **SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS**

TAPE REFERENCE: 2-3372

#### 8.01 **Committee Reports (Exhibit V)**

**Resource Management and Evaluation; February 13; Jane Strauss, Chairman**

Report on the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology revised admissions study process.

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### **Facilities and Operations; February 13, Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, Chairman**

Presentations on emergency preparedness; boundaries; and proposals for boundary studies for 2006-2007.

### **Forum on Board Topics; February 23, Ilryong Moon, Chairman**

Format for target presentations; topics for future joint meetings with Board of Supervisors; and participation at Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) legislative conference.

### **Legislative Update, Stuart Gibson, Chairman**

Mr. Gibson reported that he, Dr. Dale, and Frank Barham, executive director of VSBA, had recently met with Dr. Henry Johnson, Assistant U.S. Secretary for Education for K-12, and discussed issues related to the application of *NCLB* to particular schools, such as McNair ES; that FCPS was invited to submit a letter suggesting particular relief, but no results were promised; that the issue had been raised with Congress and the US Dept of Education; that the State Board of Education planned to suggest changes to Virginia Accountability Workbook;

At the General Assembly, the Senate and House Committees had released their different versions of the budget; that the House proposed taking \$8 million from the Governor's education budget to help fund transportation in order to do within current revenue stream, that the Senate proposed funding transportation by touching education in other ways; that the main impact on FCPS were changes to the Virginia Retirement System and retiree health credit; that the cost to FCPS for VRS was \$8.6 million over the biennium; that the House of Delegates had passed the first-ever private school voucher program in Virginia history; that language from SB545 had appeared virtually verbatim as a budget amendment approved by the House Appropriations Committee, and would permit any parent of a special education student with IEP that had been in public school at least one year and then admitted to private school to apply to the state for a voucher, with the amount equal to the state share of basic aid, which came directly from the local school division share of basic aid; unanswered questions included whether a child could attend a religious school, whether it was constitutional, and whether the School Board would be liable if parent took a voucher, liked the placement, and then sued the School Board for full cost of tuition saying it was an appropriate placement of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act* (IDEIA); no hold harmless provision for School Board, the only criterion for a voucher was that parent had to be dissatisfied with the progress a child made in special education program in public school; the amendment had been voted on separately and defeated in the House, and he thanked Kristen Amundson, former chairman of the Fairfax County School Board (FCSB), for presenting a strong case why the stealth voucher program should not be enacted

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in the General Assembly; that the vote had been almost party lines, and the issue had been a legislative priority of FCSB for many years. The Senate had also passed the first tuition tax credit bill in Virginia history, directing the State Department of Education to develop criteria under which parents could claim a tax credit on Virginia state income taxes for amounts donated to a scholarship fund which could provide a scholarship to child of a parent who made the donation; the legislation was capped at \$3 million per year, and was modeled on the voucher program in Florida that had cost Florida taxpayers \$100 million per year; and Board members were encouraged to contact their Senators and Delegates.

### 8.02 Board Member Announcements

#### **Samantha Kunkel, Student Representative**

Announced that Jessica Miller was elected by the Student Advisory Council to serve as the 2006-2007 Student Representative to the School Board effective July 1, 2006.

#### **Kathy Smith, Sully District**

Thanked principals and staff members at the schools she had recently visited for their strong commitment to teachers and planning, and for using available data to focus on kids.

#### **Jane Strauss, Dranesville District**

Congratulated students, staff, and the industry on the outstanding FATE house recently constructed in McLean.

#### **Daniel Storck, Mount Vernon District**

Commended Andre Jamal Robinson who had received the Department of Fire and Rescue Citizens Valor Award for his quick thinking and courage in helping to control and extinguish an apartment fire in his building, preventing possible injury to residents and fire fighters.

#### **Stuart Gibson, Hunter Mill District**

That in light of the boundary decision, he wanted to share *Parents' Boundary Lament: I do not like it what you did, you planned to make me move my kid. He likes his school, it suits him fine. Your plan will make him scream and whine. Why do you do it, make such a mess? You really are insane, I guess. I do not like you Board unfair. I'd like to get you out of there. I have a plan, it makes more sense, to fill that school. It's so immense. You should take those kids from there. Their parents wouldn't mind. It's fair. We live so close, it's such a shame. They live so*

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*far, they hardly came. I know that you could end this fuss. Don't listen to them. Pay heed to us. That Dr. Seuss had written the Student's Boundary Reward (One Year From Now) the year after the boundary was set as a student speaking at the new school: "We love this school, it's really great. We're always there on time, not late. Our teachers work so well with us. They never ever make a fuss. Not only that, the ball field's neat for showing off our speed of feet. Our parents love this place, it's true. Each volunteers an hour or two. They come with us to class to seek the kids who need their help each week. Thank you, Board. It's such a plus. We're at the greatest school for us.*

### **Catherine Belter, Springfield District**

Expressed appreciation to the parents and students who had attended the meeting in support of boundary issues.

### **Tessie Wilson, Braddock District**

Thanked Judy Farabaugh for the gifts for School Board appreciation week; and thanked Dean Tistadt and Gary Chevalier for the remarkable job they did shepherding the Board through the boundary process.

### **Brad Center, Lee District**

Thanked those who had attended the recent Lee District Civic Association meeting, including Supervisor Dana Kauffman, and Mario Schiavo for his assistance. Announced upcoming meetings on February 28, 6:30 p.m., at Hayfield Secondary School to discuss a potential boundary study, and April 3, 7 p.m., at Lee High School, to review the School Board mission, vision, and beliefs and get feedback on the academic goals.

Mr. Hunt, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Moon, and Mrs. Oleszek had no comments. Mrs. Kory was absent.

## **9. CLOSED MEETING**

- 9.01** Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that the Board go into closed session to discuss and consider the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3). The motion passed 10-0, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Oleszek, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mr. Storck not present for the vote; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

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### 9.02 Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance (Exhibit W)

Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed session meeting on February 23, 2006, 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 requires a certification by the School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law, the Fairfax County School Board hereby certifies 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 9-0**, with Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; and with Mrs. Belter and Mrs. Oleszek not present for the vote; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

### 9.03 Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting

Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, to authorize the Chairman to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County seeking an increase in Capital Improvement Program funds for the Fairfax County Public Schools in accordance with terms and conditions discussed by the School Board in closed session. The motion **passed 10-1**, with Mrs. Belter, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voting "aye"; with Mrs. Oleszek voting "nay"; and with Mrs. Kory absent.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

10.01 The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 a.m.