

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board Luther Jackson Middle School

Work Session No. 68/**Joint Instruction, Special Services, and Youth Development and
Resource Management and Evaluation** June 7, 2006

MEETING OPENING

68.02 Call to Order and Announcements

Instruction, Special Services, and Youth Development Chairman Kathy Smith and Resource Management and Evaluation Chairman Jane K. Strauss convened the meeting in public session at 7:07 p.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)	Kathy Smith (Sully)
Stephen Hunt (At Large arr 7:25 p.m.)	Dan Storck (Mount Vernon arr 7:13 p.m.)
Kaye Kory (Mason)	Jane Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack Dale; Deputy Clerk of the Board Linda Sabo; Administrative Assistant Darlene Chamberlain; Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Ann Monday, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Kevin North; and certain other individuals. The student representative to the School Board Samantha Kunkle was absent.

DISCUSSION

68.03 Title I Policy Committee Annual Report (Exhibit A)

- Title I Policy Committee Annual Report referenced recommendations made by the Family and Early Childhood Program (FECEP)/Head Start Committee.

68.04 FECEP/Head Start Committee Annual Report (Exhibit B)

- Request for Superintendent to find a way to provide additional support for FECEP/Head Start programs; request for assistance for the program to find larger and more centralized meeting places and assistance with transportation to meetings;
- comment from committee member that he would not have missed the opportunity to put his children in FECEP/Head Start even if they could have been placed in a private school; that children learned to make the right choices and were avid readers; and that he learned to be an involved parent;
- question about how the FECEP/Head Start parents' notebooks were used; response that parents shared in the notebooks what went on at school and copies went back to the school; request for staff to collect the information shared in the parents' notebooks for informational purposes;

Fairfax County School Board

Work Session No. 68/**Joint Instruction, Special Services, and Youth Development and Resource Management and Evaluation**

June 7, 2006

2

- question on how many more classrooms were needed; response that the number of classrooms varied and that many children were left out due to transportation issues because classes were held in schools too distant for some families; comment that there were approximately 250 children wait listed and that funding guidelines regarding income and economics were different depending on the school; comment that adding more classes and staffing were also funding issues; and the best solution would be for classes to be held in base schools but the resources were not available;
- question whether all classes were held in elementary schools; response that some classes were in high schools and that transportation was provided by the county; and
- question about transportation issues for meetings; response that many parents could not participate in day meetings when county buses were available and that they could attend evening meetings but had to provide their own transportation; comment that renting a bus was not an option due to the cost.

68.05 Human Relations Advisory Committee Annual Report (Exhibit C)

- Committee recommendation to assess the employee climate in schools and have more accountability through a regulation change, employee surveys and suggestion boxes in schools; request for the committee to give the School Board more guidance on obtaining feedback on school climate issues; response that committee would like to work with the school resource specialists; comment that some principals were developing surveys in their schools; and that feedback indicated that a good school environment was more important than compensation in terms of retention;
- committee recommendation for mandatory staff training on topics impacting school climate;
- comment that there were no accountability measures currently in place regarding the school environment and that citizens and employees had nowhere to take their concerns; suggestion for a regulation which would provide accountability;
- recommendation to separate personnel issues from the school community issues in the current regulation on school environment; staff response that the current regulation was being reviewed to make a distinction between the two issues;
- suggestion to disseminate committee findings to appropriate clusters to make them aware of the issues; comment that many schools did an annual education plan and suggestion to share the findings of those plans; and
- question whether an employee survey was currently done in schools; response that some parts of the principal evaluations addressed school climate and that a poll was taken a few years ago; suggestion to conduct another poll.

Fairfax County School Board

Work Session No. 68/**Joint Instruction, Special Services, and Youth Development and
Resource Management and Evaluation**

June 7, 2006

3

68.06 School Health Advisory Committee Annual Report (Exhibit D)

- Committee based recommendations on mandate from state regarding wellness, the Virginia Action for Healthy Kids guidelines, Governor Warner's report card on the health of children in Virginia, and other wellness guidelines;
- suggestion for an FCPS policy on required recess based on the Virginia Board of Education's requirement; suggestion to use other methods instead of withholding recess when dealing with classroom behavior issues;
- discussion about requiring physical education (PE) classes; comment that many students and parents did not want scheduled PE classes; suggestion to make PE an elective in eleventh and twelfth grades as a possibility for next year and comment that it would require additional staffing and facilities;
- discussion about the use of athletic supplements and energy enhancement drinks; comment that the committee was working with staff to find a way to impress upon students the effects of enhancement supplements; and
- comment on the better choices being offered in school vending machines.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.