

MINUTES
Fairfax County School Board
Fairfax County School Administration Center

Work Session No. 70/**Legislation, Policy, and Future Issues**

June 12, 2006

MEETING OPENING

70.02 Call to Order and Announcements

Legislation, Policy, and Future Issues Chairman Stuart Gibson 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 arr 1:20 p.m.)	Janet Oleszek (At Large arr 11:33)
Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill)	Kathy Smith (Sully)
Stephen Hunt (At Large)	Dan Storck (Mount Vernon arr 11:20)
Kaye Kory (Mason arr 11:20)	Jane Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack Dale; Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pam Goddard; Deputy Clerk of the Board Linda Sabo; Management Technician Darlene Chamberlain; Division Counsel Anne Murphy; Audit Director Theresa McGrady; Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Alice Farling; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Kevin North; and certain other individuals. The student representative to the School Board Samantha Kunkle was absent.

DISCUSSION

70.03 Policy 2620, Students With Physically Aggressive or Violent Behavior (Exhibit A)

- Policy revised due to state requirements for schools to have a procedure on dealing with aggressive student behavior; revised policy added positive support language;
- request for statistics on violent behavior by students toward teachers; response that statistics would be provided but that policies that supported employee rights were already in place; comment that policy provided guidelines on how to deal with students who were aggressive or violent; and
- question whether the policy mandated the use of positive supports first; response that the policy encouraged using positive procedures first whenever possible and that the violence of the act would determine whether positive supports would work and that the main goal should always be to deescalate a situation.

70.04 Policy 5410, Periodic Audits (Exhibit B)

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- Policy revised to establish oversight responsibilities and to conform with the audit charter memorandum, and to comply with national standards; suggestion to make the language in the charter and the policy consistent;
- routine administrative matters would be reported to the Superintendent and substantive issues would be reported to the School Board; suggestion to clarify the reporting process;
- question who would conduct the auditor's performance evaluation; response that the School Board audit committee would conduct the evaluation; and
- the audit plan was scheduled for Board approval in July.

70.05 Policy XXXX, Health Plans – Retirees; Policy 1810.2, Benefits for School Board Members (Exhibits C)

Policy XXXX, Health Plans – Retirees

- New policy presented on health benefits for retirees; discussion about the use of the word "shall" instead of "may" in sections related to offering health plans and contributing to the cost of the plan; consensus to change the wording in both sections to "shall"; and
- question whether a dollar commitment would affect the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirement; negative response.

Policy 1810.2, Benefits for School Board Member

- Policy had been revised to enable School Board members to continue health benefits at 55 years of age and with five or more years of service which was the same criteria used for other employees;
- question whether the policy would cover Board members who had previously served on the Board; response that the policy would cover those elected in the next general election in 2007, but would make coverage retroactive to cover the sitting Board members; and
- question whether coverage would be provided if a member had five or more years of service but only elected health coverage for one of those years; staff to provide response.

70.06 Policy 4150, Administrative Staff – Promotions and Appointments (Exhibit D)

- Policy modified to clarify who would be involved in the selection process for principals; comment that all technicalities about the process had been moved to the regulation and that current practices were reflected in the policy as presented;
- request for staff to provide more timely notice to the School Board and the community regarding principals and cluster assistant superintendents who were retiring, moving to another position, or leaving the system;

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- request that notification be sent to Board members outlining the review process, panel selection, and the timeline for selection be the same communication received by the community panel;
- question about the difference between Assistant Principal (AP) I and AP II positions and whether AP II's were given preference when applying for principalships; response that there was a portfolio process for promotion and that decisions for principalships were based on the talents and skills of each individual; and
- question about how the community interview panel was selected; response that HR, the cluster office, and the school worked together to make the panel diverse and balanced and identified parent representatives through the school's PTA; suggestion to add clarification on the panel selection to the regulation.

70.07 Policy 7350, General Safety (Exhibit E)

- Question about responsibility for safety to and from school; response that protection on safety issues and student behavior were in the Code of Virginia; request for staff to gather information from the Code on disciplining students who were involved in bad behavior while on the way to or from school;
- safety at bus stops and while riding the bus were now covered in the Students Responsibilities and Rights (SR&R) booklet;
- question about responsibility for the safety of walkers; response that the current regulation stated that the walking route would be "free of unusual hazards;" and
- important to communicate with parents about sharing responsibility for the safety of children going to and from school.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.