

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 7

November 6, 2008

1. **CLOSED MEETING**

Vice Chairman Smith convened the Board in public session at 6:15 p.m. with a quorum of members present:

Elizabeth T. Bradsher (Springfield)	Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence; arr. 6:34)
Brad Center (Lee)	James L. Raney (At Large)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill; ABSENT)	Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Martina A. Hone (At Large)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon; ABSENT)
Kaye Kory (Mason; ABSENT)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Raney seconded, that the Board go into closed session to discuss and consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, 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 8-0: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Ms. Hone, Mr. Moon, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner was not present for the vote; Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, and Mr. Storck were absent.

2. **MEETING OPENING**

[NOTE: EACH AGENDA ITEM IS AVAILABLE ON MP3 AUDIO FILES AT <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/Fairfax/Board.nsf/Public?OpenFrameSet>]

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

Vice Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum of Board members present. Also present were Division Superintendent Jack D. Dale; Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pamela Goddard; Deputy Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk of the Board Pat Charbonneau; and certain other members of staff. Student Representative to the School Board Arvin Ahmadi was present.

Vice Chairman Smith thanked the members of the Oakton and Madison High School Madrigals, under the direction of Claire Rowan and Tiffany Powell, for their performance of the national anthem.

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2.02 Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance (Exhibit A)

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, that in order to comply with Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia, it is necessary for the Board to certify that since the Fairfax County School Board convened a closed meeting on November 6, 2008, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board during the closed meeting. The foregoing also shall be deemed to include the certification of each School Board member who served on a student disciplinary committee that those closed committee meetings are lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Section 2.2-3711(A)(2) of the Code of Virginia, and that only student disciplinary matters were heard, discussed, or considered in those closed committee meetings. The motion **passed 9-0**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Ms. Hone, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, and Mr. Storck were absent.

2.03 Announcements (Exhibit B)

Vice Chairman Smith announced that Mr. Gibson and Mr. Storck were out of town, and Mrs. Kory was ill. She also announced that without objection, agenda item 4.03, Donation of Surplus School Buses, would be rescheduled for action to the November 17, 2008, Board meeting. Mr. Ahmadi announced that November 11, 2008, was Veterans' Day; November 16-22, 2008, was American Education Week; and November 2008, was National Adoption Awareness Month.

3. PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD

3.01 Citizen Participation (Exhibit C)

Two speakers addressed the Board in the time reserved for public comment. Mike Grasso addressed Graham Road Elementary School, and Janet Otersen addressed Gatehouse II.

3.02 Student Representative Matters

The Student Representative presented informational items.

3.03 Goal 1 – Recommendation to accept the monitoring report on the current progress toward attaining Student Achievement Goals 1.1.1. English language arts, 1.1.4. Social studies, and 1.4. Understand the interrelationship and interdependence of the countries and cultures of the world (Exhibit D)

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Dr. Dale introduced Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Peter Noonan, for PowerPoint and video presentations on the current progress achieved in reading, writing, and social studies at the 6 and 12 grade levels, and highlights of the 5 grade Global Awareness and Technology Project; Mr. Noonan noted that gains were evident in all areas except 6 grade writing, with the most significant gains in 6 grade reading; emphasis on reading and math as indicators of annual yearly progress might have diverted some instructional focus from writing and social studies.

Comments and discussion included: compliments for the presentation, the richness of the data, and its analysis; grade 6 reading was assessed using the Virginia Grade Level Assessment (VGLA) on grade-level content, which was a more appropriate assessment than the previously-used Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment; question regarding the grade 6 writing assessment decline, and the response that the grading of the writing samples had changed and become more stringent to achieve pass advanced; the question regarding changes to the social studies SOL and the effect on the trend line, and the response that, as SOLs were being revised all the time, this was an ongoing concern and recalculation of baseline data might be necessary; assessment for grade 12 students did not show the same level of growth as that of grade 6 because students were already achieving in the top band; formative assessments identified those students who had achieved high performance and would benefit from differentiated instruction and those students who were less successful and required timely intervention; the question of what components were key to closing the achievement gap, and the response that pedagogy, content, and relationships were the foundation, and the use of eCART would be used to facilitate such closure; the request that future reports provide information on the test instruments being used to assess achievement and the evaluation of the tests' reliability, fairness, and validity, and the response that information would be provided; and request for a list of information in bullet points on the Global Awareness Project and Professional learning Communities.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

- 4.01 Goal 1** – Accept the monitoring report on the current progress toward attaining Student Achievement Goal 1.2. Communicate in At Least Two Languages (IS; presented as new business 10/23/08; Exhibit E)

Mr. Moon moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, to accept the monitoring report on the current progress toward attaining Student Achievement Goal 1.2. Communicate in At Least Two Languages

Comments included: on December 7, 2006, the School Board had accepted the Superintendent's reasonable interpretation and indicators for Goal 1.2, Communicate in at Least Two Languages, and approved the first monitoring

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report on December 19, 2007; the current report contained data on performance measures in an easily understandable format. Board members who had not been present for the previous Board discussion on the report noted that they chose to abstain on the vote.

The motion to accept the monitoring report on the current progress toward attaining Student Achievement Goal 1.2. Communicate in At Least Two Languages **passed 7-0-2**: Ms. Hone, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Ms. Bradsher and Mr. Center abstained; Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, and Mr. Storck were absent.

- 4.02 2009 Legislative Program** – Adopt the 2009 Fairfax County School Board Legislative Program, as detailed in the agenda item (S; work session held 9/8/08; presented as new business 10/2/08; Exhibit F)

Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner moved, and Ms. Hone seconded, to adopt the 2009 Fairfax County School Board Legislative Program as detailed in the agenda item.

The comment that the 2009 Legislative Program would convey to the Northern Virginia delegation the FCPS priorities, especially regarding funding and unfunded mandates from the state, as well as its position on federal legislation.

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Raney seconded, to divide the motion to vote separately on the position of fiscal autonomy for local elected school boards. The motion **passed 9-0**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Ms. Hone, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, and Mr. Storck were absent.

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to remove the position of fiscal autonomy for local elected school boards.

Comment made that the funding needs of all agencies in the county should be considered.

The motion to remove the position of fiscal autonomy for local elected school boards **failed 2-7**: Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Ms. Hone, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, and Mrs. Strauss voted "nay"; Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, and Mr. Storck were absent.

The motion to approve the 2009 Legislative Program as detailed in the agenda item **passed 9-0**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Ms. Hone, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, and Mr. Storck were absent.

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- 4.03 Donation of Surplus School Buses** – Donate surplus buses to the Liberian Development Foundation, as detailed in the agenda item (FTS; presented as new business 10/23/08; Exhibit G)

[Clerk's note: As announced at the beginning of the meeting, this item was removed from the agenda and will be rescheduled for the November 17, 2008, regular meeting.]

- 4.04 Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting**

There was no action taken in the closed meeting.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.01 Minutes** – Approve the minutes of the October 23, 2008, regular School Board meeting (SB; Exhibit H)
- 5.02 School Board Policy** – Adopt Policy 8542, Environmental Stewardship, as reviewed and discussed at the Policy work session (FTS; work session held 7/14/08; presented as new business 10/23/08; Exhibit I)
- 5.03 Additional Appointments** – Appoint individuals to serve on committees as listed in the agenda item (SB; Exhibit J)

Vice Chairman Smith stated that, without objection, the three items on the consent agenda would be adopted. Hearing no objection, the consent agenda was adopted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- 6.01 FY 2009 Midyear Budget Review** – Recommendation to approve revenue and expenditure changes reflected in the FY 2009 Midyear Budget Review as detailed in the agenda item (FS; work session held 10/31/08; action scheduled 11/17/08; Exhibit K)

Questions and comments included: The question about the impact of the enrollment growth from 2007-2008 and that was anticipated for the 2008-2009 school year, and the response that growth had occurred not only in the summer but throughout the 2007-2008 school year, resulting in 1,300 additional students; that the 2009-2010 school year enrollment projections predicted as many as 174,000 students; the entire staffing reserve had been depleted and increased enrollment could result in larger class sizes; and the budget review process would need to address that anticipated growth.

- 6.02 Award of Contract** – Recommendation to award the contract for the renovation of Great Falls Elementary School to the lowest responsive and responsible

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bidder and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; action scheduled 11/17/08; Exhibit L)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 6.03 School Board Policy** – Recommendation to adopt Policy 8170.3, Naming School Facilities and Dedicating Areas of School Facilities or Grounds, as reviewed and discussed at the Policy work session (FTS; work session held 10/6/08; action scheduled 11/17/08; Exhibit M)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 6.04 Secondary Course Offerings** – Recommendation to approve changes to the list of middle and high school course offerings for the 2009-2010 school year, as recommended by the Course Review Committee and as detailed in the agenda item (IS; action scheduled 11/17/08; Exhibit N)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 6.05 Sale of School Bonds** – Recommendation to approve and adopt the attached resolution, requesting that the Board of Supervisors issue and sell school bonds in the amount of \$156,600,000, on behalf of the School Board and for the benefit of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FS; action scheduled 11/17/08; Exhibit O)

There was no discussion of this item.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**

The Superintendent presented informational items.

8. **REPORTS** (Exhibit P)

October 27, 2008 - Program Review Committee

October 31, 2008 - Budget Work Session - Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Budget Liaison
Mid-year budget review; FY 2010 fiscal forecast; enrollment trends; Board-established criteria for budget decisions; and program review outcomes

October 29, 2008 - Joint School Board/Park Authority Meeting - Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Liaison

Joint effort to increase synthetic turf fields and increase community use of FCPS fields, and proposed FairfaxCorps project to incorporate student service to the community with support of parks

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November 6, 2008 – Linkage Work Session – Brad Center, Chairman

Review of October 17, 2008, Community Leadership Council (CLC) breakfast meeting; plans for the next CLC meeting in January; improved relations with community groups; and proposed linkage with the community in February regarding the transportation task force and later start times initiative

9. BOARD MATTERS

The Board Members made brief comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

11. DEBRIEF

The Board debriefed tonight's meeting.