

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board Jackson MS

Work Session No. 49/Linkage

December 4, 2008

49.01 Call to Order and Announcements

Committee Chairman Center convened the meeting at 5:15 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Elizabeth T. Bradsher (Springfield)

Brad Center (Lee)

Martina A. Hone (At Large; ABSENT)

Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack D. Dale; Assistant Superintendent for Communications and Community Outreach Barbara Hunter; and Deputy Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk Pat Charbonneau.

49.02 Discussion

Budget-Related Linkage—Modified Calendar Schools and Other Items (Exhibit A)

- Department of Communications and Community Outreach (DCCO) was working with cluster assistant superintendents and elementary principals to develop outreach plans for the seven elementary schools on the modified calendar;
- proposed plans addressed outreach timing, key audiences, identified issues, and methods of outreach;
- community and employee concerns that might be addressed included class size, the possibility of a furlough, reorganization of the Department of Special Services and its effect on schools, and adult education.

Review of Project Plan for Bell Schedule Linkage Activities

- Proposal for four to six community dialogues to be conducted in February 2009, to provide the background on the Transportation Task Force, an analysis of how a bell schedule change would impact families, and an opportunity for citizens to provide feedback in a format similar to study circles;
- an electronic format (i.e., survey, e-mail) would also be available through KIT or a web survey for citizens to provide feedback;
- Mrs. Hunter to develop a white paper on Linkage activities for the proposed bell schedule change to be presented to the School Board in January.

Planning for the Next Community Leadership Council (CLC) Meeting

- Topic for the January 16, 2009, meeting would be the FY 2010 Proposed Budget;
- Two to three discussion questions, along with information on the potential tiered budget reductions to be sent in advance to CLC members and SB members;
- goal of the discussion would be to determine budget priorities of CLC members.

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Community Outreach Activities Related to the Budget

- Proposal to schedule three community engagement meetings; participants by invitation only representing students, employee groups, and civic organizations;
- Objective would be to dialogue with citizens about budget priorities and to obtain a spectrum of views;
- further details would be provided at a future Linkage meeting;
- optimal timeline for outreach would be prior to the Board of Supervisors' fiscal decision on the budget transfer for FY 2010.

Student Dialogues

- For each dialogue, two Board members and the student representative would invite approximately 20-25 students from schools within their districts;
- discussion would be about four topics determined in advance, with perhaps two suggested by Board members and two suggested by the students;
- the student representative would be the meeting facilitator;
- scheduling and participation by Board members would be encouraged but voluntary.

School Board E-mail Auto Response

- School Board e-mail auto response to include links to current topics;
- frequency and content of the update to be determined at a future Linkage meeting.

Other

- Mrs. Strauss attended the recent FCCPTA meeting and provided attendees with clarification on budget issues.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.