

## MINUTES

### Fairfax County School Board

### Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 9

December 4, 2008

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

Chairman Storck convened the Board in public session at 6:44 p.m. with a quorum of members present:

Elizabeth T. Bradsher (Springfield)	Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
Brad Center (Lee)	James L. Raney (At Large)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)	Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Martina A. Hone (At Large; ABSENT)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon)
Kaye Kory (Mason; arr. 7 p.m.)	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 disciplinary matters concerning students pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(2); and 2) to protect the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(4). The motion **passed 10-0**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Mrs. Kory was not present for the vote; Ms. Hone was 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**

Chairman Storck 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 absent.

Chairman Storck thanked the members of the Lanier Middle School Symphonic Band, under the direction of Bryan Miles, for their performance of the national anthem.

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

Mr. Center 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 December 4, 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 11-0**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Ms. Hone was absent.

### **2.03 Announcements (Exhibit B)**

Chairman Storck announced that Ms. Hone was out of town due to a family emergency, and Mr. Ahmadi was ill. Mr. Raney announced that December 7, 2008, was National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

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

### **3.01 Spotlight on Learning – Hands on Science at Hollin Meadows Elementary School (Exhibit C)**

Comments included: congratulations on a wonderful program, and the outdoor program was in partnership with the American horticulture society and Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens.

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

Six speakers addressed the Board in the time reserved for public comment. Christine Jacobs addressed Agenda Item No. 4.01 Goal 1.; Sandra Hoch addressed Agenda Item No. 4.02 2009-2010 School Calendars; Leonard Bumbaca addressed Agenda Item No. 4.02 2009-2010 School Calendars and Agenda Item No. 6.02 School Board Policy; Mike Grasso addressed Laurel Hill Elementary School and Gatehouse II; and Megan McLaughlin and Sara Pacque-Margolis addressed Fairgrade.

Comments and questions included: the request that the Superintendent be prepared to discuss at the December 8, 2008, work session any alternatives to suspending Policy 4680, Salary Redlining Procedure, and the impact such

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suspension would have on employees. Dr. Dale announced that the report on FCPS grading policies, worked on collaboratively by FCPS staff and Fairgrade members, was expected in mid-December, with copies to be provided to the School Board.

### 3.03 Student Representative Matters

There were no student matters.

## 4. ACTION ITEMS

- 4.01 Goal 1.** - Accept the monitoring report on the current progress toward attaining Student Achievement Goals 1.1.2. Math, 1.1.3. Science, 1.5. Effectively use technology to access, communicate, and apply knowledge and to foster creativity, and Goal 1 Overview (IS; presented as new business 11/17/08; Exhibit E)

Mrs. Smith moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to accept the monitoring report on the current progress toward attaining Student Achievement Goals 1.1.2. Math, 1.1.3. Science, 1.5. Effectively use technology to access, communicate, and apply knowledge and to foster creativity, and Goal 1 Overview.

The comment was made that the monitoring report demonstrated student success and narrowing of the achievement gap.

The motion to accept the monitoring report on the current progress toward attaining Student Achievement Goals 1.1.2. Math, 1.1.3. Science, 1.5. Effectively use technology to access, communicate, and apply knowledge and to foster creativity, and Goal 1 Overview **passed 11-0**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Ms. Hone was absent.

- 4.02 2009-1010 School Calendars** - Approve the 2009-2010 school calendars as detailed in the agenda item (HR; work session held 11/10/08; presented as new business 11/17/08; Exhibit F)

Ms. Bradsher moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, to approve the 2009-2010 school calendars as detailed in the agenda item.

Mr. Center moved, and Mrs. Kory seconded, to amend the main motion by designating October 12 as a student school day (instead of a student holiday on Columbus Day) and designating December 23 as a student holiday.

Discussion of the amendment included: community members had expressed a preference for the stability of known holidays for planning purposes; many

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families had already made plans, including monetary commitments, for the 2009 Columbus Day holiday weekend; the Human Relations Advisory Committee supported maintaining the Columbus Day holiday; concern that if Wednesday, December 23, were a holiday, students and staff would also be absent Monday and Tuesday, December 21 and 22, and instructional time would be lost; calendar adjustment to allow for an extra day for winter break could be accomplished by adding an extra day at the end of the school year, however, in this instance it would not be practical to add another day since the last student day of the 2009-2010 school year was already scheduled for June 22; and suggestion that there be a discussion on the possibility of providing a two-week winter break in the future.

The motion to amend the main motion by designating October 12 as a student school day (instead of a student holiday on Columbus Day) and designating December 23 as a student holiday **failed 4-7**: Mr. Center, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, and Mr. Storck voted "aye"; Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "nay"; Ms. Hone was absent.

Discussion on the main motion continued: a question on the status of the modified school calendar with the current budget constraints; response that approving the 2009-2010 calendars did not preclude removing the modified calendar at a later date, but a decision regarding the modified calendar would need to be made early in 2009 to provide time for notification to families, school staffing, and transportation planning; and advocacy for maintaining the modified schedule as those schools had improved student scores.

The motion to approve the 2009-2010 school calendars as detailed in the agenda item **passed 10-1**: Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Ms. Bradsher voted "nay"; Ms. Hone was absent.

### 4.03 Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to deny the parent's request for a student's reassignment to the base school following the student's suspension, but permit attendance in an alternative education program, on the terms recommended by the Division Superintendent. The motion **passed 11-0**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Ms. Hone was absent.

Having served as chairman of a three-member committee along with Ms. Bradsher and Mrs. Kory, Mrs. Strauss moved, and Ms. Bradsher seconded, to expel a student for possession of weapons at school. The motion **passed unanimously**.

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Having served as chairman of a three-member committee along with Mrs. Strauss and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, to expel a student for violation of probationary conditions imposed by school officials. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served as chairman of a three-member committee along with Ms. Bradsher and Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Smith moved, and Ms. Bradsher seconded, to expel a student for defiance of and assault upon a school staff member. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to excuse from attendance at school a student identified in closed meeting pursuant to Virginia code Section 22.1-254 (B)(1). The **motion passed 11-0:** Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Ms. Hone was absent.

### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.01 **Minutes** – Approve the minutes of November 10, 2008, Budget work session and November 17, 2008, regular School Board meeting (SB; Exhibit G)
- 5.02 **Award of contract** - Award the contract for the renovation of Mount Eagle Elementary School to R.J. Crowley, Inc., in the amount of \$7,350,000, and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board (FTS; presented as new business 11/17/08; Exhibit H)

Chairman Storck stated that, without objection, the two items on the consent agenda would be adopted. Hearing no objection, the consent agenda **was adopted.**

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

- 6.01 **Award of Contract** - Recommendation to award the contract for the chiller replacement at Herndon High School 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; action scheduled 12/18/08; Exhibit I)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 6.02 **School Board Policy** - Recommendation to suspend Policy 4680, Salary Redlining Procedure, as described in the agenda item, for budgetary reasons effective January 1, 2009; further direct the Superintendent to suspend the redlining provisions of any implementing regulations, effective January 1, 2009; the suspension of the policy and implementing regulations shall remain in effect

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until further School Board action (HR; work session held 12/8/08; action scheduled 12/18/08; Exhibit J)

Comments and questions included: employee groups had supported suspension of this policy with the expectation that the savings generated would result in a reduction in the number of positions to be eliminated in the FY 2010 budget; and a question on the amount of savings that would be generated if the second red-lined year were eliminated, both for employees currently in the first red-lined year and for employees subject to future changes in position made to benefit the school system; a response would be provided at the December 8, 2008 work session.

### 7. **SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**

The Superintendent presented informational items.

*[Clerk's note: Dr. Dale presented Mr. Gibson with an autographed copy of "The Global Achievement Gap" by Tony Wagner, in honor of Mr. Gibson's recent installation as Virginia School Board Association President for 2008-2009.]*

### 8. **REPORTS** (Exhibit K)

#### **December 4, 2008 - Linkage Committee - Brad Center, Chairman**

Plans for January 16 Community Leadership Council (CLC) meeting; community outreach opportunities on the budget and transportation; Board member opportunities to dialogue with students.

#### **December 4, 2008 - Forum - Dan Storck, Chairman**

Alternative approach to elementary schools' half days on Mondays, and change in a budget public hearing date from January 26 to January 21, 2009.

### 9. **BOARD MATTERS**

The Board Members made brief comments.

### 10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

### 11. **DEBRIEF**

The Board debriefed tonight's meeting.