

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 11

January 8, 2009

1. **CLOSED MEETING**

Chairman Storck convened the Board in public session at 5:50 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)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon)
Kaye Kory (Mason; arr. 6:45)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mrs. Wilson seconded, that the Board go into closed session: (1) to discuss and consider disciplinary matters concerning students pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(2); and (2) to discuss and consider the assignment, performance, and discipline of specific public employees, pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1). The motion **passed 11-0**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Ms. Hone, 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.

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 7:05 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.

Chairman Storck thanked the members of the Forrest Edge Elementary School Advanced Orchestra, under the direction of Della Brown, for their performance of the national anthem.

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2.02 Annual School Board Organization – Elect chairman and vice chairman; designate meeting dates; approve School Board salaries and mileage reimbursements; appoint the clerk, deputy clerks, agents, and deputy agents (SB; Exhibit A)

Chairman Storck announced that Section 22.1-76 of the *Code of Virginia* specified that at the annual organization meeting, a school board shall elect one of its members as chairman and one as vice chairman, and shall approve other appointments and designations of responsibility necessary for Board operations during the year; and he turned the gavel over to Dr. Dale for the purpose of presiding over the election of the chairman.

Dr. Dale opened the floor to nominations for Chairman of the School Board.

Ms. Bradsher moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, that Daniel G. Storck be nominated as Chairman of the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Comments included the following: over the past two years as chairman, Mr. Storck had continued to provide steady leadership for the Board; concern that it was important for the role of chairman to rotate among Board members; there were many controversial issues currently facing the Board, including a grim budget year, setting boundaries for two new elementary schools, and a review of FCPS grading regulations, and having continuity in the chairmanship was important.

Hearing no other nominations, the motion that Daniel G. Storck be elected Chairman of the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia **passed 11-1**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Ms. Hone, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted “aye”; Mr. Gibson voted “nay.”

Dr. Dale turned the gavel over to Chairman Storck, who thanked the Board for the honor of continuing to serve as chairman; he noted that since the Board was considering a proposal to move the annual organizational meeting from January to July, he had agreed to serve as chairman until that time.

Several Board members expressed appreciation to Mrs. Smith for her dedicated service as vice chairman for the past two years and her strong commitment to the community and the students of Fairfax County.

Chairman Storck opened the nominations for Vice Chairman.

Mr. Center moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, that Tessie Wilson be nominated as Vice Chairman of the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia.

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Mrs. Kory moved, and Mr. Moon seconded, that Tina Hone be nominated as Vice Chairman of the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Comments about Mrs. Wilson included: her eight years of Board experience was a valuable benefit, including having served on numerous Board committees such as Facilities, Linkage, and Audit; she was a diligent worker on behalf of all students, and would offer a valued perspective and balanced approach to the position.

Comments about Ms. Hone included: serving as an at-large member would provide an important countywide perspective; she was open to diverse opinions; she would offer a fresh approach, and would be a voice for those who could not advocate for themselves.

Chairman Storck called for the vote for the Vice Chairman candidates in the order in which they were nominated: Mrs. Wilson received 7 “aye” votes from Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson; Ms. Hone received 5 “aye” votes from Ms. Hone, Mrs. Kory, Mr. Moon, Mr. Raney, and Mr. Storck. Mrs. Wilson, with a majority of 7 votes, was named the new Vice Chairman of the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Mrs. Wilson thanked her colleagues for their support, and Ms. Hone congratulated Mrs. Wilson.

Mr. Moon moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to recommend that the School Board authorize organizational arrangements and appointments as follows: 1) designate the following as regular business meeting dates: January 22, February 5 and 19, March 5 and 19, April 2 and 23, May 7 and 21, June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, September 10 and 24, October 8 and 22, November 5 and 16 (Monday), December 3 and 17, 2009, and January 7, 2010. Regular business meetings are typically held on Thursdays. Special meetings, Board committee work sessions, and other special functions will also be scheduled. Committees of three Board members hear student disciplinary cases in closed meetings, typically on Tuesdays. The Board does not meet in August. The Board's calendar of meeting dates will be based on the school year and will be initially set and published in July; 2) Set the salary of Board members at \$20,000 per year and that of the Board Chairman at \$22,000, and reimburse for local mileage at the Federal mileage reimbursement rate for official School Board business travel; 3) compensate the student representative for attendance at public meetings not to exceed \$50 per day and reimburse for local mileage at the Federal mileage reimbursement rate for official School Board business travel; 4) approve Richard Moniuszko, Deputy Superintendent, to serve as the Superintendent's designee to attend any meeting of the School Board that the Superintendent cannot attend; 5) Appoint Pamela Goddard as Executive Assistant and Clerk of the School Board; 6) Appoint Patricia Charbonneau and Linda Sabo as Deputy Executive

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Assistants and Deputy Clerks of the School Board; 7) appoint John Quast and Brian Waymire as Deputy Clerks of the School Board for the limited purpose of signing titles to School Board vehicles; and appoint Gretchen Bear, Bok Nam DeGregoria, Arnold Dunbar, Diane Trabucco, Mary J. Thomas, and Roger A. Pearson as Deputy Clerks of the School Board for the limited purpose of countersigning payment warrants; 8) Appoint Anita Kapper, Doug Campbell, Bob Lausier, Mahmood Sheikh, William Brady, and Jerome Wilhelm as Agents of the School Board to examine, approve, and order payment of financial obligations of the Board; and appoint Natalia Nankovitch-Andersen, Kristen Fang, Mary Keninitz, Dalila Khalafi, Michael Lunter, Kevin McCarty, Joy Russom, Helen Shiflett, John Lako and Valerie Wolfe as Deputy Agents of the School Board to perform those functions in the absence of the Agents; 9) appoint William Brady as Agent of the School Board to approve disbursements made from all petty cash funds; 10) authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign all legal documents for the Board, other than those requiring the signature of some other officer; and authorize the Vice Chairman to sign in the absence of the Chairman, and the Deputy Clerks in the absence of the Clerk; 11) authorize Richard Moniuszko, Deputy Superintendent, and Susan Quinn, Chief Financial Officer, to execute official documents relating to state, federal, and impact aid requiring the Superintendent's signature; 12) retain Thomas J. Cawley, Esquire and the firm of Hunton & Williams to provide general legal advice and litigation services. Retain John Cafferky, Esquire, and the firm of Blankingship & Keith to provide special education legal services. Retain Michael Salveson and the firm of Littler Mendelsohn to provide workers compensation services; and 13) organize liaisons and committees to support the Board's work as follows: Audit Committee - Tessie Wilson, Chairman, and James Raney, Vice Chairman; Legislative Liaisons - Stuart Gibson (Federal) and Kaye Kory (State); Budget Liaisons - Phil Niedzielski-Eichner and Ilryong Moon (alternate); Governance - Kathy Smith, Chairman, and Kaye Kory, Ilryong Moon, and Dan Storck; Linkage - Brad Center, Chairman, and Elizabeth Bradsher, Martina Hone, and Jane Strauss. Board liaisons to committees are as follows: Adult and Community Education - James Raney; Advanced Academic Programs - Brad Center; Career and Technical Education - Dan Storck; Human Relations - Jane Strauss; Minority Student Achievement - Martina Hone; School Health - Elizabeth Bradsher; Students With Disabilities - Tessie Wilson; Title I and FECEP - Kaye Kory; Fairfax City School Board - Elizabeth Bradsher; Fairfax County Planning Commission - Ilryong Moon; Fairfax County Park Authority - Phil Niedzielski-Eichner; Community Criminal Justice Board - Martina Hone; and Partnership for Youth - Martina Hone and Kaye Kory; Fairfax Cares - Janie Strauss. The motion **passed unanimously**.

2.03 Certification of Closed Meeting Compliance (Exhibit B)

Mrs. Strauss 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

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meeting on January 8, 2009, 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 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"; Ms. Hone and Mrs. Kory abstained.

2.04 Announcements

There were no announcements.

3. PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD

3.01 Citizen Participation (Exhibit C)

Nine speakers addressed the Board in the time reserved for public comment. Megan McLaughlin, Todd Gaziano, Eileen Swoboda, George Longwell, Josephina Cervantes, Emily Goodnight, Ann Minter McKay, John O'Neil, and Steven Friedman addressed Agenda Item No. 6.02, Review of Grading Regulations.

3.02 FY 2010 Proposed Budget (Exhibit D)

Dr. Dale highlighted his FY 2010 proposed budget with a PowerPoint presentation. The \$2.2 billion proposed budget, which was a decrease of \$10.3 million, or 0.5 percent, from the FY 2009 approved budget, incorporated a projected student enrollment increase of approximately 5,000, included an increase in class size by 0.5 students, provided no salary or cost of living increases for employees, reduced many programs and services, and did not include any new programs or program expansions. Projected revenue loss in state funding as a result of reduced sales tax revenue added to the grim economic forecast.

Comments and questions included the following: the School Board faced the challenge of approving an advertised budget on February 5, after hearing from the community at public hearings scheduled for January 21 and 27; the requested funding from the Board of Supervisors would provide approximately 75 percent of the school system's revenue and an increase of 3.5 percent was requested to cover membership growth and a portion of the loss of state

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revenue; the Board of Supervisors would make their final decision on the transfer at the end of April; the budget was the most important issue currently facing the Board, and it was vital that the community become involved in determining what level and quality of services were needed in Fairfax County, as there would be an impact on every classroom; request for detailed information about trade-offs made between the three tiers that the Superintendent had developed for the budget, and what costs had been avoided across the departments; confirmation that winter track and the elementary modified calendar were not included in the proposed cuts for Tier 2, along with no recommendation to expand full-day kindergarten (except at the two new elementary schools at the Coppermine and Laurel Hill sites) or foreign language in the elementary schools (FLES) to any additional schools; the Board would discuss the budget in more detail at the January 12 and January 28 work sessions.

3.03 Student Representative Matters

The Student Representative presented informational items.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.01 Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting

Having served as chairman on a three-member committee, along with Mrs. Kory and Mr. Raney, Mr. Center moved, and Mr. Raney seconded, to expel a student for participation in a mob assault on another student at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served as chairman on a three-member committee, along with Ms. Hone and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mrs. Kory moved, and Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner seconded, to expel a student for possession and distribution of illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Having served as chairman on a three-member committee, along with Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Strauss, Ms. Bradsher moved, and Mrs. Strauss seconded, to expel five students – two for violation of probationary conditions of school assignments, one for possession of weapons and illegal drugs at school, one for possession of a weapon at school, and one for possession and distribution of illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Gibson seconded, to deny the suspension appeals of six students who violated school rules, and to confirm, in each case, the disciplinary decision of the Division Superintendent. The motion **passed 10-0-2;** Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Moon, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted “aye”; Ms. Hone and Mrs. Kory abstained from the vote.

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5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.01 **Minutes** - Approve the minutes of December 18, 2008, regular School Board meeting (SB; Exhibit E)
- 5.02 **Award of Contract** - Award the contract for providing IRS Section 457(b) Plan Administrator services for FCPS employees to Great West Retirement Services effective April 1, 2009, and through the duration of the three (3) year contract, as recommended by the Office of Benefit Services and the Selection Advisory Committee (HR; presented as new business 12/18/08; Exhibit F)
- 5.03 **EHS/FECEP/HEAD START Policy Committee Appointments** - Confirm the elected members of the Fairfax County Public Schools Early Head Start (EHS)/Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP)/Head Start (HS) Policy Committee, as listed in the agenda item (IS; presented as new business 12/18/08; Exhibit G)
- 5.04 **Title I District Advisory Council Appointments** - Approve the membership of the Title I District Advisory Council, as listed in the agenda item (IS; presented as new business 12/18/08; Exhibit H)
- 5.05 **School Board Policy** - Adopt Policy 1530.1, Volunteers, as reviewed and discussed at the Policy work session (HR; work session held 12/8/08; presented as new business 12/18/08; Exhibit I)
- 5.06 **School Board Policy** - Adopt Policy 7510.3, Equipment Ownership and Use, as reviewed and discussed at the Policy work session (FS; work session held 12/8/08; presented as new business 12/18/08; Exhibit J)
- 5.07 **School Board Policy** - Adopt Policy 1100.4, Legal Authority, as reviewed and discussed at the Policy work session (SB; work session held 12/8/08; presented as new business 12/18/08; Exhibit K)
- 5.08 **School Board Policy** - Adopt Policy 1710.11, Citizen Advisory Committees to the School Board, as reviewed and discussed at the Governance work session (SB; work session held 12/8/08; presented as new business 12/18/08; Exhibit L)

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

- 6.01 **Proposed 2009-2010 Program/Attendance Area Adjustments** - Recommendation to 1) approve adjustments to school attendance areas, effective for the 2009-2010 school year, related to the opening of a new elementary school at the Coppermine site as shown in Appendix A; and 2) approve adjustments to school attendance areas, effective for the 2009-2010 school year, related to the opening of a new elementary school at the Laurel Hill site as shown in Appendix B (FTS; work session scheduled 1/12/09; action scheduled 2/19/09; Exhibit M)

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Director of Facilities Planning Services Denise James highlighted a PowerPoint presentation of the staff's boundary recommendations for the two new elementary schools at the Coppermine and Laurel Hill sites that were scheduled to open in September 2009. Cluster VIII Assistant Superintendent Betsy Goodman noted that questions from the community had included McNair Elementary School's status as a Title I school and the provision of Gifted and Talented services; Cluster V Assistant Superintendent Betsy Fenske noted that staff was recommending keeping the GT center at Lorton Station Elementary School; and Dr. Dale confirmed that the proposed budget included funding for full-day kindergarten at both new elementary schools, as there were critical needs there, but the final decision was dependent on the budget.

Board members asked questions about the options that were included in the recommendations, which would balance student enrollment, concerns expressed about the ability to relieve overcrowding at Floris ES, and the transportation issues affecting Halley Elementary students as a result of the Laurel Hill recommendation; comment that future boundary decisions should be made from a regional perspective; the issue of the availability of School Aged Child Care (SACC) would need to be addressed with the Board of Supervisors; and appreciation was expressed for staff's efforts to be responsive to questions and comments from the community.

6.02 Review of Grading Regulations - Recommendation to approve option 2., change weights only, as recommended by the Superintendent (S; work session scheduled 1/12/09; action scheduled 1/22/09: Exhibit N)

Assistant Superintendent of Accountability Patrick Murphy highlighted the staff's recommendation with a PowerPoint presentation; he noted that currently grade point averages (GPA) in FCPS were computed on a six-point scale, and concerns from parents had been raised about whether the methods for computing grades and applying weight for advanced courses adversely affected FCPS students who were applying for college admissions, honors program placements, and merit-based scholarship awards; after an analysis of those concerns, the Superintendent recommended implementing increased weighting for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses retroactively on those transcripts issued at the end of the 2008-2009 first semester.

Comments and questions included the following: the report had indicated 75 schools in 12 states had recently changed to a ten-point grading scale in the past three years, and a question about which school divisions had changed; comment that none of the school districts that had changed to a ten-point scale were similar in size to Fairfax County; concern expressed that the report had taken so long to complete, but confirmation that rigorous research on the issue had been accomplished; questions about why there was a grading scale, how the current scale measured against a ten-point scale, and what were the disadvantages of changing to a ten-point scale; one of the school system's goals was to increase

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the graduation rate and close the achievement gap, and changing the grading scale could contribute to those issues; concern expressed about expectations that could be raised with any change to the grading scale; request that staff analyze which classes should qualify for weighting as an honors course; the Board would have further discussion on the issue at the January 12 work session.

- 6.03 Alternative Accreditation Plan Requests for Key and Kilmer Centers -** Recommendation to approve the Alternative Accreditation Plan requests for Key and Kilmer Centers, as detailed in the agenda item (A; action scheduled 1/22/09; Exhibit O)

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

- 6.04 School Board Organizational Meeting Schedule -** Recommendation to change the annual organizational meeting from January of each year to July of each year, effective July 9, 2009, and as authorized by Section 22.1-72(iii) of the Code of Virginia (SB; action scheduled 1/22/09; Exhibit P)

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**

The Superintendent presented informational items.

8. **REPORTS** (Exhibit Q)

January 8, 2009 – Linkage – Brad Center, Chairman

Projected Linkage Activities for Potential Bell Schedule Change; Review of Community Leadership Council (CLC) Meeting Plans

January 8, 2009 – Forum – Dan Storck, Chairman

Citizen Participation Guidelines; Fairfax Cares Liaison; Board of Supervisors/School Board Ad Hoc Committee Update

9. **BOARD MATTERS**

The Board Members made brief comments.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 a.m.

11. **DEBRIEF**

The Board debriefed tonight's meeting.