

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Gatehouse Administration Center I

Work Session No. 63/Instruction

January 12, 2009

63.01 Call to Order and Announcements

Meeting Manager Smith convened the meeting at 1:38 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Elizabeth T. Bradsher (Springfield)
Brad Center (Lee)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)
Martina A. Hone (At Large)
Kaye Kory (Mason)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence)
James L. Raney (At Large)
Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Daniel G. Storck (Mount Vernon)
Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Division Superintendent Jack Dale; Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pam Goddard; Deputy Executive Assistants and Deputy Clerks of the Board Pat Charbonneau and Linda Sabo; Executive Administrative Assistant Andrea Shimer; and certain other individuals. The Student Representative to the School Board Arvin Ahmadi was present.

DISCUSSION

63.02 Review of Grading Policy (Exhibit A)

- Dr. Dale reviewed his recommendation to the Board:
 - to change the weight of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) classes from 0.5 to 1.0 retroactively effective January 2009, and
 - to increase the weight of honors classes and dual enrollment classes to 0.5 beginning in the fall 2009; staff needed to evaluate classes to determine those that would qualify and whether it could be done retroactively.
- Board discussed:
 - impact of changing AP/IB weighting retroactively;
 - importance of detailed evaluation of all classes to make sure they qualified for weighting with implementation in fall 2009;
 - possibility of reporting both a weighted and unweighted GPA on transcript; and
 - impact of postponing until fall 2009 all changes to weighting of classes.

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- Consensus that the Superintendent conduct a timely study of the grading scale and return to the Board with options for 2009-10 school year implementation using the parameters discussed.
- Grading policy issue scheduled for vote at January 22 regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.