

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

School Board Retreat No. 1

July 17 and 18, 2009

Friday, July 17, 2009
Fairfax High School
George Stepp Library
3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030

1.01 Call to Order and Announcements

Chairman Smith convened the meeting on Friday, July 17, at 1 p.m. with the following members present:

Elizabeth T. Bradsher (Springfield)	James L. Raney (At Large)
Brad Center (Lee; arr. 1:10 p.m.)	Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon)
Martina A. Hone (At Large)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Kaye Kory (Mason; ABSENT)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Vacant (Providence)

[Clerk's note: Effective June 18, 2009, Providence district member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner resigned; the seat will remain vacant until the November 2009 special election.]

Also present were Superintendent Jack Dale; Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pam Goddard; Deputy Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk Pat Charbonneau; Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Peter Noonan; Principals Brian Butler, Mount Eagle ES, Deborah Tyler, Eagle View ES, Dan Parris, Rocky Run MS, and Mark Merrell, Madison HS; and Linda Dawson and Randy Quinn of the Aspen Group. Student Representative to the Board Shawn Ghuman was present (dep. 4:20).

DISCUSSION

1.02 Topics (Exhibit A)

- Report from four principals on strategies employed in their schools, including emphasis on professional learning communities, that had produced success in narrowing the achievement gap and communicating to students that failure was not an option;
- discussion of additional language for Goal 1 on closing the achievement gap with consensus to send the proposed language to the Governance Committee before Board action;
- discussion of Board priorities on people, programs, and budget as related to student achievement, linkages with the community, and advocacy with local, state, and federal officials and the Fairfax County community;
- need to develop a strategic, multi-tiered, focused communication plan;
- Board's monitoring of its own performance and engaging in professional development to maximize governance effectiveness.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Retreat No. 1

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July 17 and 18, 2009

Saturday, July 18, 2009
Fairfax High School
George Stepp Library
3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030

1.01 Call to Order and Announcements

Chairman Smith convened the meeting on Saturday, July 18, at 8:35 a.m. with the following members present:

Elizabeth T. Bradsher (Springfield)	James L. Raney (At Large)
Brad Center (Lee)	Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon)
Martina A. Hone (At Large; arr. 12:10)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Kaye Kory (Mason; ABSENT)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Vacant (Providence)

[Clerk's note: Effective June 18, 2009, Providence district member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner resigned; the seat will remain vacant until the November 2009 special election.]

Also present were Superintendent Jack Dale; Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pam Goddard; Deputy Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk Pat Charbonneau; Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Peter Noonan; Carol Horn, coordinator, Gifted and Talented Elementary School Team; and Linda Dawson and Randy Quinn of the Aspen Group. Student Representative to the Board Shawn Ghuman was absent.

DISCUSSION

1.02 Topics (Exhibit A)

- Discussion on advanced academic programs with consensus on the following themes for further discussion:
 - retain elementary GT centers
 - do not eliminate Level IV services, but explain expectations of Level IV services more clearly
 - discuss the differences in a student's experience in a center versus Level IV setting
 - determine how many and what schools should add Level IV services and what selection criteria would be used;
 - decide whether a center's mission should be modified as Level IV services increase;
 - decide how to fund training for centers versus Level IV teachers
 - decide whether to provide GT center transportation
- Board self-assessment with regard to Board roles and responsibilities, role of the chair, and governance commitments and processes;
- discussion of Board meetings including: Board conduct, time limits on discussion, and end reports for each goal with three to four questions for discussion;
- discussion of strategic governance effectiveness—"What does it look like, done right?"

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.