

## MINUTES

### Fairfax County School Board Luther Jackson Middle School

Regular Meeting No. 14

February 17, 2010

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

Mr. Gibson moved, and Mr. Storck seconded, that the Board go into closed meeting to discuss and consider disciplinary matters concerning students pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(2) of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed 10-0: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Gibson, Ms. Hone, Mr. Moon, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Mr. Center was not present for the vote; with the Mason district seat vacant.

Chairman Smith convened the closed meeting at 6:39 p.m.

#### 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/National Anthem – Longfellow Middle School Singers**

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present:

Elizabeth T. Bradsher (Springfield)	Patricia S. Reed (Providence)
Brad Center (Lee; arr. 6:40)	Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill)	Daniel G. Storck (Mt. Vernon)
Martina A. Hone (At Large)	Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)	Tessie Wilson (Braddock)
James L. Raney (At Large)	Vacant (Mason)

*[Clerk's note: Effective January 12, 2010, Mason district member Kaye Kory resigned; the seat will remain vacant until the March 2010 special election.]*

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 Yvette Rhodes; and certain other members of staff. Student Representative Shawn Ghuman was absent.

Chairman Smith thanked the members of the Longfellow Middle School Singers under the direction of Molly Khatcheressian for their performance of the national anthem.

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

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Gibson 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 February 17, 2010, 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 unanimously** with the Mason district seat vacant.

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

Mrs. Wilson announced that March 2, 2010, was Read Across America Day.

*[Clerk's note: Dr. Dale announced that February was School Board Appreciation Month in Virginia; this year's theme was "Celebrating Leadership" and he was honored to recognize their leadership and dedication to the children of Fairfax County; he presented each Board member with a certificate and photographs were taken.]*

### **2.04 Recognition of Facilities and Transportation Services staff members (Exhibit C)**

On behalf of the entire School Board, Ms. Hone recognized Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services Dean Tistadt for the tremendous effort that had been performed by Facilities Management staff members in preparing schools and offices to re-open after the recent record-breaking snowstorms that had closed schools February 5 through February 15; approximately 100 staff members had spent over 7,500 hours clearing 625,000 tons of snow, using 838,000 tons of sand/salt mix, at FCPS sites; and the entire community was grateful for all their hard work. Mr. Tistadt joined the Board for photographs and presentation of dump truck toys as a symbolic gesture.

### **2.05 Recognition of National Social Work Month (Exhibit D)**

Mr. Gibson recognized March as National Social Work Month and invited social workers who were in the audience to join the Board for photographs.

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

#### 3.01 **Citizen Participation** (Exhibit E)

There were no speakers scheduled to address the Board in the time reserved for public comment.

#### 3.02 **FY 2011 Budget Update** (Exhibit F)

Chief Financial Officer Susan Quinn summarized Governor McDonnell's budget reduction proposal, which had been released that morning; the state had an additional \$2.2 billion deficit to close, and the Governor's proposal included over \$700 million in reductions to K-12 education, as well as approximately \$800 million in savings from reduced payments to the Virginia Retirement System; most of the reductions were formula cuts targeted at support costs; the Virginia Education Association had previously estimated that reductions of this magnitude to K-12 education could result in an annual decrease of \$30 to 35 million to FCPS in the biennium budget; as part of the package Governor McDonnell had recommended unfreezing the Local Composite Index adjustment and restoring funding for the School Technology Program; the House and the Senate budgets were not scheduled to be released until February 21, and therefore it was too early to determine any specific impacts at this time.

#### 3.03 **Student Representative Matters**

There were no student representative matters.

### 4. **ACTION ITEMS**

- 4.01 **Award of Contract** - Award a contract for the new construction of the South County Middle School to Sigal Construction Corporation in the amount of \$21,950,000 and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board. (FTS; presented as new business 2/4/10; Exhibit G)

Mr. Storck moved, and Ms. Bradsher seconded, to award a contract for the new construction of the South County Middle School to Sigal Construction Corporation in the amount of \$21,950,000 and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board.

Comments included the following: appreciation expressed to the many advocates who had worked tirelessly on behalf of the South County community; concern expressed about the impact of previous boundary decisions by the Board; question why there was such a difference between the initial construction estimate of \$75 million and the current contract cost of \$22 million; response that

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three factors had contributed to the lower cost: the size of the school was smaller than originally planned and would accommodate 1,250 students instead of 1,500 students; the land exchange with the Park Authority had resulted in less site work required; and market conditions were much more favorable now.

The motion to award a contract for the new construction of the South County Middle School to Sigal Construction Corporation in the amount of \$21,950,000 and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contract on behalf of the School Board **passed 10-1**: Ms. Bradsher, Mr. Center, Ms. Hone, Mr. Moon, Mr. Raney, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Storck, Mrs. Strauss, and Mrs. Wilson voted "aye"; Mr. Gibson voted "nay"; with the Mason district seat vacant.

*[Clerk's note: Although the motion approved by the Board was to award the contract "for the new construction of the South County Middle School" the school had not yet been through the official naming process, and therefore the contract was actually "for the new construction of the middle school at the South County site."]*

### 4.02 Confirmation of Action Taken in Closed Meeting

Mrs. Strauss moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to expel a student for possession of illegal drugs at school. The motion **passed unanimously** with the Mason district seat vacant.

Mr. Storck moved, and Mr. Center seconded, to expel a student for numerous acts of misconduct at school. The motion **passed unanimously** with the Mason district seat vacant.

Mrs. Wilson moved, and Ms. Bradsher seconded, to expel a student for violation of the probationary conditions of a school assignment. The motion **passed unanimously** with the Mason district seat vacant.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

**5.01 Minutes** - Approve the minutes of February 4, 2010, regular School Board meeting (SB; Exhibit H)

**5.02 Monthly Separation Report** - Confirm the separations for the period beginning January 1, 2010, and ending January 31, 2010, as detailed in the agenda item (HR; Exhibit I)

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

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### 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 6.01 Snow Makeup Days** - Recommendation that the School Board extend the school day by 30 minutes from March 8, 2010 - June 21, 2010, and use the scheduled teacher workday on April 12, 2010, as a student day in order to make up missed days due to inclement weather for the 2009-2010 school year; and increase the school day in modified calendar schools in the same manner with the exception of using April 16, 2010, as the full makeup day instead of April 12, 2010. (HR; action scheduled 3/4/10; Exhibit J)

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Kevin North reviewed the agenda item's three options, noting that students had missed ten days of school already this year as a result of the recent record-breaking snowstorms that had closed schools from February 5 through February 15, 2010; the approved 2009-2010 calendar already designated February 15, 2010, and April 12, 2010, as student makeup days, and added June 23, 2010, and June 24, 2010, to the end of the year; since February 15, 2010, had been used as a snow day instead of a makeup day, one additional day would have to be made up, potentially adding June 25, 2010, to the end of the year; instead staff was recommending Option 1, which was to use the April 12, 2010, teacher workday as a student makeup day, and add 30 minutes to each school day from March 8 through June 21, 2010, to add instructional time to the school day prior to the end of school, instead of adding days to the end of the year; Dr. Dale was requesting the three principal associations provide their recommendations on the three options being considered prior to the Board's scheduled vote on March 4.

Discussion and comments included the following: a waiver request could not be submitted to the state until after FCPS had made every effort to make up the lost days, so that was not an option at this time; currently, the calendar had three days built in that did not have to be made up, then missed days four, five, seven, and nine had to be made up, and the sixth, eighth, and tenth missed days were automatically waived by the state; if more days were lost, every other day would have to be made up, in addition to the four already missed; request for information to be provided to the Board prior to the March 4 vote on a number of possible issues, including early release on Mondays, extending instructional time on Mondays for elementary schools, adding time to the beginning of the school day instead of the end, impacts for each suggested option (such as transportation, athletics, family vacation plans, instructional learning opportunities), what consequences resulted from the Board's decision in March 2003 to add 30 minutes to the school day for a three-week period, whether adding 15 minutes (instead of 30) to the school day from March 8 through June 21, 2010, could make up the required time if the rest of the approved 2009-2010 calendar was followed, how future delayed openings or early releases would affect the options, whether staff had considered using Spring break or the Memorial Day holiday for makeup purposes, and whether there was a possibility of moving the timelines for SOL and AP/IB testing, concern that it was important

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for the decision to be in the best instructional interest of all students, and the lost instructional time would ultimately be reflected in test results; two state delegates were working on a specific state waiver due to the unusual circumstances of the snowstorms, but it was too early to predict the outcome of that effort, and yet 40 percent of Virginia's school districts opened school prior to Labor Day and the Board would continue to advocate for this issue with the General Assembly; the Board welcomed the community's comments on this issue, encouraged creative thinking to solve the problem, and reminded everyone to check the FCPS web site for updates on this topic.

- 6.02 Award of Contracts** - Recommendation to award the contracts for re-roofing phases 1-10 through 5-10 at Marshall Road Elementary, Little Run Elementary, Hunt Valley Elementary, Forestdale Elementary, and Falls Church High Schools to the lowest responsive and responsible bidders and authorize the Division Superintendent, or his designee, to execute the contracts on behalf of the School Board. (FTS; action scheduled 3/4/10; Exhibit K)

There was no discussion of this item.

- 6.03 Award of Contract** - Recommendation to award a contract for the renovation of Westlawn Elementary 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 3/18/10; Exhibit L)

There was no discussion of this item.

### 7. **SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**

The Superintendent presented informational items.

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

#### **February 16, 2010**

**Smart Savings Task Force** - Dan Storck

#### **February 17, 2010**

**Governance Committee** - Brad Center, Chairman

#### **February 17, 2010**

**Audit Committee** - James Raney, Chairman

#### **February 17, 2010**

**Forum on Board Topics** - Kathy Smith, Chairman

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**9. BOARD MATTERS**

The Board Members made brief comments.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**11. DEBRIEF**

The Board debriefed tonight's meeting.