

MINUTES

Fairfax County School Board

Gatehouse Administration Center I

Work Session No.124/ **Instruction and Special Services**

May 26, 2010

124.01 Call to Order and Announcements

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with the following Board members present:

Elizabeth T. Bradsher (Springfield)
Brad Center (Lee; ABSENT)
Sandra S. Evans (Mason)
Stuart D. Gibson (Hunter Mill; ABSENT)
Martina A. Hone (At Large)
Ilryong Moon (At Large; ABSENT)

James L. Raney (At Large)
Patricia R. Reed (Providence)
Kathy L. Smith (Sully)
Daniel G. Storck (Mount Vernon; arr: 7:19)
Jane K. Strauss (Dranesville)
Tessie Wilson (Braddock)

Also present were Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko; Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board Pam Goddard; Executive Administrative Assistant Kathy Partlow; Chairman Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee John Johnson; Vice Chairman Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee Arthur Lopez; Co-Chairmen Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) Lisa Fagan and Maureen Nameroff; Co-Chairman Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee Beverly Shaklee and Laura Walter; and certain other individuals. The Student Representative to the School Board Shawn Ghuman was present.

DISCUSSION

124.02 Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee 2010 Annual Report (Exhibit A)

- Committee co-chairs reported that parents were confused by the similarity in name (Level IV) of services offered in advanced academic centers and at the base school; recommendation to either change names or to increase information outreach to parents for clarity; recommended a “trickle down” dissemination of information from the Board, to the principals, to the resource teachers for ensured consistency in defining services to parents;
- committee had received the recommendation for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology revised admission standards but did not examine the issues;
- committee was unsure what impact AP/IB fees would have on free and reduced meal students; anecdotal data was unavailable, but committee planned to monitor level of participation in testing during the coming year;
- committee did not discuss impact of newly implemented grading scale, no baseline data was available measuring the effect on scholarships; question whether staff had been asked to perform a baseline study as part of the grading scale motion, response that staff would need to check the motion’s wording.

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124.03 Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee 2010 Annual Report (Exhibit B)

- Discussion of letter which was distributed to Board members by committee's chair and vice chair, independent of the MSAOC annual report;
- committee members had not discussed the schedule for Priority Schools Initiative, but expressed concern that schools that had demonstrated improvement but were not on the list could be in jeopardy of losing resources;
- question whether committee envisioned a role for the community and parents in closing the achievement gap; response that committee recommended advocacy, outreach, and education for parents in providing support to students;
- committee believed the single most important return had been and continued to be pre-school enrichment.

124.03 Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities 2010 Annual Report (Exhibit C)

- Committee co-chairs reported continued struggles in changing the limited perception of twice exceptional students and in providing them with appropriate services; recommended additional training for general education teachers to become advocates for these students and to meet their needs;
- committee noted that ACSD students comprised a minority and many of these students were minorities; question as to how to create synergy between this committee, AAPAC, and MSAOC since each committee served a minority population; response that it could be incorporated into committee's charge; committees could collaborate in reaching out to the community, liaisons could work with their committees to identify potential synergistic strategies.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.