

**Business and Community Advisory Council
February 10, 2009**

Welcome

Andrea Sobel opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She invited all to send her any ideas or topics for discussion or possible speakers for future meetings. Roundtable introductions began with Andrea Sobel.

Superintendent Update

Dr. Dale began with the budget updates. The budget was adopted but will not be final until April. They are asking for a 3.5% increase but actually need 12% to break even. Further reductions will be needed. State level revenue has gone down. The \$19M for capital enhancement was removed. Title 1 funds are at \$7M with Special Education funds at \$19M. Gatehouse II plan was improved by \$66M, resulting in savings being tripled since original proposal. If this is passed by board of supervisors, there would be 60 fewer teaching positions that would be eliminated. Currently, Lacy Center is 115%- 146% capacity. Now would be a good time to purchase the property due to the current commercial real estate market.

A survey has been sent out regarding changing the start time for school. There are several public meetings scheduled to encourage community dialog.

Discussion

Question: Concerning the purchase of Gatehouse II, is there a savings on the return on investment?

Answer: Yes. The purchase price was reduced, there will be less refurbishing of the new building, and will not be purchasing new furniture.

Question: How are the stimulus numbers calculated?

Answer: Special education is the same amount of increase across the nation. Title 1 is calculated by census based on the poverty level.

Question: Will the proposed new start time affect the busing schedule?

Answer: There is currently a task force evaluating the whole region. With the change in schedule, it may mean that students will not have the same bus driver in the morning as in the afternoon. If the bell schedule is changed, this would not result in additional costs.

Question: Will there be evaluations on an annual basis?

Answer: There will be a complete redesign behind the technology stages by upgrading and combining services.

Question: What are the start times for the Elementary School Level?

Answer: There are 3 tiers of start times for the proposed bell schedule. Elementary school will focus the bulk on tier 1, the middle schools will be tier 3 and high schools will primarily focus on tier 1.

Peter Noonan, Assist. Supt., Instructional Services

How do we prepare our students to be workforce ready and college ready from pre-k and beyond? The changes in Instructional Services providing systematic approach and opportunities to students are broken down into ES teams, MS teams and HS teams. These teams are then broken into silos and then consideration on how to create opportunities are studied.

There is a variety of ways that the different schools can view how different subjects articulate throughout the county. The information provides the schools information and ways to improve within the clusters. Money needs to be used on pyramid planning. Academic goals are forced to plan backward to ensure the students receive the required proper classes to ensure moving forward from ES up through HS. Comparisons can be made between different pyramids to expand ways to teach. The Fairfax pyramid went to Falls Church pyramid to see how the ES schools impacted the MS and HS.

Faye Brenner, Educational Specialist for Advanced Academic Programs

Advanced Academics, formally known as Gifted and Talented, reflect an open access of programs. Students who take at least one advanced academics course need to look vertically at the research. This is a great predictor of the number of students who finish college. The teaching approach will provide different ways of learning through cases of real life experiences.

There will be a pilot program in 8 middle schools to see what impact it will have on the students. Students taking HL IB and AP classes will have a 1 weight added to their grade and Honor classes and SL IB classes will have a .50 added to the grade. For additional information, please refer to the handouts which were in the folders.

Frank Atchison, Coordinator of Mathematics K-12

The goal FCPS would like to reach is for every student to reach the full academic potential. Math specialists at each of the different levels could meet as a team to determine ways to interest student to go beyond Algebra 2. Teachers need to work with different contents to show how math is used in real life situations.

Parents need to know early in the elementary level what choices their child will have in the middle schools and high schools and what path needs to be taken so the child will be ready for the higher levels of math and the AP and Honors classes when they are at the high school level.

Bonnie Glazewski, Principal, OakView Elementary School

The Advanced Academics Programs (formally gifted and talented) now have the students going to their home school. This opens the door to more students being exposed to a broader academic service in all subjects.

Parents and students are given an overview of what the Advanced Academics Program consists of and what the expectations will be of the student.

Questions and discussion:

Is the decision to keep the students in the AAP at their base school being seen a positive choice?

Yes, it is best for all students. The students will be going to school within their neighborhood and it will also expose more students to the AAP and perhaps give greater opportunities to more students.

Not all students can handle accelerated math. How do we ensure that the student is not overly stressed in an area that is more difficult?

It is looked at on a case by case basis.

It seems that the class sizes are highest in the AP classes with an average of 24 students.

The class size varies from school to school.

Are the math classes incorporating money management into the curriculum?

Yes. There is a program starting in the 7th grade and going through high school where the students visit Finance Park and spend a day in the life of spending.

What benefits does FCPS receive from corporate America? Where are the financing and investments being distributed?

There are business partnerships between companies and schools.

Not all AP credits are accepted at all colleges.

The colleges look at the test grades and GPA

There seems to be more expectations regarding Algebra I. Is there additional training for the teachers?

MS teachers must be certified with an Algebra add on for a secondary certification.

The meeting ended at 9:30.