

**Business and Community Advisory Council**  
Minutes  
Meeting October 30, 2007

Todd Rowley opened the meeting and announced cochair Cathy Lange would not be able to attend. He then introduced Jack Dale for Superintendent's updates.

Dale said that the FY 2009 budget was going to be difficult because of low revenues. He expected his proposed budget would have no program expansion and a 3 percent market adjustment salary increase and would still be \$85 million (5 percent) short on the revenue side. The core value for developing this budget is to protect the classroom, but we cannot make up \$85 million without affecting the classroom to some extent. He said he is looking at summer school as a potential place to cut. The School Board will be discussing budget issues at its November 12 work session, which will be attended by both current and newly elected Board members; the current Board will remain in office through December. Dale also said that the school system is doing what it can to recoup funds in the current year (FY 2008) to increase the beginning balance for FY 2009.

Jeanine Martin asked if Dale thought the Board of Supervisors might raise tax rates to help fund the schools budget. Dale said we would need to wait and see.

Dale noted that there had been an unexpected countywide enrollment increase this year in Fairfax County and surrounding counties.

Luke Chung asked what percentage of this budget went to retirees. Dale said that pensions do not come out of the operating budget, but that some of the retiree health insurance subsidy does.

Dale presented the School Board's strategic governance effort, which includes the first robust evaluation of FCPS functions (e.g., finance, personnel, facilities, transportation) that are not directly educational.

Dale noted that the FCPS auditing function focuses on continuous improvement and positive feedback. The auditor reports to a committee that includes two School Board members and the Superintendent and deputy superintendent.

Brenda Greene noted that the food and nutrition program is mostly self-supporting and suggested that it might provide better nutrition were it subsidized.

Lynn Dysart asked whether a cost-benefit analysis had been done on noninstructional functions. Dale said it is difficult to determine what benefits are most important; every benefit has its supporters. Dysart also asked about progress toward having the ethnic makeup of employees as groups match that of students. Dale said FCPS is working hard on this.

Dale introduced Rich Moniuszko to discuss how the achievement of the School Board's goals for students will be measured (see PowerPoint presentation at link).

Anne Crossman asked if intervention strategies (project 5 under goal 1) will also involve looking at the effectiveness of teachers. Moniuszko said this is being considered as part of the project.

Chung asked what incentives will be created for students to achieve. Moniuszko said that the Board's goals 2 and 3 deal with this to some extent and the individualized learning program (ILP) will also deal with it. Bill Oehrlein said that the real problem is some students' acceptance of mediocrity, rather than lack of incentives.

Daraius Unwalla asked if FLES (foreign language in the elementary school) can coexist with partial-immersion programs. Moniuszko said it could.

Nell Hurley cited project 7 under goal 2 and asked whether parents' rights would be respected. Would students fail if they became obese or received traffic tickets? Moniuszko said outcomes in these areas would likely be measured by surveys and be part of discussions about individual students' ILPs.

Greene noted that collective data on wellness help improve programs to achieve wellness.

Joe Bury asked if those working on these projects will talk with parents as the projects move along. Moniuszko said they would.

Chung said that the abilities to present orally and to manage personal finances ought to be among the student achievement goals. He was assured that these are covered.

Moniuszko said the ILP project would take some time to develop.

Ginger Shea asked if strategic governance gives central administration additional control over schools. Moniuszko said it does not. He said the goals reflect community thinking. The School Board's objective is to get parents, schools, and support offices all on the same page. Parents are part of the school plan development process.

Kerri Harris asked if the work of developing ILPs would fall on teachers. Dale said that the project would clarify parents' role on the ILP and would limit the time that teachers need to devote to it.

Leonard Bumbaca said the ILP is a good idea but will be difficult to implement with existing resources.

Mosetta Whitaker said schools will need to educate parents on how they can be involved in developing ILPs.

Charlie Dane asked if anyone in FCPS is looking at what to stop doing when other tasks are added. Moniuszko said people involved in these projects are aware that this issue needs to be considered.

Dysart asked when there would be more detailed information on ILPs. Moniuszko said there would be more by the end of this school year and that ILPs would be implemented in high schools first.

Martin said that it looked like additional tasks would be added to the school day. Moniuszko said that much of this will be integrated into existing academic learning.

Martin said she is hearing many complaints from parents about "everyday math." Dale said he would look into this.

The meeting was adjourned.