

**Minutes  
City of Fairfax School Board  
Regular Meeting No. 3  
October 7, 2013  
10455 Armstrong Street  
City Hall, Room 100**

In attendance at this meeting were: Mrs. Janice Miller, Chairman; Mrs. Carolyn Pitches, Vice Chair; Mr. Jon Buttram, Member; Mrs. Toby Sorensen, Member; Dr. Mitch Sutterfield, Member; Mr. Ben Whetzel, Student Representative; Dr. Peter Noonan, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Ann Ryan, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Carrie Dorsey, Communications Specialist; and Mrs. Susan Wiczalkowski, Clerk of the Board.

**1. MEETING OPENING**

- 1.01 - Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** Mrs. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1.02 - Announcement of Changes to Agenda:** There were no changes to the Agenda.
- 1.03 - Other Announcements:** There were no other announcements.
- 1.04 - Presentation of VSBA Certificates:** Mrs. Miller presented certificates to Mr. Buttram, Mr. Sutterfield, and Mrs. Sorensen from the Virginia School Board Association.

**2. PRESENTATIONS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**

- 2.01 - Citizen Participation:** There was no citizen participation.
- 2.02 - Student Representative Report:** Mr. Ben Whetzel reported:  
Good evening, everyone!

Fairfax High School has had a very busy month, culminating in the celebration of the Homecoming events that took place this past Friday and Saturday. The theme for this year's homecoming was "Rebels Undercover," a James Bond or secret agent theme.

The traditional homecoming pep rally at Fairfax takes place inside the field house, but due to mechanical difficulties with the bleachers earlier in the week, the event took place in the stadium. All of the fall sports teams were able to introduce their players and the historic tie for homecoming king was announced. Seniors Kyle Wilkinson and Abu Ho received the exact number of votes, and they were both crowned at the event by last year's homecoming queen Kendra Atkinson.

Soon afterwards, the annual Homecoming Parade began, taking place along Old Lee Highway from 4:00 to 4:30. Nearly all of the Fairfax City School Board members were able to participate, and other notable figures that joined in include Mayor Scott Silverthorne, State Senator Chap Petersen and State Delegate David Bulova. Many different clubs and fall teams contributed in the parade, and each class produced a float as well. After judging, the Junior class float was declared the winner of the class competition during halftime of the football game.

Directly after the parade, the homecoming tailgate started. Numerous clubs participated in this event, and highlights included Fairfax High principal Mr. Goldfarb joining in the dunk tank event and the student run DJ booth.

Although the football team was defeated a week ago at the Westfield Dog Pound, the rebel hype squad delivered at the away game, arriving in full force to respond to a criticizing prediction from a local sports analyst website.

The Varsity Rebel football team defeated the Colonials on Friday night very solidly, scoring over forty points. The Varsity Field Hockey team will hopefully extend their five-game win streak this Thursday when they play Langley High School. On the Golf Team, Juniors Ruby Rim and Eric Joslin both achieved great success. Ruby qualified for the Girls State tournament and Eric finished his season at the Regional Tournament earlier this month.

At the football game on Friday, Simone Askew was crowned homecoming queen. The dance took place in the field house Saturday night from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., and the members of the homecoming court were introduced at 10 p.m. Simone shared a dance with each of the kings before the rest of the court joined in as well.

It's been quite a busy month, but the school is now in full swing. I think we all have a great year ahead of us. Thank you.

**2.03 – Update of Governor’s FY 2014 Budget:** Dr. Peter Noonan, Superintendent – Dr. Noonan updated the Board on Governor McDonnell’s FY 2014 budget. Dr. Noonan shared that this is a re-benchmarking year, which is one component in determining how much state aid is sent to each school division. The Local Composite Index (LCI) will also going be revisited. If there are changes to Fairfax County’s LCI, it may affect our tuition billing. Dr. Noonan mentioned that he is also watching where the VRS rate will be set. The Governor’s budget will be released on December 16, 2013. This is an interesting year for the budget because it’s possible one Governor will release the budget, however, a new Governor will be in place to pass the budget. This often leads to changes in the budget.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**3.01 – Five Year Capital Improvement Program:** Dr. Noonan shared this chart with the Board:

	TITLE	FUNDING SOURCE	ADOPTED FY 14	PROPOSED FY 15	PROPOSED FY 16	PROPOSED FY 17	PROPOSED FY 18	PROPOSED FY 19	TOTAL includes FY 14 - FY 18
1	PAVING	GENERAL		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$100,000
2	CONCRETE REPAIRS	GENERAL	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$120,000
3	HVAC	GENERAL		\$325,000	\$340,000				\$665,000
4	ROOF REPAIR & REPLACEMENT	GENERAL	\$125,000		\$500,000	\$500,000			\$1,125,000
5	FIELD HOUSE LIGHTS - FHS	GENERAL	\$250,000						\$250,000
6	STUCCO REPAIR/REPLACEMENT - FHS	GENERAL		\$50,000	\$50,000				\$100,000
7	HEALTH/SAFETY/ADA - ELEVATOR REPL - LMS	GENERAL					\$139,100		\$139,100
8	OTHER PROJECTS	GENERAL		\$25,000	\$25,000				\$50,000
9	CONTINGENCY - 10%	GENERAL		\$41,500	\$93,000	\$54,000	\$17,910	\$4,000	\$210,410
	TOTALS		\$395,000	\$481,500	\$1,048,000	\$594,000	\$197,010	\$44,000	\$2,759,510

Mrs. Miller continued the public hearing for citizen comment. No one addressed the Board regarding the Five Year Capital Improvement Program. Mrs. Miller closed the Public Hearing.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

**4.01 - Motion for Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2013:**

**Dr. Sutterfield moved that the City of Fairfax School Board approve the minutes of the September 9, 2013 regular School Board meeting as printed and distributed. Mrs. Sorensen seconded this motion. Mrs. Miller called for discussion, modifications or changes and hearing none, called for a vote, asking all those in favor to signify by saying ‘Aye’, those opposed ‘Nay’. The chair voted ‘Aye’. The vote was 5 – 0. The motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2013 regular School Board meeting passed unanimously.**

**4.02 – Approval of Five-Year Capital Improvement Program:** Mrs. Miller asked Dr. Noonan to preview the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Dr. Noonan indicated there were no changes made to the proposed CIP presented to the Board last month. Mr. Buttram asked if there was a plan in place to establish a comprehensive CIP to ensure we have a solid long term plan of action. Dr. Noonan mentioned that he recently had a meeting with Fairfax County staff and will work on a school by school plan throughout the rest of this school year to create a comprehensive plan moving forward. Mrs. Miller asked the Superintendent to updated as the plan is being

formulated. Dr. Noonan stated that the Board will be presented with a strategic plan for the creation of the CIP.

**Mrs. Pitches moved that the City of Fairfax School Board approve the FY 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as printed and distributed. Mrs. Sorensen seconded this motion. Mrs. Miller called for discussion or any other changes and hearing none, called for a vote, asking all those in favor to signify by saying 'Aye', those opposed 'Nay'. The chair voted 'Aye'. There were no members opposed. The motion to approve the FY 2015-2019 CIP passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Miller stated that she is appreciative of the work Dr. Noonan has done on the CIP as our elementary schools are getting older and will need updates in the future.

#### **4.03 – Approval of Resolution Supporting the VSBA Lawsuit Regarding OEI**

Mrs. Miller asked Dr. Noonan to speak to the resolution, discuss OEI and explain the ramifications at the state level. Dr. Noonan explained that OEI is the Opportunity Educational Institution which was established by the General Assembly at their 2013 session. The VSBA, in conjunction with Norfolk City School Board, filed a lawsuit in August 2013 stating that the OEI legislation violates state constitution. The legislation states schools that do not meet accreditation can be taken over by the OEI. Several Virginia jurisdictions have passed a resolution supporting the lawsuit. Dr. Sutterfield asked where the lawsuit was filed. Dr. Noonan stated that the lawsuit will be presented in the circuit court. There was more discussion regarding the OEI and the procedures in the legislation. Mr. Buttram pointed out that no City Schools were in jeopardy of losing their accreditation and therefore being affected by the OEI. Mrs. Miller called for a motion.

**Mr. Buttram moved that the City of Fairfax School Board approve the resolution supporting the Virginia School Boards Association and Norfolk City School Board's joint lawsuit regarding the Opportunity Educational Institution (OEI). The resolution reads as follows:**

***WHEREAS***, the General Assembly approved and the Governor signed legislation during the 2013 Session creating the Opportunity Educational Institution (OEI) and the Opportunity Educational Institution Board, requiring a statewide board to "take over" local public schools in the Commonwealth that have been rated as Accreditation Denied and would authorize that same Board to take over any local public school rated as Accredited with Warning for three consecutive years; and

***WHEREAS***, it is the firm conviction of the City of Fairfax School Board that this legislation violates the Constitution of Virginia by usurping the role of local school boards in supervising and managing the local public schools of the Commonwealth; and

***WHEREAS***, while it is clear that the Constitution of Virginia vests this supervision and management role in local school boards; it is equally clear to every duly elected and appointed school board that such a role carries with it the responsibility to ensure the highest quality education for its students, and that persistent school underperformance is unacceptable and must be addressed; and

***WHEREAS***, the City of Fairfax School Board believes that solutions to school underperformance will only be effective if they are developed collaboratively within a local community; if they include a discussion about appropriate and comprehensive policy interventions targeted both to individual school situations and to the context of the broader local population in which a school operates; and while funding is not the sole determinant of success, if they are paired with meaningful and adequate resources to ensure their appropriate implementation -- none of which are elements of the state's OEI legislation;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the City of Fairfax School Board supports the lawsuit brought forth by the Virginia School Boards Association and Norfolk City School Board to declare the OEI legislation unconstitutional and to enjoin the OEI Board from taking any action to implement the legislation; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the City of Fairfax School Board urges the state to redirect its efforts to improving individual school performance toward meaningful, collaborative, community-based policy solutions and toward providing both the assistance and the resources required to implement those solutions for the students of the Commonwealth.

**Mrs. Pitches seconded this motion. Mrs. Miller called for discussion or any other changes and hearing none, called for a vote, asking all those in favor to signify by saying 'Aye', those opposed 'Nay'. The chair voted 'Aye'. There were no members opposed. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. **SUPERINTENDENT MATTERS**

**Dr. Noonan** congratulated Mr. Whetzel and the entire leadership group at Fairfax High School on an outstanding homecoming.

**Dr. Noonan** congratulated Daniels Run Elementary for recently being named a Virginia Naturally school for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

**Dr. Noonan** mentioned that Providence Elementary school began their mentoring program again for the school year.

**Dr. Noonan** reported that Lanier Middle School has registered over 250 devices under the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program.

**Dr. Noonan** mentioned that the City Schools office is currently receiving grant requests from the four schools for the 2014-15 school year. These grant requests cover summer programs and professional development.

**Dr. Noonan** discussed the issue of high school start times in Fairfax County. The County School Board has passed a resolution to contract with a company for a review. The company's findings should be presented in the January/February 2014 timeframe.

6. **BOARD MATTERS**

**Dr. Sutterfield** had a great time giving a tour to the Fairfax High School alumni group for the Class of 1963's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. The class of 1973 held their reunion the same weekend at Providence Park and are looking forward to a class tour at their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

**Mr. Buttram** reiterated Dr. Noonan and Dr. Sutterfield's comments regarding achievements in our schools.

**Mr. Buttram** stated it was a great homecoming weekend.

**Mr. Buttram** felt that the Back to School night events were very energizing. It was great to meet both parents and students at our schools. **Mr. Buttram** thanked the principals and staff at the schools for excellent evenings.

**Mrs. Pitches** recently attended the SCA induction ceremony at Providence Elementary. Congratulations to the teachers and newly elected SCA members.

**Mrs. Sorensen** stated that all of the Back to School nights were excellent, as well as the Fairfax High School homecoming parade. **Mrs. Sorensen** also added that the tour for the Class of 1963 was one of the most interesting and wonderful experiences. The group was very interested in education and the school.

**Mrs. Sorensen** stated that she will be attending the PRAB meeting next week as well as a meeting with the Parks master plan steering committee. If any Board member has thoughts or ideas regarding the master plan, please forward them to **Mrs. Sorensen**.

**Mr. Whetzel** thanked the Board for the positive comments regarding the leadership class and the homecoming celebration.

**Mrs. Miller** wanted to recognize Mayor Silverthorne and Council Member Drummond, who were both in the audience.

**Mrs. Miller** also attended the SCA induction ceremony at Providence Elementary and congratulated all of the students.

**Mrs. Miller** congratulated **Mr. Whetzel** and the leadership group for a successful homecoming.

**Mrs. Miller** stated that Fairfax County Public Schools has established a committee regarding "portrait of a student." This committee will review what skills, etc. students should have upon graduation. Courtney Robinson will serve at the City representative on this committee. **Mrs. Miller** appreciates Mrs. Robinson taking the opportunity to participate.

**Mrs. Miller** stated that **Dr. Sutterfield** and **Mrs. Pitches** will be meeting with WABE in late October. **Mrs. Miller** thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

**Mrs. Miller** stated that she received positive feedback from the Class of 1963 tour of Fairfax High School. **Mrs. Miller** stated the group was larger than a normal tour group with 60 people attending. The group commented on the cleanliness of the school and that it still looked brand new. **Mrs. Miller** stated she would be emailing Mr. Goldfarb and Mrs. Burke to let them know.

**Mrs. Miller** stated that the School Board will be working at the City booth at the Fall Festival this weekend. **Mrs. Miller** asked **Mrs. Dorsey** to discuss what events would be taking place. **Mrs. Dorsey** stated that there are City Schools wristbands to hand out and then throughout the day, a staff member would be handing out prizes to those festival attendees spotted wearing their wrist bands.

**Mrs. Miller** mentioned a new policy that would allow seniors on track for graduation to drop their first period class. **Mrs. Miller** asked **Dr. Noonan** to keep an eye on the policy and provide a status update at the November meeting. **Dr. Noonan** stated that he recently heard from Ms. Glaser, Director of Student Services at Fairfax High School that only a handful of Fairfax students are taking advantage of the policy. Fairfax County is currently collecting data on the numbers of students throughout the County participating in this program. **Mrs. Miller** asked if students are able to adjust their schedule to move their first block to take advantage of the late entry. **Dr. Noonan** mentioned that it does not appear that students in the AP track are dropping classes.

**Mr. Whetzel** mentioned that he knows two students who are taking advantage of the policy, but one of those students was in study block the first block anyway. **Mr. Whetzel** believed that students are aware of the policy, but not really taking advantage of it.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Miller adjourned the regular School Board meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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Chairman

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Clerk