

MINUTES
FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Jackson Intermediate School

Regular Meeting No. 18

April 25, 1991

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Kohann Whitney convened the Board in public session at 7:35 p.m., with a quorum of members present. Dr. Cardinale moved, and Mrs. Fleetwood seconded, to go into executive session for the purposes of discussing the performance of specific public employees of the school system pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(1) and discussing the disposition of publicly held property pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)(3). The motion passed 7-0, with Mrs. Yock present but not voting and with Mrs. Field and Mr. Lane not present for the vote.

II. MEETING OPENINGS

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Whitney reconvened the public meeting at 8:45 p.m., with the following members present:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Anthony Cardinale | Laura McDowall |
| Nathaniel Choate | Armando Rodriguez |
| Joanne Field (Arr. 8 p.m.) | Kohann Whitney |
| Letty Fleetwood | Carla Yock |
| Robert Frye | |

Also present were Tim Nee, the student representative to the Board; Division Superintendent Robert R. Spillane; Deputy Superintendents Jay Jacobs and Loretta Webb; and other members of the Leadership Team.

B. Certification of Executive Session Compliance

Ms. Whitney reported that the Board had been meeting in executive session and would certify that matters discussed in that meeting were in accordance with Virginia law. Ms. Whitney moved, and Mrs. McDowall seconded, that since the Fairfax County School Board convened an executive meeting on April 25, 1991, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and since Section 2.1-344.1(D) of the Code of Virginia required a

certification by the School Board that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law, the Fairfax County School Board hereby certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion passed 8-0-1, with Mrs. Field abstaining because she had not been present for the entire session and with Mr. Lane not present. (Exhibit A)

C. Confirmation of Action Taken in Executive Session

Ms. Whitney stated that no action requiring confirmation had been taken in the executive session.

D. Announcement of Changes in the Agenda

Ms. Whitney announced that Item V.J., Perpetual Easement for Street Improvements at Burke Center, would be moved from Information to become Item IV.B.2., for discussion as an action item.

E. Other Announcements

Ms. Whitney said that Mr. Lane was out of town on business and would not be attending the meeting. In his absence, she announced a Personnel Committee work session at 7:30 on Tuesday, May 7, at the Burkholder Center.

Ms. Whitney said there were several other schedule changes: the Instruction Committee work session scheduled for May 2 for presentation and discussion of the McKenzie report was cancelled and rescheduled for May 15, 7:30 p.m., at the Burkholder Center and the Facilities Committee work session originally scheduled for May 15 would be held instead on June 18 at 7:30 at the Burkholder Center.

Concerning the budget, Ms. Whitney commented that the public was probably well aware of the Board of Supervisors' decision to cut the transfer to the School Board budget by \$29.5 million. She announced a public hearing on the budget on Tuesday, May 14, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Luther Jackson and a Board work session to discuss budget cuts on Tuesday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson, with the Board to vote on the budget reductions at the regular meeting on Thursday, May 23. She said the Superintendent and his staff had been working on a list of cost analyses of various items, which would be available to the public soon, and she invited people who wanted to address the Board at the hearing to call the School Board office at 246-3646 to sign up.

Mr. Rodriguez announced that there would be a Policy Review Committee work session on Thursday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m., at the Burkholder Center.

Ms. Whitney added that on Friday, April 26, at 8:30 a.m., the School Board would sponsor a short ceremony at the Burkholder Center honoring former Superintendent Earl C. Funderburk, who served the school system between 1961 and 1969, and invited any staff or members of the public who knew him to attend. She noted that Mr. Funderburk's widow and his son would be present for the ceremony, which would include planting a tree in his memory.

In honor of Secretaries' Week, Ms. Whitney paid special tribute to the wonderful secretaries in the School Board office, who managed to hold everything together. Dr. Spillane added his appreciation and thanks, as well, for all the secretaries in Fairfax County Public Schools who, he said, were the best in the country--very competent and dedicated to the daily challenges of helping educate all the County's young people.

Ms. Whitney welcomed government students from Mr. Ward's classes at Madison High School who were present at the meeting observing local government in action. She also welcomed Jim Kitchin, a former School Board member from Mason District, who was present.

F. Resolution Recognizing Volunteer Appreciation Week

Ms. Whitney recognized Dr. Cardinale to present a resolution in honor of the almost 50,000 volunteers in the school system.

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS
DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
April 21-27, 1991**

WHEREAS, annually over 47,000 people of all ages volunteer their assistance to Fairfax County Public Schools, contributing their time and expertise during the school day, evenings, and weekends; and

WHEREAS, volunteers help classroom teachers and enhance the learning experiences for students in all grades of the school system; and

WHEREAS, volunteers organize and maintain community support for a wide variety of school activities enabling students to participate in and benefit from school-related exploratory experiences, athletic events, fine and performing arts, and work programs; and

WHEREAS, in addition, volunteers contribute to the work of the School Board and administration each year through service on textbook adoption committees, standing advisory committees, and special study committees at central, area, and school levels; and

WHEREAS, the week of April 21-27 has been designated as National Volunteer Week to honor the substantial and numerous contributions of volunteers to agencies and organizations in the public and private sector all over the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County School Board hereby reaffirms its most sincere appreciation for the aid so generously given by volunteers and, further, calls on all residents of Fairfax County to join in paying tribute to all volunteers in our local schools.

Dr. Cardinale moved, and Mrs. McDowall seconded, adoption of the resolution. The motion passed 9-0, with Mr. Lane not present. The student representative asked that his support for the motion be entered in the record.

Ms. Whitney recognized Mr. Rodriguez to present the resolution in honor of Asian and Pacific-American Heritage Month.

RESOLUTION
PROCLAIMING
ASIAN AND PACIFIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
May 1991

WHEREAS, Americans of Asian and Pacific ancestry have made meaningful contributions to the history and development of the United States in all fields of endeavor--science, education, arts, and the humanities; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board recognizes through its commitment to a pluralistic curriculum that an understanding of these contributions should be an integral part of the year-round education of all students; and

WHEREAS, several dates important to the history of Asians in the United States occur during the month of May; and

WHEREAS, people of Asian and Pacific heritage make up an increasing portion of the Fairfax community; and

WHEREAS, the President has signed a proclamation encouraging appropriate ceremonies and activities to recognize the accomplishments of Asian and Pacific Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County School Board proclaims the month of May to be celebrated throughout the school division as Asian and Pacific-American Heritage Month and calls upon all students and staff members to use this occasion to become more knowledgeable about the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific ancestry.

Mr. Rodriguez moved, and Mr. Frye seconded, adoption of the resolution. The motion passed 9-0, with Mr. Lane not present. The student representative asked that his support for the motion be entered in the record.

G. Resolution Proclaiming Teacher Appreciation Week

Ms. Whitney recognized Mrs. Yock to offer the resolution honoring teachers.

RESOLUTION
DESIGNATING
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 5-11, 1991

WHEREAS, teachers in Fairfax County Public Schools demonstrate daily their professional commitment to the pursuit of educational excellence for the children in our community; and
WHEREAS, our teachers are committed to ensuring that all children develop their full potential for academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, teachers also are influential in fostering healthy self-concepts, developing civic values, and meeting the challenges of change; and

WHEREAS, we continuously highlight the skill, creativity, and professionalism that characterize Fairfax County Public Schools teachers; and

WHEREAS, we welcome this opportunity to commend our teachers and to express our gratitude for the energy, dedication, and vision that they have contributed to our school system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County School Board designates the week of May 5-11, 1991, as Teacher Appreciation Week in recognition of the many ways in which teachers individually and collectively work to ensure that students develop into productive adults who can participate confidently in life, contribute positively to their communities, and maintain a lasting love of learning.

Mrs. Yock moved, and Mr. Choate seconded, adoption of the resolution. The motion passed 9-0, with Mr. Lane not present. The student representative asked that his support for the motion be entered in the record.

III. PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD

A. Citizen Participation

Ms. Whitney stated that five speakers had asked to address the Board during the time reserved for public comment.

1. Linda Whitfield, representing the Intermediate Principals Association, spoke of the benefits to students of the middle school approach to education as supported by school, staff, and parents representing the middle-level school community. (Exhibit B)
2. Maureen Daniels, representing the FEA, also supported the staff recommendation for middle schools, citing much teacher input and appreciation for the value of the concept to students. (Exhibit C)
3. J. Burnette, speaking as an individual, was not present when called.
4. Greg Lock, representing the Elementary Principals Association, called the middle school proposal a significant step forward with benefits to students in a specialized setting, with an age-appropriate curriculum, and with increased activities. He advocated the goal of working toward moving sixth graders into a reconfigured middle school setting. (Exhibit D)
5. Carol Gratchen, speaking as an individual, demanded election of School Board members as a means of improving services to children, questioning the rationale in law for the appointment process. (No statement provided.)

Mr. Frye commented that it was because of the state law that School Board members were not elected. He encouraged the speaker to address her comments to the General Assembly, which would be a more appropriate forum for her concerns.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Adoption of Consent Agenda (without discussion)

Ms. Whitney said the ten items on the consent agenda would be considered in a single motion.

1. Minutes - Approve minutes of the April 11, 1991, regular Board meeting (SB; Exhibit E)
2. Petty Cash - Approve petty cash disbursements for March 1991 (FnS; Exhibit F)
3. Monthly Report of Separations - Confirm separations for the period beginning March 1, 1991, and ending March 31, 1991 (PS; Exhibit G)
4. Quarterly Employment Report - Confirm appointments and terminations for the period beginning January 1, 1991, and ending March 31, 1991 (PS; Exhibit H)
5. Annual Special Education Plan/Report and Funding Application - Approve the annual special education plan/report and funding application (SSSE; Exhibit I)
6. Naming the Intermediate School Facility at the Wayland Site - Name the new school facility located at the Wayland site the "Ormond Stone Intermediate School" (Area IV; Exhibit J)
7. Award of Contract for Reroofing at Mantua Elementary School - Award the contract for reroofing at Mantua Elementary School to R. D. Bean, Inc., in the amount of \$130,895 (FcS; Exhibit K)
8. Award of Contract for Replacement of HVAC Units at Groveton Elementary School -Award the contract for replacement of HVAC units at Groveton Elementary School to Kirlin Enterprises, T/A Combustioneer Corp., in the amount of \$335,970 (FcS; Exhibit L)
9. Award of Contracts for Carpet Replacement at Devonshire Center; Camelot, Fox Mill, Fort Hunt, and Graham Road Elementary Schools; Hughes Intermediate School; and South Lakes High School -Award the contracts for carpet replacement (1) at Devonshire Center and Camelot, Fox Mill, and Graham Road Elementary Schools to Virginia Floors, Inc., in the amount of \$124,020; (2) at Fort Hunt Elementary School to Commercial Carpets, Inc. of America, in the amount of \$13,074; and (3) at Hughes Intermediate and South Lakes High Schools to Carpet Experts, Inc., in the amount of \$111,110 (FcS; Exhibit M)
10. Overhead and Underground Utility Easement--Forestdale Elementary School - Authorize the Chairman to execute with Virginia Power an overhead and underground utility easement involving the Forestdale Elementary School site (FcS; Exhibit N)

Dr. Cardinale moved, and Mr. Choate seconded, adoption of the consent agenda. The motion passed 9-0, with Mr. Lane not present. The student representative asked that his support for the motion be entered in the record.

B. Approval of Other Action Items

1. Middle School - Adopt staff recommendations incorporating a middle school program for grades 6-8 into Fairfax County Public Schools on a countywide basis consistent with the Virginia Department of Education plan for "Restructuring Education in the Middle School Grades"; conduct a detailed facilities study of the implications of relocating sixth grade students to the intermediate schools before taking any

further action on housing sixth grade students in intermediate schools; and conduct the middle school evaluation for 1991-92 (IS; Exhibit O)

Dr. Cardinale moved, and Mr. Frye seconded, to adopt the staff recommendations incorporating a middle school program for Fairfax County's 6-8 graders; to conduct a detailed facilities study concerning relocating sixth grade students into the intermediate schools before acting to do that; and to conduct the middle school evaluation for 1991-92. Dr. Cardinale noted that the speakers had been persuasive in their support of the plan. In moving forward, he cited both teacher and student enthusiasm for the program, and observed that parents supported middle schools as an educationally sound concept.

Mrs. McDowall, alluding to the speaker who had talked of FEA support, mentioned that the FEA had produced an excellent report on the concept almost a year before, demonstrating teacher professionalism. She said she was very glad to be part of the process for bringing this very important middle school concept to the schools.

Mrs. Yock asked the Board's consent to read the mission statement for middle schools into the record, so everyone would be clear what the Board was supporting:

"Fairfax County Public Schools is committed to a middle school program which provides students with the support and opportunities necessary for a successful transition from childhood to adolescence. The middle school curriculum promotes life-long learning and a sense of community by balancing academic studies, physical and health education, and fine and practical art experiences in a nurturing environment. The middle school approach recognizes individual differences and enables students to value their own potential as a successful, informed, productive citizen in a multi-cultural, democratic society."

She commented that she thought it was the mission statement which had been so persuasive in developing support among parents for the middle schools.

Mrs. Fleetwood clarified, for the record, that the recommendation as outlined, did not have a cost factor attached. Dr. Spillane said no dollars were attached until dealing with the facilities study recommendations and, in response to further questions, said some redistribution of resources was involved, but without additional dollars. Mrs. Fleetwood wanted to know the extent to which the Facilities staff would explore the effect on elementary schools of moving the sixth graders out, particularly on the very small schools. Mr. Hlavin said they would look at that impact, as well as the need for space and space utilization at the middle school level.

Tim Nee reported that former Area II Superintendent Wayne Harris had talked in a SAC meeting, more than a year before, about middle schools and said the concept was very appealing to students. He remarked that he wished the program had been available in his intermediate school years.

Dr. Cardinale noted that one very important aspect of the plan was the increased participation and involvement of parents in communication and educational processes.

Ms. Whitney commented that she, too, was excited about the program and felt the concept was gaining support in the community. She indicated she was glad to see the principals expressing their support so strongly, knowing that they would be a key in the success of the concept.

Mr. Choate asked that discussion of the approach to the detailed facilities study mentioned in the motion be included in the Facilities Committee meeting in June.

Mrs. Fleetwood indicated she had concerns about the very small elementary schools as the system seemed to be progressing toward the middle school concept, stressing that the Board needed to be aware, as well, of what constituted a viable elementary school.

Mr. Choate observed that there were also some large secondary schools that might have difficulty housing more students, so the study needed to look at all the issues. He suggested however, that problems to be dealt with at a few schools should not preclude some important steps forward to benefit students in general.

Ms. Whitney called for the vote on the staff recommendation for middle schools as outlined in the motion. The motion passed 8-0-1, with Mrs. Fleetwood abstaining and with Mr. Lane not present. The student representative asked that his support for the motion be entered in the record.

- C. Perpetual Easement for Street Improvements at Burke Center - Recommendation to accept the offer of the Virginia Department of Transportation for a perpetual easement for street improvements involving the Burke Center site (FcS; Exhibit P)

Mr. Choate moved, and Mrs. Fleetwood seconded, to accept the offer of the Virginia Department of Transportation to purchase a perpetual easement for street improvements involving the Burke Center school site for \$78,350, plus any applicable accrued interest and to authorize counsel for the School Board to endorse an order dismissing pending condemnation proceedings brought by the Virginia Department of Transportation. The motion passed 9-0, with Mr. Lane not present. The student representative asked that his support for the motion be entered in the record.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. **Naming the Elementary School Facility at the Pender/Franklin Site - Recommendation to select the name for the new school facility from among the preferred names identified by the local school community (FcS; Exhibit Q)**

Mrs. Fleetwood said she and Ms. Whitney had attended a community meeting, along with about 60 community people, to talk about naming the new elementary school. She described the process, noting that the choice of names had included some current teachers. The top three suggested names were Waples Mill, Difficult Run, and Vale, with Waples Mill Elementary the preferred choice. The Waples family had also been represented at the meeting. Ms. Whitney asked that a letter from a member of the Waples family, who wrote about the family history, be forwarded to the Board. (Exhibit R)

Mrs. McDowall called attention to the fact that an old mill was near the school site, observing that naming schools was one way to celebrate the rich history in Fairfax County. She asked about the other names: Difficult Run and Vale. Mrs. Fleetwood said Difficult Run was a geographic stream valley in the area and that Vale was a historical school district, noting that the old Vale school building still stood near the new school site.

Tim Nee mentioned that he hoped the Waples family would be invited when the building was dedicated. Ms. Whitney said schools were usually dedicated in the first year, when the children were there, and that she would make sure the invitation was extended.

- B. **Award of Contract for Reroofing at Clifton Elementary School - Recommendation to award the contract for reroofing at Clifton Elementary School to J. E. Wood & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$65,728 (FcS; Exhibit S)**

The Board had no comments about the item.

- C. **Award of Contract for Reroofing at Floris Elementary School - Recommendation to award the contract for reroofing at Floris Elementary School to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit T)**

The Board had no comments about the item.

- D. Award of Contract for Reroofing at Gunston Elementary School - Recommendation to award the contract for reroofing at Gunston Elementary School to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit U)

The Board had no comments about the item.

- E. Award of Contract for Reroofing at Cedar Lane Center - Recommendation to award the contract for reroofing at Cedar Lane Center to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit V)

Mrs. McDowall observed that it was good to be able to award so many contracts for reroofing, noting that she could remember when those jobs could not be done because there was so little money. She said she was very grateful to voters for approving the bond funds to allow a timely replacement program.

- F. Award of Contract(s) for Replacement of Boilers at Gunston Elementary and Marshall High Schools - Recommendation to award the contract(s) for replacement of boilers at Gunston Elementary and Marshall High Schools to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit W)

The Board had no comments about the item.

- G. Award of Contract for Chiller Replacement at Lake Braddock Secondary School - Recommendation to award the contract for chiller replacement at Lake Braddock Secondary School to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (FcS; Exhibit X)

The Board had no comments about the item.

- H. Lease Agreement With the Fairfax County Water Authority at Poe Intermediate School - Recommendation to authorize the School Board Chairman to execute a lease agreement with the Fairfax County Water Authority involving the Poe Intermediate School site (FcS; Exhibit Y)

The Board had no comments about the item.

- I. Underground Conduit Easement at Forestdale Elementary School - Recommendation to authorize the School Board Chairman to execute with the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia an underground conduit easement involving the Forestdale Elementary School site (FcS; Exhibit Z)

The Board had no comments about the item.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items Introduced by the Superintendent

Following up on the dropout rate issue which had been raised at the last Board meeting, Dr. Spillane pointed out that the FCPS dropout rate had declined for the second year in a row, but granted that the speaker was correct in indicating there were no common national standards for defining dropout rates so comparisons were difficult. Remarking that the speaker also said he was interested in working with the Education Department to identify standardized measures, Dr. Spillane said Fairfax County Public Schools would certainly cooperate in working on that effort, agreeing that it was important.

B. Items Introduced by Board Members

Mrs. Field urged everyone to have patience with the difficult budget process occurring within such a short time line. She also mentioned attending a concert by the Herndon High School concert band, which had won a national award, and she urged Board members to find the time to hear that fine group if possible.

Mr. Frye said he was not present at the last Board meeting because he had attended the National School Boards Association meeting in California. He reported that he had participated in a seminar on the "C" grade average for participation in athletics and that he had come back a convert, indicating he would like to see that concept implemented in Fairfax County schools. He also reported that he was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Caucus of Black School Board Members and looked forward to serving in that capacity.

Mr. Frye asked staff to respond to a question about the size of academic and athletic letters in the high schools, indicating that while both letters were the same size at Thomas Jefferson, in other high schools the academic letters were reported to be smaller. He observed that he and the Board would be interested in any differences because of the Board's stress on the need for academic achievement.

Mrs. McDowall mentioned that she had attended the County Elementary Choral performance over the weekend describing the wonderful performance by over 1400 students. She also referred to an upcoming walkathon at Poe Intermediate School to raise awareness for drug prevention efforts.

Mrs. McDowall commented on receiving a letter from the training director of the Washington D.C. Joint Plumbing Apprentice Committee in which he had asked about the elimination of the apprentice program at Edison H.S. Dr. Spillane replied that so far

as he was aware the program was not slated for elimination, but said staff would check on enrollment.

Referring to the listing of cost items for use in the budget process, Mrs. McDowall requested that the agenda item on May 9 include the Superintendent's recommendation for reductions as well, which she considered to be the responsibility of a chief executive officer. She commented that, considering the size of the cut and the short time frame, she felt the Board would need the Superintendent and staff's recommendations to react to.

Ms. Whitney responded that the budget was presently the School Board's own advertised budget, which had been cut by the Board of Supervisors in a political decision, leaving the School Board to do its own job of making adjustments as part of its representative responsibilities. She said, unless the Board overruled the chair, she did not consider a staff recommendation to be necessary nor appropriate.

Mrs. Field agreed, remarking that, while she was interested in staff input, she saw the issue as not only the Board's budget to be adjusted, but also an opportunity to look closely at what the Board considered really necessary or merely nice to have among the school system's allocations of funding.

Mr. Frye agreed with Mrs. McDowall that the Board needed a staff recommendation to focus Board and public attention on priority issues, noting that additions as well as cuts to the budget might be needed. He expressed concern that an unscreened list developed by some anonymous group of people might provide "lightning rod" items for public reaction without being helpful to the Board's discussion of real school needs.

Mrs. McDowall emphasized that the Board would be making final decisions but said she thought in previous years, when the school budget had been returned by the Board of Supervisors for significant cuts, the various superintendents had assisted the Board by making specific recommendations. She suggested that, as a minimum, a list should be ranked in priority, remarking that the problem with a list of costs was that it did not apply anyone's judgement of educational merits, so the Board was left with trying to deal with too many targets.

Mr. Rodriguez observed that the Superintendent had made his decisions, in line with the County's guidelines, and presented his budget several months previously, which had then been modified, approved, and adopted as the Board's budget. He pointed out that asking the Superintendent to make changes to the Board's work was inappropriate, although staff judgement as to costs and impact of cuts could be requested. He commented that the Board had to deal as best they could with cuts and suggested that it was unfair to the Superintendent and to the Board to give that critical job back to staff to do.

Mrs. Fleetwood expressed several concerns: that the whole Board had not made any decision to deal with the cuts in the way being proposed, that no information had been provided about how cuts in other years had been handled, that an unedited list might include distressing things which could cause upset in the community, and that some items on such a list could be things the Board would never consider cutting, causing unnecessary concern. She stated that since everyone seemed to know about the list, there was no way to avoid sending it out, but she thought Board members should have a chance to add and delete items first.

Tim Nee commented on the difficulties, agreeing that a cost list could be a lightning rod for reactions, but that a prioritized list could set up "sacred cows" in advance. He thought that everything in the budget should be up for Board discussion and public comment.

Ms. Whitney referred to various suggestions for cuts the Board had already received from the Board of Supervisors, community groups, employee organizations, parents, and other citizens and explained that the purpose of a list was to provide some perspective about the real costs of various items already under discussion by many people.

Mrs. Fleetwood said her concern was that the community would not know what they were speaking to at a hearing without a recommendation from the Superintendent. Ms. Whitney replied that the Board had approved a budget and that speakers should address the same question the Board would be considering: what in that budget could be altered to reduce costs by \$30 million?

Dr. Cardinale reiterated that the Superintendent had already done his job in presenting a budget within fiscal limitations and that, while ideas from the community were important, the Board could not get away from its own responsibility to assess, prioritize, and come up with judgements about necessary reductions. He agreed that the Board needed to know the dollar impacts and said that even mentioning potential areas for cuts, as in the chairman's budget testimony, upset some people in the community, so that kind of speculative concern could not be avoided. Ms. Whitney commented that the possibilities of reductions she had cited in budget testimony had been in response to repeated questions from the Supervisors. Dr. Cardinale agreed that some reply had been necessary, but thought the public reaction had underlined the need for the Board to take whatever impact assessments were compiled and all identified cost-cutting options the staff could provide and then focus on the choices that must be made, noting that any budget item being discussed would have its own group of supporters.

Mrs. Yock commented that, with so much talk about a list, she thought someone should clarify that no such public list existed as yet, though the Board had been told costs

of various items or areas in the budget were being assembled in a list and Board members had been invited to suggest things for inclusion.

Dr. Spillane responded that there was a prospective list of costs, still very much in draft form, the purpose of which was to provide real dollar figures for cuts that were being suggested in public forums and in the news media. Referring to some suggestions that \$30 million could be cut from school administration without affecting students and teachers, he pointed out that if all leadership positions in the four area offices and DIS were eliminated completely or reassigned, assuming school placement was feasible, the total cost savings would be less than \$9 million. He indicated that the cost analyses of items making up the list were not intended to suggest things to be cut, but merely to give some guidance on what various things were worth in dollar amounts. Commenting on the seriousness of the decisions to be made, Dr. Spillane observed that his proposals had served as lightning rods before and that he did not mind being placed in that role, but that he also had a constitutional obligation as Superintendent to present to the Board the bona fide needs of the school system and in that role, as advocate for effective instructional programs and efficient support systems in FCPS, he could not honestly recommend any cuts in the education budget. He said he was glad it was the Board's responsibility rather than his to balance the needs and the finances and stated that once the Board's decisions were made, he and all the staff would do the best they could to deal with those constraints with as little negative impact as possible.

Mrs. Yock expressed concern at the assumption there were some items the Board would not consider cutting, suggesting she doubted that there was any consensus on sacrosanct items, and stressed the need to put everything on the table for Board consideration. She said she hoped the list being compiled would be as complete as possible, with no sacred cows.

Mr. Choate observed that the newspaper reports of the Ms. Whitney's suggestions of possible cuts in response to the Board of Supervisors' questions did cause public concerns, but he pointed out that the total came out over \$80 million dollars so obviously all those things would not have to be cut. He commented that he did not see what help there might be in knowing what happened a decade ago in budget deliberations, emphasizing that the Board needed to meet the challenge of making cuts in the present climate that would have minimal impact on students in classrooms next year.

Mr. Frye agreed that everyone wanted to ensure that cuts would not hurt students, but he objected to the fact that three members of the Board had seen an unpublished list which would soon go public without being scrutinized by the entire Board. He suggested that the public might be misled by bait and switch tactics in testifying to a list to which only a few Board members had given input. He said he could suggest items which

would be supported by Board members but which would not appear on the Superintendent's list. While agreeing not to ask the Superintendent to rank items, he did want the whole Board to see the list first, have some opportunity to add or change items, and thus make the list as realistic as possible. He stated that a secret listing was a dangerous practice. Ms. Whitney responded that the proposed list was a draft and not a secret document as Mr. Frye had suggested, clarifying that it had been reviewed by the budget chairman and by the Board chair and vice chair during their regular meeting with the Superintendent.

Dr. Spillane commented that during the weekly meeting with the Board chair and vice chair he had asked their input on the format and how to best present the information so it would be useful to everyone. He indicated that he fully intended for the staff list to go to the Board so they might add items, if they chose, and that then the consolidated list would go to the public.

Ms. Whitney referred to numerous letters from employee groups, organizations, and individuals in the community containing alternatives which they asked to be considered.

Mrs. Field, reiterating that the list did attempt to put everything on the table, said that she thought the Board could add items, but questioned whether it was appropriate for individual members to remove anything. She agreed there was some problem with having a list but, besides the fact that the Board could not proceed without something to go on, she talked about public process which dictated that the Board had to make decisions in public. She stressed that the public must understand that the list, while comprehensive, consisted of suggestions only. She commented that for the Board it was a lose-lose situation because if a list was put out, there would be a lot of reactions of distress, but if the Board did not submit a list to the public, they would be accused of operating in secret.

Ms. Whitney stated that she had heard no consensus in favor of a change in the ruling of the chair saying that most Board members seemed to agree to proceeding as planned with the list, having the Board decide where cuts were to be made. Mrs. McDowall stipulated that there was not a consensus, or complete agreement among the Board, about the proposed process.

Ms. Whitney said she had gone to the White House for a ceremony honoring the winning team from Texas in the US Academic Decathlon. She called attention to the two local teams participating, Bannecker High School in Washington D.C. and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, which was the winner of the Virginia Academic Decathlon. She remarked that Thomas Jefferson had been named the best team competing for the first time in the event.

Ms. Whitney reported that she and Mrs. McDowall had had the opportunity to meet with the Support Services Advisory Council to share concerns about budget cuts along with other employee issues. The Council had issued a statement following the meeting which would be sent to the rest of the Board.

Mr. Choate said he had also attended the NSBA conference and enjoyed a work session on evaluating principals, for which Dr. Marlene Holayter was a presenter. He reported there were over 740 participants at that session, indicating it was certainly a very pertinent topic with much interest across the country. He said he had been impressed with the presentation and wanted to publicly congratulate Dr. Holayter.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that he had made the difficult decision of missing the Ad Hoc Administrative Services meeting in favor of going to an International Night at Fort Hunt Elementary School. He spoke in glowing terms of the organization and the food samples from each of the seven continents represented. He said it was those kinds of activities he would miss when he retired from the Board on June 1, 1991.

Mrs. Fleetwood moved, and Mrs. McDowall seconded, appointing Laura Hull as the Providence District representative to the Vocational Education General Advisory Committee. The motion passed 9-0. The student representative asked that his support for the motion be entered in the record. Mrs. Fleetwood mentioned that Mrs. Hull was the director of group sales at Arena Stage and that she was enthusiastic about participating on the committee.

Dr. Cardinale reported that he had just returned from accompanying John Schreck and Ken Wilson to meet with the Virginia chairman of Career Education program, in Hanover County, to provide Fairfax County's input on the Workforce for the 21st Century report. He said he hoped much of the information provided might be incorporated into the state report.

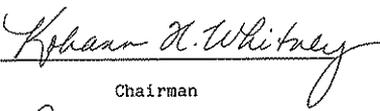
Dr. Cardinale asked Al Hlavin, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Services, to look at the running track at West Springfield High School and provide him with information to respond to complaints about the condition there.

Tim Nee mentioned he had also attended the NSBA Convention in San Francisco and said, in addition to Dr. Holayter's presentation, he had enjoyed a session with Fred Newman from the University of Wisconsin on how to evaluate restructuring programs. He suggested that students would benefit from the wide use of collaborative learning in the schools now, and indicated he was grateful that norm-based testing was on the way out and criterion referenced testing was on the way in, which he thought was good for students. He commented that he appreciated the opportunity to hear national figures such as Barbara Bush and Jessie Jackson, remarking that both had seemed to have a

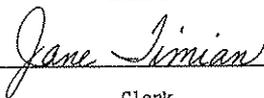
genuine commitment to education. He also reported he was surprised and impressed by the number of people who thought highly of Fairfax County, were familiar with FCPS innovations, and asked for more information about specific programs. Finally, Mr. Nee reported that he and Dr. Spillane had taken part just that day in a fund-raiser for the American Heart Association at Tysons II, and he thanked everyone who donated their time and money.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:25 p.m., Ms. Whitney adjourned the meeting.



Chairman



Clerk