

Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Fairfax High School

March Minutes

Dr. Garza started the meeting by discussing the weather and its ramifications to the schedule. We have missed ten days of school for inclement weather. This year has been unusual.... And it has affected our calendar significantly.

At this point, we would need to add two days to the end of the year. FCPS has tried to get a waiver from the state board, but the state will not honor the waiver submission until we have exhausted all options. The 'waiver' possibility does not look promising. The last day of school will now be the 24th of June... and we will go from there. Exam schedules should not change with this adjustment. Some other instructional adjustments are forthcoming (several STAC members asked about specific events or programs, and whether the snow situation has cancelled or 'moved' them).

We are also looking at the calendar for next year, and hoping to avoid some of these issues in the future by being proactive in securing options to deal with the weather situation. FCPS will continue to explore legislative and legal recourses for addressing the issue. We cannot 'bank' snow days from previous years, but we can further explore building in instructional time so we have more flexibility. If we miss any additional days --- no decision has been made as to 'what' we will do to remedy that.

Dr. Garza then spoke concerning the budget. The supervisors did set the advertised tax rate two cents higher, but that is just temporary. We have not had a commitment beyond the 2% at this point. Dr. Garza thanked the STAC reps for their outreach (to the supervisors)

and advocacy during the process. KEEP TOGETHER and continue to communicate to the supervisors. LOBBY THEM!

One STAC member suggested that teachers show up at community budget meetings (hosted by the supervisors) personally to speak to supervisors. An STAC member requested that the calculation used for determining average teacher salary (the budget staff will prepare that).

A question about lapse and whether it reflects 'extra money' was asked. No; it's just another way to point fingers, etc.

Dr. Garza asked us to not 'believe everything you hear', and to send her anything you hear that causes you concern.

Dr. Presidio (Instructional Services) then presented on work by Instructional Services, as the STAC reps had requested he attend and present. (His presentation is on the STAC web site). He discussed the Portrait of a Graduate project, student assessment, and the 'strategic plan' to assess student performance. Mostly, he emphasized moving towards authentic assessment and a more teacher directed instructional program. Dr. Presidio reinforced that 'we need to work better and more efficiently....not do MORE'. He discussed what Instructional Services are developing currently, and how they are going to proceed. They are assessing the needs of students and staff.