

FEA Communications Team

## Progress Report

The Fairfax Education Association has not abandoned the fight to regain the promised step increases or COLA. The association has determined, however, that addressing issues related to time is the most expedient way to achieve a measure of relief for overburdened teachers forced to compile their stress with the reality of a deficient FY 2010-11 budget. More specifically, FEA is working to recoup the unencumbered planning and teaching time consistently eroded by superfluous or questionable activities added to teachers' schedules with no apparent regard for stress, strain or redundancy.

To date, the FEA Communications Team has met three times with FCPS administration officials. At each meeting FEA has pushed for a moratorium on certain non-essential programs and practices, while offering solutions in the form of additional proposals to conserve teaching and planning time.

### **FEA proposes that the following activities be **suspended immediately:****

- Math pacing guide and e-Cart testing at elementary level
- School based in-services
- "Global Awareness" project
- PLC/CLTs at elementary level
- County-wide meetings
- Blackboard
- Elementary school report card pilot project
- Back-to-School Night

### **Additional FEA proposals to conserve teaching and planning time:**

- All schools provide adequate clerical assistance for teachers
- Monday early closings should be used to create unencumbered planning time
- Time away from duties should be provided to respond to emails and phone calls
- Faculty and committee meetings should be held during the contract day
- Class size should be capped at 28, including mainstreamed students
- Reduce number of required assessments per quarter for middle school and high school

### **FCPS "Concessions"**

At the conclusion of the last meeting, the FCPS administration offered to "come together" with parents, teachers and other interested parties to discuss more efficient ways to develop school plans and use Blackboard.

During discussions with FEA on January 11, FCPS Assistant Superintendent Kevin North suggested that implementation of the teacher-directed workday is evidence of the administration's desire to address diminishing unencumbered planning time.

### **No significant progress has been made on any of the remaining proposals.**

**Report card update:** As reported in the December 3 *Fairfacts*, FCPS officials have been responsive to FEA concerns regarding the pilot program that created a new elementary report card monstrosity of over 200 indicators per child per reporting period, cutting it back to a smaller, more manageable instrument. FEA's position is that the current report card does not need to be changed, but it does need to be put online.