



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***-FAIRGRADE Responds to \$130 Million Vote for New FCPS Offices- Asks if A Vote for Grading Policy Changes Will Be As Expeditious***

**Fairfax County, VA – Saturday, September 20, 2008** – FAIRGRADE today announced they hope that Fairfax County parents and students in the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) system will be given the same expedient consideration for a change in grading policies as the School Board granted themselves this week in voting to borrow \$130 million for new FCPS office space.

“The main question for FAIRGRADE is: Will our School Board grant FCPS parents and students the same quick turnaround on a decision regarding grading policies when the final report is issued in late fall?” said FAIRGRADE President Megan McLaughlin.

“We have already seen the original mid-October deadline for this report be pushed to early December. It is our understanding that the possible purchase of this new building became public knowledge in June of this year, which is just about the same time that FCPS officials launched their research project of the grading policies issue,” said McLaughlin.

FAIRGRADE says that while they understand the School Board’s desire to give the grading policies issue a thorough examination and due diligence, parents are expecting results when the final report is finally issued.

McLaughlin notes that just last week, the Fairfax County Council of PTAs urged a delay on the vote of the FCPS building purchase. “This vote on Thursday came mighty quick with very little public input. Now that we have seen the School Board can make big decisions very quickly that affect the entire county, we hope the grading policies issue will be given the same expedient consideration,” McLaughlin added.

FAIRGRADE says it is up to the taxpayers of Fairfax County to determine if the School Board’s vote to spend precious tax dollars on this building purchase is wise at a time when officials are claiming a school budget shortfall of \$150 million.

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