



Office of Communications
803 W. Broad Street, Suite 300
Falls Church, VA 22046
703-248-5600

For Immediate Release
July 27, 2006

School Leaders Express Sorrow in Death of City Manager

When school leaders learned that Falls Church City Manager Dan McKeever had died, they expressed sadness in the loss. McKeever passed away Tuesday night after a long battle with cancer.

“Dan McKeever was a tremendous public servant,” school board chairman Craig Cheney said. “He worked closely with the board and superintendent to provide critical information and to evaluate how the city and schools could best work together.”

Throughout his six-year term as city manager, McKeever frequently modeled strong, servant leadership in assisting the school system. Former superintendent Mary Ellen Shaw said his role in various crisis situations was invaluable.

“His assistance was always very much appreciated in the way he communicated and coordinated with his staff in supporting the schools,” Shaw said. “From the September 11th terrorist attacks to the metro-area sniper incidents to significant weather events that had an impact on schools, Dan was always there for us.”

When a blizzard dumped more than a foot of heavy snow on the area, Shaw says there were concerns that the Mount Daniel Elementary School roof might collapse under the snow’s weight. She said McKeever’s leadership helped avert disaster.

“He quickly mobilized city crews to help our maintenance staff shovel the snow off of the roof,” Shaw said.

McKeever also played a key role in planning and supporting school construction projects. He served as city manager throughout the site study, bond referendum and construction phases of the Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School construction. He also supported the George Mason High School renovation and the Mount Daniel expansion project.

Information regarding McKeever’s memorial service and arrangements will be provided by the city as it becomes available. Those interested in sending cards or well wishes should direct them to the Office of the City Manager, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.

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