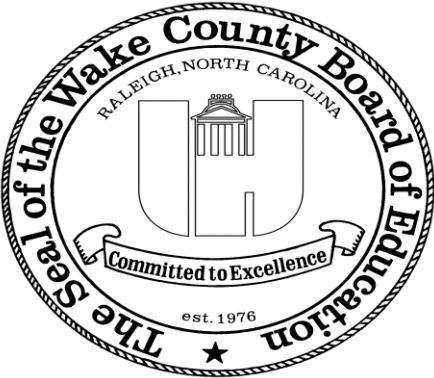


**Wake County Board of Education  
Student Achievement Committee**



January 10, 2013

12:00 pm

Board Conference Room, Crossroads I

Christine Kushner, Committee Chair

John Tedesco, Vice Chair

Debra Goldman

Keith Sutton, *ex-officio*

**PURPOSE:** To address Student Achievement issues.

**OUTCOMES:** By the end of the meeting, Committee Members will have:

- An opportunity to review and approve Revised October and November minutes
- A briefing on SB 795 – Excellent Schools Act
- An update on new DPI policies
- An update on WCPSS Common Core/Essential Standards implementation

Present		Staff Members Present		
Christine Kushner	John Tedesco	Stephen Gainey	Marvin Connelly	Dawn Dawson
Debra Goldman	Susan Evans	Cathy Moore	Karen Hamilton	
Jim Martin	Keith Sutton	Todd Wirt	John Williams	
TOPIC		WHO		TIME
Set up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments</li> <li>• Agenda</li> <li>• Desired outcomes</li> </ul>		Christine Kushner		5
Ms. Kushner called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm and reviewed the agenda.				

Review and Approve Revised October and November minutes.	Christine Kushner	5
Ms. Goldman thanked staff for including the minutes in Board packets sent home for review. Ms. Evans stated it saved time. Dr. Martin was deputized to establish a quorum. The revised October and November minutes were approved.		
Overview and discussion of SB795 – Excellent Schools Act	Cathy Moore Todd Wirt	40
<p>Ms. Moore and Dr. Wirt presented the Excellent Schools Act, Senate Bill 795. An overview will be given at the January Principals meeting by Tharrington Smith. The bill contains some undefined language that raises questions. The district needs to become familiar with the Excellent Schools Act and what it will look like in our schools. Dr. Wirt presented a Power Point showing the components of the bill: 1) Improve K-3 Literacy: The State will develop an overall comprehensive plan to improve literacy. Some practices are new while some revert back to past practices. The more controversial part is it eliminates social promotion. There is a Good Cause Exemption process that allows the Superintendent to determine whether a student will be exempt. Retained students will go through a Successful Reading Development. The number of retained students will now be reported publicly on the school report card at the end of the year. Dr. Martin questioned whether there would be adequate funding, programming and resources. Dr. Wirt responded that the number of students is difficult to estimate due to the new assessments. Ms. Moore stated the system is currently around 80% proficient with approximately 12,000 students per grade level, we would estimate the new practice would involve approximately 2,400 students. LEA's will be required to develop and fund a Summer reading camp to allow students to demonstrate proficiency at the end of the Summer and be promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. DPI is developing guidelines for those students to show proficiency at the end of the Summer, those who do not, how parents will be informed and mid- year promotion policy. This will be in effect for the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Tedesco questioned if there were any guidelines for the Summer reading program. Dr. Wirt stated there aren't any established at this time. Ms. Kushner raised concern over the year round schools and facility requirements. Dr. Wirt stated, Ms. Guthrie at DPI, had pointed that out specifically in discussions. Ms. Moore responded, the district would need to figure out how to make it valuable yet cost effective. Dr. Martin stated it would be very valuable to do an audit and let the Legislature know the cost. He expressed the requirement was more about assessment than education and the Legislature was really deficient on how this is going to be carried out. Dr. Gainey pointed out concern over the midyear promotion. Mr. Tedesco suggested the midyear promotion is possibly an option and not a requirement. Ms. Moore stated the decision over midyear promotions would need to be based on some type of data. Dr. Martin expressed concern over the exceptions, a fairness issue. Ms. Moore responded the district would need to anticipate the challenges brought by the legislation. Mr. Tedesco offered that community partners may be able to help with the summer camps. Ms. Goldman expressed concern over 3<sup>rd</sup> grade being too late for major interventions. Dr. Connelly responded, the district had identified interventions are too late at that point and that is why early learning programs have been established. Ms. Moore pointed out the mandate would be statewide and will add more substance to the interventions and ensure more students will be ready when they get to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Ms. Evans observed the Legislature is requiring these mandates without mention of extra funding. Dr. Wirt stated she was correct. Dr. Gainey pointed out that this bill had been written for the entire state and our district may already be doing some of these requirements. Dr. Martin would like to know what we are already doing. Ms. Evans stated she had recently learned of programs she was unaware of and expressed the need for an update of intervention programs in the district. Dr. Gainey commented the intent of the bill is good and our district will need to come up with good solutions. II) State Employee Literacy Volunteer Leave Time: WCPSS is well underway in its efforts to engage community partners. III) The bill moves towards reporting on School Performance using grades A-F model, making it easier for parents to understand. DPI is reporting to the General Assembly: Elementary and Middle Schools-performance composite based on EOG's with a growth component. High School-performance composite, more complex with 5 equal parts based on</p>		

EOC's. The proposed Growth is very different from the past. There is value in the new formula as the performance composite does not always point to the amount of Growth. Ms. Goldman pointed out the grade scale was a 10 point scale and not a 7 point scale. Dr. Wirt reviewed the Grade Sample and explained the breakdown of the role of ACT testing as part of the Grade. Dr. Martin questioned whether the grading was irrespective of population. Dr. Wirt confirmed it was. Ms. Moore commented there were several items that had not been addressed at this point. Dr. Martin expressed concern over the potential to hurt *real* education. Dr. Connelly expressed concern of past cases when there was an "every student shall" situation, there were cases of students not having the cognitive function to sit for a test, but schools were doing their very best to follow the requirement. Ms. Moore confirmed there would need to be follow up to ensure conversations were occurring at the State level to cover these situations. Dr. Wirt recommended WCPSS begins educating the public for the new Grade. Mr. Sutton questioned the possibility of staff simulating it for the schools now. Dr. Wirt responded staff is doing that and will present it to the Principals at their next meeting. Mr. Sutton questioned the Board's responsibility to post the Grades of the district's schools. Ms. Moore responded that posting the School Grades was being discussed either on the district profile page or a link from the school's website. Mr. Sutton and Ms. Evans expressed concern over the necessity to use language that guides parents to understand what they are reading. Mr. Tedesco inquired what our likely impact will be with the new testing and how much of a dip we will experience. Dr. Wirt responded that in the past the statewide dip was approximately 18% and WCPSS was around 11%. Dr. Martin expressed serious concerns regarding the intent of the legislation and the potential harmful effects on schools. He feels looking at a total grade is a bad idea, it needs to be multiple grades. Ms. Evans commented, the information needs to be broken out. Dr. Martin stated we need to pay careful attention to statistical variation; the point at which each school start times vary and would require a larger amount of change than another school. IV) School Calendar: allowing flexibility with the opening and closing dates that was not allowed in the past. This allows for moving some of the weather makeup day to the end of the year. Dr. Martin requested an update on the 1025 Vs 5 days. Ms. Moore responded staff needed to collect information from schools to determine if they meet 1025 without changing their bell schedule. X) Pay for Excellence: this is still being discussed in the General Assembly. Ms. Moore added that DPI will provide guidance to the Legislators for them to develop the details. Dr. Martin commented he feels we already have this item in the district such as through National Boards. Mr. Tedesco related that much of this was modeled after Florida. He suggested we take the opportunity to communicate with them regarding their compliance and gather some insight from other districts. Dr. Gainey stated a lot of research of other districts was done last Spring and nothing remarkable came out from it. Mr. Tedesco agreed but suggested we look at all the pieces and try to get ahead of the curve by learning from the challenges of other districts. Dr. Gainey stated he wasn't sure NC has the measures in place for this to be successful. Dr. Martin cautioned we need to be careful of our language and ensure we have a structure in place so teachers and principals can do the best job for students. Dr. Gainey commented we need a comprehensive effort of vigor, not just testing alone.

Additional updates – NC Department of Public Instruction	Cathy Moore Todd Wirt	20
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Ms. Moore and Dr. Wirt reported on Credit demonstrated by mastery. (continuation of PowerPoint) This is very important to our community. Students, 6-12 grades will be able to earn credit by showing mastery, similar to placing out of a course in college. A student will take the EOG or EOC associated with the class, in time for class placement. If no EOG/EOC, the student will take a locally developed assessment. Dr. Wirt recommended to DPI that these assessments be State developed. If student scores minimal, additional opportunities will be given through artifacts and possible additional assessments. Scores will be shown as passing and not a letter grade. Dr. Martin noted this is a challenging area and problem, if used to amass credits, but if used a prerequisite then can go on to a higher course. Need to make sure the learning and mastery is there. Dr. Wirt commented that the rigor of the artifact will separate between the acceleration and can prove their mastery.

Update – Implementation of Common Core/Essential Standards	Cathy Moore Todd Wirt	30
<p>Ms. Moore and Dr. Wirt reported Common Core updates. Referred to PowerPoint handout. Teachers have gone through a learning curve and gone back to beginning teaching. They have weathered the storm well. Teachers worked through Phase I and began Phase II last year. Phase III began this year, to bring consistency across the district for collaboration. Phase IV, many teachers have begun this year, developing lessons to be uploaded to Edmodo to share plans, communicate with each other, ask questions, and get feedback. Administrators and IRT’s are being trained to go into the site and act as facilitators. The “I” statements reflect the journey the teacher has been on, an important continuum, modeling their learning the same way students engage in their learning from understanding creation content. Ms. Evans reported she is hearing that teachers are stressed to the max. When do the teachers have time to process and go onto Edmodo? Some are really struggling and need support. We need to make sure we are helping them. Dr. Wirt relayed that he is aware and feels that we are building a good resource that will help support the teachers. Dr. Martin seconded Ms. Evans comment. He agreed a teacher needs self assessment but it needs to go beyond this. Ms. Moore interjected the some Area Superintendents have engaged principals to take a look at what is happening in the classroom on an informal visit. She reported that Common Core PD includes activities that are part of their planning process, and hopefully integrated into daily activities. This gives Principals tools to see what this looks like. Dr. Martin commented there is a time problem and is also concerned about the electronic copyright and intellectual property issues. Dr. Connelly interjected that the district concern was vendors and publishers logging in not other teachers. Dr. Wirt stated Edmodo is a controlled site with individual teacher log in. Dr. Gainey commented that previously the battle was teaching in isolation. Sharing is needed for pacing and strategies. Teachers shouldn’t teach in isolation unless you are the only one teaching the class. Ms. Evans cautioned that we should be careful with merit pay, which can discourage sharing and pitting teacher against teacher. Dr. Wirt reported CMAPP has allowed for sharing good lessons and resources regardless of whether the teacher across the hall shares.</p>		
Closure and next steps	Christine Kushner	5
<p>Ms. Kushner thanked Staff, Community members and Board Members for their attendance. Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.</p>		

Next Meeting Scheduled: February 14, 2013, 12 Noon

Respectfully submitted by:

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Committee Chair, Christine Kushner

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Staff Representative, Cathy Q. Moore

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Recording Secretary, Julie H. Ward

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Board Chair, Kevin Hill