



# WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Wake County Board of Education Student Achievement Committee

September 12, 2013

3:00 pm

Board Conference Room, Crossroads I  
Christine Kushner, Committee Chair

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

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

- An opportunity to review and approve minutes for August SAC meeting
- Receive an update on Magnet Schools
- Receive an update on STEM/Global Schools
- Information on topics for future SAC meetings

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present	
Christine Kushner Tom Benton Bill Fletcher Jim Martin Susan Evans Keith Sutton	Jim Merrill Cathy Moore Beth Cochran Ashlie Thompson Sheri Golden-Perry Sherry Schliesser	Karen Hamilton Marvin Connelly Stella Shelton Renee McCoy 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
Review and Approve August minutes for Student Achievement Committee	Christine Kushner	5
Ms. Kushner called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm and reviewed the agenda. The August 15 minutes were approved with 1 correction.		
Magnet School Updates	Beth Cochran	30

- Ms. Kushner requested a review of the mission statement/objectives of Magnet schools.
- Poe ES theme revised to GT AIG Basics theme.
- Dr. Cochran announced Kingswood ES will implement the Montessori program beginning next year in conjunction with the STEM program already implemented at Kingswood. The program will be initiated with Pre K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and continue as the students move up. The school has the capacity for the assignment. Staff will take it to the Board for approval in October to begin Fall of 2014.
- Dr. Martin requested information on Transportation. Will transportation be provided to Poe base families who want to continue the Montessori program at Kingswood? Ms. Moore responded that WCPSS historically handled by Express Bus transportation and thought that would be the plan for Kingswood.
- Mr. Sutton suggested surveying parents that will want to continue the program and have a sense of the number of families interested.
- Ms. Evans requested staffing information. Ms. Moore responded the Poe trained staff will be able to apply for positions available and interested Kingswood staff will be trained. Ms. Evans stated she would like to see already trained teachers given priority to help save the system further costs.
- Mr. Fletcher commented the facility model at Kingswood is completely different than the way it is being used right now and questioned how that will affect the current classroom size of 14. Ms. Moore responded that there are additional Magnet resources allocated to the school and the Principal will still have the flexibility to make decisions. Poe classes currently have TA's to aid in class size.
- Kingswood Principal, Sherry Schliesser, gave thoughts why she decided to take the Montessori program. Once researched she found the program is similar to the program already running at Kingswood. The staff is invested in the change but want to continue the STEM program, small class model and project based learning.
- Mr. Sutton inquired what communication had taken place with Parents. Ms. Schliesser responded they were waiting for Board approval.
- Ms. Schliesser feels it will add stability to the Kingswood population. The school already starts and ends the year with different children. Feels this will give sustainability, students and parents will want to stay there throughout their elementary school years.
- Dr. Martin observed this is another magnet for the Western Area and inquired about the Eastern Area. Ms. Moore responded that the Eastern Area is also being looked at.
- Mr. Fletcher referenced Dr. Martin's graph comparing F&R with Proficiency which showed the great successes at Kingswood.
- Ms. Evans inquired about capacity of Kingswood. Mr. Fletcher stated Facilities chart shows 379 long range and commented that capacity is essentially same as Poe.
- Mr. Sutton thanked Ms. Schliesser and her staff for stepping up and taking the Montessori program.
- Dr. Cochran reviewed some general magnet themes. One example is Conn ES being a pilot and partnering with Apple on a 1:1 initiative.
- Mr. Fletcher inquired what themes have been considered. Dr. Cochran responded that staff had spent 2 days over the summer working on themes and looking around the nation. This will be shared more at a later date.
- Dr. Martin raised concern over specializing programs, STEM, etc. He feels they need to be broader especially in elementary age students. He questioned why Conn. Dr. Cochran responded Conn needs to be consistently monitored for enrollment.
- Ms. Kushner suggested we may need to simplify themes to better align magnet pathways and programs.
- Mr. Fletcher commented there needs to be a balance between magnet themes. Many students would never be exposed if not for these themes.

STEM School Updates	Ashlie Thompson	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPSS is beginning the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of STEM and Global Network schools. In the 1<sup>st</sup> year schools applied or selected because of programming already existing at the school. As we began the 2<sup>nd</sup> year WCPSS established the Magnet office, and the STEM/Global director position, Dr. Thompson, to help clarify the programs and aid in the definition, development and structure within the schools.</li> <li>○ Dr. Thompson developed a strategic plan-reviewed on handout. Established a STEM Advisory board consisting of principals, district based leadership, business partners, college partners and a parent. They established a definition for STEM and recognized that it needs to</li> </ul>		

be integrated across all disciplines. Used the NC attributes rubric to guide the strategic plan.

- Brentwood ES piloted the STEM Rubric last year.
- Dr. Martin requested to be given the control numbers of the MISO survey when it is released.
- Survey pointed out the steady decline of interest in STEM as students get older.
- Partnered with Wake Ed Partnership to hold an event called World Café. Allowed opportunities for conversations on what STEM/Global looks like in the businesses and in the schools. It is now a part of Wake Ed Partnership's strategic plan.
- Professional development opportunities for administrators and staff have been provided through conferences, workshops, and network meetings. Developing templates for Project Based Learning units using CMAPP.
- WCPSS is collaborating with Biogen Idec in RTP for students to take field trips to their community lab.
- York ES PTA received a \$200,000 grant from Rex. Weatherstone ES PTA won a national award announced on PBS.
- Schools are holding night time STEM events: structured for parental involvement, parent and child work together on projects. The schools have had good parent turnout and good level of engagement from families.
- Mr. Sutton inquired whether there is any tracking of girls and minorities gravitating to STEM. Dr. Thompson responded that it is part of the strategy. Ms. Moore responded that tracking would occur more after students leave us. May show in the MISO survey.
- Dr. Martin inquired to know who the lead was from NCSU. He will contact him. Dr. Martin feels our STEM curriculum is missing the point, there is over emphasis on STEM and not providing a strong foundation for scientists.
- Mr. Benton commented that is what common core is all about and inquired about assessments, rubrics, etc. for staff to gauge where they are. Dr. Thompson replied NC STEM rubric includes those details. Mr. Benton inquired if our schools were doing it with fidelity.
- Dr. Thompson responded the new rubric was just released. Mr. Benton inquired who helped schools with the rubric. Dr. Thompson and staff will help other schools with the rubric, Brentwood having piloted it will also help schools. The State has a good process/plan to also help schools with the rubric.
- Ms. Moore relayed that we are getting ready to have a discussion regarding schools that want to apply for State STEM/Global designation and those that are STEM/Global in the District but do not want to apply for the State designation.

Global School Updates

Sheri Golden Perry

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- Strategic Plan reviewed on handout.
- VIF and DPI developing a Global Rubric not as detailed as the STEM.
- 5 schools written in grant last year for a Mandarin program. Program is for 3 years with the opportunity to apply again. It is a K12 program.
- Data & Accountability helped to establish a benchmark year to help the schools grow.
- Dr. Martin commented that foreign language is fundamental to Global schools. Ms. Moore pointed out that it is a resource issue. Elementary schools have to work within their allotment. Global schools get a half position and all but one has a foreign language.
- Mr. Benton stated that is non-negotiable. Would like to know requirements to lobby the county for it. He inquired what schools would like to have a foreign language it but aren't able to.
- Ms. Moore reported the program was not expanded 13-14 year. There has been conversation that all schools should have STEM/Global attributes. Now laying the ground work for all schools, not sure if this will be part of the Global network or differentiated in another way.
- Mr. Fletcher commented there is a point of view saying that the system is wasting money on foreign language teachers and should be teaching more depth of the culture. Need to establish what are the right components to be Global. Resources are always going to be a

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>problem.</li> <li>○ Dr. Martin questioned whether the STEM and Global programs are really teaching our students. Need to look at the data and compare AIG students with these students, research shows AIG programming works better.</li> <li>○ Dr. Martin requested to have the STEM/Global strategic plan sent to Board members.</li> </ul>		
Discussion of Future Topics for SAC	Cathy Moore	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Fletcher would like to hear more on literacy. We are not providing what is needed to solve the issue. ESL students are not getting what they need for mastery. Ms. Moore pointed out those students need to be tracked differently.</li> <li>○ Read to Achieve and Elementary literacy update.</li> <li>○ Need a broader conversation around what Legislature is requiring.</li> <li>○ ELL Resources.</li> <li>○ Dr. Martin raised the East Wake issue. Need to look at magnet programming for East Wake. Need to look at Magnet curriculum vs. non magnet curriculum. Weighted GPA and class ranking. Why block schedule?</li> <li>○ Ms. Evans requested to look at grading issues: elementary numerical scale (1234). Ms. Moore responded that some changes were made to the R &amp; P, historically, and need to bring back to Policy committee to address.</li> <li>○ Mr. Benton requested an update on Eastern Area Audit and outcome changes.</li> <li>○ Ms. Moore suggested: Summer Reading Program, updates on SCORE and ACE programs, RTI and Judy Elliot's presentation, Kids Notes, Translation/Interpretation services, and BYLD.</li> </ul>		
Closure and next steps	Christine Kushner	5

Next Student Achievement Committee Meeting Scheduled: October 10, 2013

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, Keith A. Sutton