



## Wake County Board of Education Student Achievement Committee

October 11, 2012

12:00 pm

Board Conference Room, Crossroads I

Christine Kushner, Committee Chair

John Tedesco, Vice Chair

Debra Goldman

Keith Sutton

### MEETING MINUTES - *REVISED*

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

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

- An opportunity to review and approve minutes from previous SAC meetings
- An opportunity to discuss updates on MSAP Grant schools
- An opportunity to discuss CTE Academy programming
- An overview of Curriculum Audit Schools for the 2012-2013 school year.

Present	Staff Members Present	
Christine Kushner, Chair Debra Goldman Keith Sutton Jim Martin Susan Evans Keith Sutton	Stephen Gainey Cathy Moore Todd Wirt Beth Cochran John Williams	David Wehbie Ashlie Thompson Ann Dishong Tasha Haynes-Cardenas
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
Committee Chair, Christine Kushner called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. Mrs. Kushner reviewed the meeting agenda and the desired outcomes. A quorum was established. The materials sent to Board Members on the previous Friday were appreciated. Ms. Goldman questioned the process of ensuring members communicate attendance to assure a quorum. Important issues are discussed and need to know if members are not attending. Ms. Kushner stated Mr. Sutton notified her that he would be late, she had not heard from Mr. Tedesco.		
Approve the minutes from the June 14 and July 18 Student Achievement Committee meetings.	Christine Kushner	5
Minutes were reviewed. Ms. Goldman moved to approve, Ms. Evans seconded. The minutes from June, July, and September were approved.		
Update on MSAP Grant Schools	Cathy Moore      Beth Cochran	30

Ms. Moore presented update on magnet themes for new and revised identified schools. Shown in handout. Dr. Cochran and team presented 2012-2013 magnet program pathways. Shown in handout. Looked at popular themes where there are more applicants than seats. Followed program pathways. Worked closely with schools, to detail for the grant and upcoming for Magnet Fair: Green ES, 2 languages for students everyday-considering Spanish & Chinese, working with Poe & Moore Square to help them figure out how to phase in a new program and change existing theme, survey with magnet applications is also used as a tool for guidance on themes. 2012-2013 will be a transition year for Poe going from Montessori to AG/GT in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades and feeding into Moore Square. Continuing Montessori program in Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in another location. Dr. Martin questioned how this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will transition from Montessori, 4 & 5 & AG. Ms. Moore responded the teachers are Montessori trained teachers; Central Services will watch flow, monitor who wants to continue, and who wants to leave. The AG/GT teaching is more about electives and additional support in the classroom. Ms. Evans requested the plan for year 2 of the transition. Ms. Moore responded the plan is still in conversation and location planning. The committee will be updated once the details can be worked out. Discussion is ongoing as to how to blend or whether to blend Montessori in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and AG. Dr. Martin noted it is important to strike a balance between students coming in and those already attending. He stated he has heard from some of the current families of the younger students and they wanted to know if they could have access to the AG/GT resources as well. Integrating the teachings styles could be very beneficial. Ms. Kushner voiced concern that the plan be communicated clearly, fully and often to the parents. Ms. Kushner cautioned the Montessori method is a very inclusive, the AG/GT programs in the schools are not always inclusive and we need to make sure that is happening in all schools. Ms. Moore referred to Pathways handout listing new magnets and theme revisions. Ms. Kushner questioned if staff looked at capacity, Ms. Moore stated they had worked closely with Student Assignment. Dr. Martin concerned GT theme will require more facilities, Moore Square is land locked. Parents and community are concerned how it can be carried out. Dr. Cochran responded it would be a choice assignment open to all parents in the district, the magnet grant will allow for some renovation of facilities, and focus on unique electives other middle schools do not have. Dr. Martin stated Moore Square parents and Staff have asked about continuing the museum component. Tasha responded that Central Service staff are working to preserve museum partnership through Best Practice, with new innovative curriculum to incorporate museum electives. Dr. Martin questioned what is meant by "technology" under the technology theme for Carroll. Dr. Cochran responded that the nano technology 4 year grant with NCSU, incorporating STEM is directing the program, with discussion still going on as to the complete program. Dr. Martin questioned what will be brought in: curriculum, equipment, etc? Tasha responded they are in the beginning stages of defining what the final technology model will look like. Ms. Kushner questioned designation of Chinese and Spanish as the 2 World Languages and the continuation of the languages for students coming from Green ES. Dr. Cochran responded those were the languages the staff felt strongly about for their population and what would make the school attractive. Dr. Martin cautioned staff to make sure to keep a strong component of arts and creative writing within the technology curriculum. Good technology requires a comprehensive education.

Update on CTE Academy Programming	Cathy Moore Ann Dishong	David Wehbie Ashlie Thompson	30
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MS. Moore and team presented updates on CTE HS and programming. Ms. Dishong introduced handouts with list of 10 offerings. Through numerous discussions with Wake Tech, these offerings were determined by considering what was in high demand, and limited or no availability. Ms. Moore referred to additional handouts summarizing previous information shared. Ms. Goldman questioned what didn't make the list? Ms. Dishong responded mainly IT sections. Discussions have taken place regarding other sites, regional sites, other partnerships, and the Wake Tech site being developed in RTP. Mr. Wehbie stated the greatest areas of need in Health Sciences have been addressed through Wake Med, covered big Industry sectors, and high schools already having existing programs in tourism, hospitality, entrepreneurship and business. WCPSS staff is excited to have Wake Tech's willingness to partner and are looking forward to other opportunities. Ms. Goldman questioned adding culinary programs. Mr. Wehbie stated that had been discussed with Wake Tech and it was their decision to not add any additional programs at this time. Mr. Wehbie stated the Pro Start Program is growing and is in most HS. Mr. Sutton questioned the status of construction trade programs. Mr. Wehbie stated there were 7 carpentry programs in HS throughout district. WCPSS does not have enough offerings of HVAC & Electrical trades. Ms. Goldman questioned CAD drafting and Engineering/Architectural programs in schools across the district. Mr. Wehbie stated WCPSS has CAD drafting in the majority of our high schools that can be taken as a career cluster or as an elective. Dr. Martin questioned full career cluster availability in the high schools or just a few electives in the schools. Mr. Wehbie stated we have enough courses to complete a pathway in the high schools. In the schools that have the comprehensive curriculum, students are able to earn secondary credit. Dr. Martin questioned whether Gaming/Simulation is just a fad, should we really concentrate on that rather than drafting, a better choice, need to maximize facilities. Mr. Wehbie explained WCPSS is a hub for gaming, using a computer lab type room, facilities are a flexible as popularity changes. Ms. Goldman questioned the possibility of more partnerships such as with Lenovo. Ms. Moore responded that is already being discussed. Dr. Martin questioned application to the program instead of to the school. Ms. Moore stated kids need to express interest, possibly may need to line item recruit, based on what kids have information about already and not, tight coordination between CTE, counselors at schools, and trade organizations. Dr. Martin requested more explanation on the 10/12 vs. 11/12.

Mr. Wehbie explained students get a general idea in 10th grade, and enter as 11<sup>th</sup> grade, with more time in 10<sup>th</sup> grade to prepare child for 11/12 courses. Dr. Martin stated he felt we need to work with kids at the base school in 9/10, and allow them to develop interest and enter as 11/12. Ms. Goldman expressed concern over giving seats to 10<sup>th</sup> graders who are not as committed to the program as dedicated students in 11/12. Ms. Kushner is concerned we need to be open to 10th grade, shouldn't be so fixed, to capture all, more students. Ms. Goldman made motion to elevate the grade level decision to a Board level conversation, so staff has clear indication on where the Board wants to proceed. Ms. Evans stated she would entertain compromise of a smaller 10<sup>th</sup> grade, to allow a student to enter at 10th or 11th grade. Mr. Sutton seconded. Ms. Moore noted the item was already planned for the Work Session October 16, and will be added to Action agenda. Mr. Sutton expressed concern that some of these decisions regarding the instructors, courses, grade etc. should be staff decision and not Board. Staff noted that whether beginning grade level was 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>, wouldn't have an effect on the number of seats available. Ms. Goldman cautioned that a decision could not be made by the committee today, the BoE needs to make the decision. Dr. Martin agreed that some decisions need to be staff decision, but felt grade span should be a BoE decision. He also cautioned that the CTE HS program not be a recovery program for those getting ready to drop out, he is concerned it could be a catch all for students that struggle to make it anywhere else. It needs to be a top notch program. He doesn't want to create a program that steers low performing kids to a technical direction, no matter the grade level. We want a high level program for the CTE HS. Ms. Moore relayed that by having 10<sup>th</sup> grade students on the campus of the CTE school, while not fully integrated into the Wake Tech classes, provides a smoother personalized transition, instead of straight 11/12, and would open more seats at traditional high school for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Kushner would like more discussion on expanded partnerships with Wake Technical Community College. Ms. Goldman made a motion to take to the BoE, Dr. Martin seconded, grade level discussion will go to the October 16 Work Session, and the October 30 BoE meeting.

Curriculum Audit Schools-2012-13	Cathy Moore	20
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Ms. Moore presented the 2012-2013 curriculum audit schools being considered. In 2007 WCPSS had a system wide curriculum audit done district. Those recommendations have been worked through over several years. As an outgrowth of that audit, WCPSS have had some specific schools audited. WCPSS staff who are trained in auditing and those we contract with go into a school, visit every classroom and teacher, talks with school administration and develops a report, giving strategic directives, recommendations, and indicates deficits that the school administration and Central Services need to address. These audits have been done at Wendell ES, E Wake HS (4), Wilburn ES, limited scope audit at Enloe HS, in Algebra 1 & Biology. The audit shows where we have done a good job at implementing recommendations. This is carried out with joint support of the Area Superintendent's office and the Academics office. We have seen good movement, increased proficiency and good growth in these schools. We are looking at schools for 2012-2013. Schools have to want to take a deeper look into their instructional program and delivery and with a third party view to make recommendations. Eastern Wake County schools are being considered: Hodge Road ES, Knightdale ES, East Wake MS, and Knightdale HS. This responds to the Knightdale community who is requesting some support for a strategic plan on how to support higher levels of teaching, learning, proficiency, and growth of students in their schools. This costs \$15,000 to \$20,000 per school. The recommendations that come out of the school audit become the ground work for the School Improvement Plan 3-4 years out. Dr. Martin questioned having a baseline against audit, what is the control group? Ms. Moore responded that WCPSS has used an outside organization, CMSI, they have their process, and are an outside 3<sup>rd</sup> party view, compare to other areas, don't know how they benchmark.

Dr. Martin recommends also looking at a less high needs school as well, to compare with East Wake.

Ms. Moore will check what schools have been done to this point and research that point.

Closure and next steps	Christine Kushner	5
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Ms. Kushner reminded the committee of the Nov 8 and Dec 13 meeting dates, and requested new recommendations for future discussions. A request was made to put next meeting dates on agenda. Meeting was adjourned at 1:13 pm.

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