

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MINUTES
January 8, 2001

Board Members Present:

Beverley Clark
Rosa Gill
J.C. O'Neal
Tom Oxholm
Kathryn Quigg

Staff Members Present:

Karen Banks
Jo Baker
Danny Barnes
Del Burns
Mike Burriss
Luther Cherry
Ann Hooker
Linda Isley
Ray Massey
Janice Shearin
Walt Sherlin
Jonibel Willis

Board Attorneys Present:

Ann Majestic

Kathryn Quigg called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance .

INFORMATION

Comments from the Vice Chairman

Ms. Quigg announced that Superintendent McNeal, Bill Fletcher and Judy Hoffman were not present because they were attending the NCSBA Winter Leadership Conference in Pinehurst.

Superintendent's Report

Reporting for Superintendent McNeal, Del Burns shared that Kimberlyn Hickman was honored by Wakefield High school recently as a Light of Hope winner. She had written an essay to the Do Something organization advocating for young people to be change agents in their communities on diversity issues. She won the competition and a trip to New York to meet with Martin Luther King III.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

*Under Personnel, the Information item Recommendations for Career Status was moved to Consent. Under Facilities, a Committee Report was added as an Information item; the Action Item School Names for New Schools was moved to Consent, and some minor revisions were made to the wording of Consent items #4,5,6 and 7. **With these changes, Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by J.C. O'Neal. The vote was unanimous.***

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

CONSENT ITEMS – ALL COMMITTEES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 27, 2000 Closed Session

December 4, 2000 Board Meeting

December 18, 2000 Board Meeting

FACILITIES

1. Construction Documents: Reedy Creek Middle

Construction documents for Reedy Creek Middle, designed by Cherry Huffman Architects, PA, were presented for board approval. The school design is a modification of the prototype for Wakefield Middle. Fiscal Implications - Funding is available from the total project budget of \$21,152,754, of which \$20,452,754 is from PLAN 2000 School Building project budget and \$700,000 is from the board-approved 1996 State Bond project budget. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the construction documents was recommended.

2. Designer Selection: Design Package 00C

In accordance with the designer selection procedures adopted by the Wake County Board of Education, the pre-selection committee presented recommendations for the board to select architectural firms for the following building and campus improvements projects: Apex Elementary, Broughton High, East Garner Middle, East Wake High, Leesville High, Millbrook Elementary, Project Enlightenment, Swift Creek Elementary, Vance Elementary, Willow Springs Elementary. Fiscal Implications - Design fees will be negotiated in accordance with designer selection procedures. Recommendation for Action - Board approval was recommended.

3. Design Phase Change Order No. 3: Olds Elementary Addition and Renovations

Design Change Order No. 3 addresses additional design costs associated with code compliance and replacement of the existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The HVAC system replacement was not part of the original scope of the project, but was determined to be necessary as the project design progressed. An increase in the design fee, in the amount of \$121,355, has been negotiated for the added design work. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available within the board-approved total project budget of \$6,502,568. The total project budget consists of \$2,852,871 from the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program; \$3,489,697 from the board-approved state bond project budget; \$150,000 from the ADA component of the 1996 State Bond Program. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of Design Phase Change Order No.3 was recommended.

4. Resolution: Cary Elementary Designer Selection

Staff recommended waiving the designer selection process and selection of DTW Architects and Planners, LLC for the design of Cary Elementary School renovations and addition. This request is in accordance with NCGS 143-64.32, which allows the exemption of the statutory designer selection process. The specific reason for this exemption is to take advantage of the past experience of DTW Architects and Planners, LLC, who recently completed the state bond work at this school which included master planning for the campus. Due to their familiarity with code issues that this renovation is specifically addressing, their involvement will shorten design time and expedite the project. Staff recommended proceeding with the negotiation of a design contract with DTW Architects and Planners, LLC. Fiscal Implications - Design fees will be negotiated in accordance with designer selection procedures. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the designer selection waiver was recommended.

5. Resolution: Forestville Elementary Designer Selection

Staff recommended waiving the designer selection process and selection of Pearce, Brinkley, Cease & Lee, PA. for the design of Forestville Elementary School. This request is in accordance with NCGS 143-64.32, which allows the exemption of the statutory designer selection process. The specific reason for this exemption is to allow the reuse of the Yates Mill Elementary prototype with some design improvements and refinements. Reuse of the prototype will shorten the design time, reduce cost, and help expedite the project. Staff recommended proceeding with the negotiation of a design contract with Pearce, Brinkley, Cease & Lee, PA. Fiscal Implications –Reduction in design cost, exact amount to be determined through negotiations. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the designer selection waiver resolution was recommended.

6. Resolution: Salem Middle Designer Selection

Staff recommended waiving the designer selection process and selection of Cherry Huffman Architects, PA for the design of Salem Middle School. This request is in accordance with NCGS 143-64.32, which allows the exemption of the statutory designer selection process. The specific reason for this exemption is to allow the reuse of the Wakefield Middle prototype, with design refinements and improvements as planned for Holly Ridge Middle and Reedy Creek Middle. Reuse of the prototype will shorten the design time, reduce cost, and expedite the project. Staff recommended proceeding with the negotiation of a design contract with Cherry Huffman Architects, PA. Fiscal Implications - Design fees will be negotiated in accordance with designer selection procedures. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the designer selection waiver resolution was recommended.

7. Resolution: Stough Elementary Designer Selection

Staff recommended waiving the designer selection process and selection of Brown & Jones Architects, Inc. for the design of Stough Elementary School renovations and addition. This request is in accordance with NCGS 143-64.32, which allows the exemption of the statutory designer selection process. The specific reason for this exemption is to take advantage of the past experience of Brown & Jones Architects, Inc., who recently completed the state bond work at this school. Due to their familiarity with code issues that this renovation is specifically addressing, their involvement should shorten design time and expedite the project. Staff recommended proceeding with the negotiation of a design contract with Brown & Jones Architects, Inc. Fiscal Implications - Design fees will be negotiated in accordance with designer selection procedures. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the designer selection waiver resolution was recommended.

8. Technology System Repairs and Upgrades: Carnage Middle

Following substantial completion of the renovations/addition project at Carnage Middle, AAA Electrical Company, Inc. performed critical technology work, including repairs to the network damaged during the demolition process, completion of the electrical prime contractor's work, and modifications to the existing network to make it compatible with the infrastructure in the new addition. This additional work is estimated to cost \$107,000. Nearly 80 percent of this cost will be back-charged to the existing prime contractors for the renovations/addition project.

Fiscal Implications Funds for the school system's portion of this cost are available from the board-approved total project budget of \$12,230,777 of which \$10,954,729 is from Phase IIIB; \$585,000 is from Phase IIIB Deferred Maintenance; \$591,048 is from the 1996 State Bond project budget; and \$100,000 is from the ADA component of the 1996 State Bond.

Recommendation for Action - Board approval of a purchase order contract with AAA Electrical Company, Inc. was recommended.

9. School Names for New Schools

Several new schools opening during the period 2002-2004 require school names. In accordance with board policy, staff recommended the names for these schools as listed on the attached Exhibit A. Fiscal Implications - None. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the recommended names for the new schools was requested.

PROGRAM

1. Addendum #1 Between Wake County Smartstart, Inc. and Wake County Public School System

This addendum increases funding for Project Enlightenment to extend resources and assessment, consultation, training, intervention, and support services to children at risk for school failure.

This is a revenue contract in the amount of \$60,000. No Wake County Public School funds are required. Approval of contract to receive funding from Wake County Smart Start, Inc.

2. Contract #2000-31 Between Wake County Smartstart, Inc. and Wake County Public School System

This contract funds Project Enlightenment to coordinate transition services to promote success of kindergarten students entering the Wake County Public School System. Thirteen elementary schools will receive grants of up to \$5,000 each to implement approved transition activities.

This is a revenue contract in the amount of \$75,000. No Wake County Public School funds are required. Approval of contract to receive funding from Wake County Smart Start, Inc.

PERSONNEL

1. Recommendations for Employment

Professional List #9, 2000-2001; Other Professional List #9, 2000-2001; and Support List #9, 2000-2001

2. Recommendations for Administrative Appointment

Curtis Nathaniel Grogan, applicant, to Director of Risk Management, Administrative Services, date to be determined.

Holly Schwoebel, applicant, to assistant principal at Millbrook High School, effective date to be determined.

3. Career Status Recommendations

Thea LaRocca, Farmington Woods Elementary; Jennifer Norris, Garner High School; Cathy Ennis, Leadmine Elementary; Mary Shannon O'Connell Morlando, Leadmine Elementary; Margaret Lynn Morris, Leadmine Elementary; Patricia Heald, Ligon Middle; and Karen Trochlil, Ligon Middle.

Rose Gill made a motion to approve all the consent items. It was seconded by Beverley Clark, and the vote carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

J.C. O'Neal made a motion to go into closed session:

To consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 115C-319, and

To establish or instruct the Board's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the Board in negotiation of (I) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5).

It was seconded by Rosa Gill and the vote was unanimous.

The Board reconvened into open session at 5:05 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSONNEL

1. Recommendation for Administrative Appointment

John H. Williams, principal at Garner High School, to principal at Middle Creek High School, effective date to be determined.

J.C. O'Neal made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION ITEMS

FINANCE

1. Funding of Resolution Requesting Transfer of Funds to WCPSS Operating Budget

On August 28, 2000, the Wake County Board of Education approved a resolution requesting that the Wake County Board of Commissioners transfer the balance of the unallocated capital projects fund, in the amount of \$7,049,316, to the WCPSS operating budget. On November 20 the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved funding of the request using a combination of recurring tax revenue of \$4.9 million due to WCPSS, non-recurring \$1.1 million from the year ended June 30, 2000, and \$1.0 million from the unallocated capital projects fund. Approximately \$6.0 million remains in unallocated capital funds.

2. Preliminary Projections for Tax Revenue for Fiscal Year 2001-2002

Preliminary projections for tax revenue for fiscal year 2001-2002 for WCPSS have been received from Wake County. The total available for WCPSS for the next fiscal year is projected to be \$178,892,000, compared to the total of \$172,986,000 appropriated for the current fiscal year. The projected amount for fiscal year 2001-2002 is an increase of \$5,906,000.

During the presentation of information, the following correction was made by Dr. Burns: The County appropriation for 2000-2001 is based on 28.6 cents of the total 56.4 cents of \$100 property valuation, and for 2001-2002 is based on 29.6 cents of the total 56.4 cents of \$100 property valuation. Mr. Oxholm asked Dr. Burns to determine where the additional one cent is for the current year. \$5.5 million was approved by the County Commissioners for deferred maintenance for the current year from capital dollars. It was noted that Mr. Massey will break out how the money is being spent during an upcoming Facilities Committee meeting.

3. Mid-Year Budget Update

As part of the budgeting process, on-going analyses of budgets occur. The Analysis of Potential Changes in Budget summary details savings, projected costs, and a potential net cost to be covered during the year. The status of actual-to-projected expenditures at mid-year were presented. Fiscal Implications: Action may be requested at a later time related to potential net costs.

Mr. Oxholm commented that the Finance Advisory Group established last spring and presently working with the Wake Education Partnership on an independent annual report project, have been invited to offer their expertise once again during upcoming Finance Committee meetings. The first scheduled is on January 25 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room.

PROGRAM

1. Safe Schools Student Plans

As part of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant, approximately 250 students from 29 middle and high schools participated in a Safe Schools Summit linked to the Character Education Conference in September. Students listened to speakers talk about how Character Education is connected to the 40 Developmental Assets as measured on the Profiles of Student Life Survey. Students wrote Safe School Plans for their schools which were evaluated by a panel of school officials and community members. Three school plans were given awards for outstanding merit. They were Leesville Road High (1st Place), Garner Senior High (2nd Place), and Davis Drive Middle (3rd Place). Awards included funding to implement plans. Other schools participating were Apex Middle, Carroll Middle, Daniels Middle, Dillard Drive Middle, East Cary Middle, East Garner Middle, Ligon Middle, Martin Middle, West Cary Middle, West Millbrook Middle, Zebulon Middle, Apex High, Athens Drive High, Broughton High, Cary High, East Wake High, Enloe High, Green Hope High, Millbrook High, Phillips High, Southeast Raleigh High, Wakefield High, Wake Forest-Rolesville High, and Mt. Vernon Redirection. Grant funding in the amount of \$12,000 was allocated for implementation of this program. This was presented for information only. A presentation by the students is scheduled for February.

2. Establishing the 20th Day as the Benchmark Student Number for WCPSS

In a school system where students enroll on an almost daily basis, it is often difficult to have an accurate count of students during the first few weeks of school. Working with schools that have done an exceptional job of accurately counting students during the first hectic days of the school year, we have devised a standard procedure for counting students during this time. The current SIMS managers and principals will be trained in this standardized procedure. With this new

procedure, a more accurate student count on the 20th day will be available. In a growing system, it is difficult to accurately establish numbers such as Free and Reduced and ESL because they grow as the year progresses. In order to base decisions on consistent numbers, WCPSS needs to establish one "official day" for membership. Doing so will allow WCPSS to compare data from year to year. No fiscal implications at this time. This was presented for information only.

FACILITIES

1. Facilities Committee Report

Beverley Clark, Facilities Committee Chair, gave a brief report on the recent Facilities Committee meeting held on Friday, January 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. At that time, each Facilities item on the consent and action agenda were reviewed in depth. As a result, wording revisions were made to items #4,5,6 and 7. Each of these changes deals with the waiver of the designer selection process and the addition to the Precis that the waiver is subject to the successful negotiation of design fees. The action item relating to School Names was presented, discussed and voted to be moved to the consent agenda.

The meeting was attended by Norbert Hector, president of D.H. Griffen Construction Co., who serves as co-chair of the Construction Support Committee. Mr. Hector shared information with the Facilities Committee, and it will be the practice to encourage such relative community input. A draft of the Facilities Committee Purpose Statement was also distributed for comments and feedback. The next Facilities Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Beverley Clark made a motion, seconded by Tom Oxholm, to amend the agenda to add two Facilities Action items. The vote carried with J.C. O'Neal voting No.

FACILITIES

Action

1. Offer to Purchase and Contract

John Baker and Stuart Edward White have agreed to sell approximately 26 acres of land located on Church Street, Morrisville, NC to the Wake County Board of Education for a new elementary school, community park and Wake County Library. The project will be planned and developed jointly with Wake County and the Town of Morrisville. Fiscal Implications – Estimated gross purchase price \$988,000 (Wake County contributions \$200,000). Net estimated land cost to Board \$788,000. Recommendation for Action – Board approval of the Offer to Purchase and Contract with John Baker and Stuart Edward White was requested.

In discussion, Mr. O'Neal voiced concern about purchasing land in the western part of the county (Cary), where it would seem more difficult to share the challenge of educating lower achieving children.

Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve, seconded by Rose Gill. The vote carried with J.C. O'Neal voting No.

2. Funding Resolution – New Elementary – Morrisville

Staff requested Board approval of a funding resolution to the Wake County Board of Commissioners to purchase approximately 26 acres of land on Church Street, Morrisville, NC. The estimated purchase price of \$988,000 will include a contribution by Wake County of \$200,000. Fiscal implications – net estimated land cost to Board \$788,000. Recommendation for Action – Board approval of the funding resolution was requested.

Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve, seconded by Rose Gill. The vote carried with J.C. O'Neal voting No.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Julie Nau, Wake NCAE president, reported that after seeking survey input from approximately 4000 members, their recommended top priority for budget considerations in the upcoming year should be salary increases for both certified and non-certified employees. A detailed report with specific recommendations to administration will follow.

SUMMARY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Kathryn Quigg adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Marett, Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Secretary

Bill Fletcher, Chairman