



WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINTUES January 8, 2008



Board Members Present	Staff Members Present	
Rosa Gill, Chair	Superintendent Del Burns	Don Haydon
Beverley Clark, Vice Chair	Terri Cobb	David Holdzkom
Eleanor Goettee	Danny Barnes	Ann Hooker
Patti Head	Maurice Boswell	Julye Mizelle
Kevin Hill	Mike Burriss	David Neter
Anne McLaurin	Marvin Connelly	Bev White
Ron Margiotta	Chuck Dulaney	Jonibel Willis
Lori Millberg	Michael Evans	Mark Winters
Horace Tart	Lloyd Gardner	Board Attorney
	Donna Hargens	Ann Majestic

Chair Gill called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Comments

- Ms. Gill congratulated Patti Head for a new addition to her family. Ms. Head's daughter and husband had a son on December 19.
- Ms. Gill congratulated Paige Elliott, a teacher at Fuquay-Varina High School and the WCPSS Teacher of the year, for being named the North Central Regional Teacher of the Year. On January 3, Horace Tart, Eleanor Goettee, Dr. Burns, Ms. Gill, and other administrative staff had the privilege of attending the announcement. The recognition came with a check for \$5,000 and the opportunity to participate in national education conferences representing the state. Paige is one of nine teachers competing for the title of North Carolina Teacher of the Year.
- The Southeast Raleigh High School Band, under the direction of Clifton Scott, participated in the Florida Citrus Bowl Parade in Orlando, Florida on December 29. The Southeast Raleigh High School Band had 135 students participate and was the only North Carolina band that participated.
- Under the direction of J.R. Richardson, the Broughton High School Band appeared in the Rose Bowl Parade held in Pasadena, California on New Year's Day. Broughton had 186 students participate. For the first time in 18 years, a band from North Carolina participated. Participation in the Citrus Bowl Parade and the Rose Bowl Parade is by invitation only.
- On Monday, January 14, the Board of Education will hold a work session from 9-4 at Crossroads II.
- On Wednesday, January 16, the Joint Meeting with the County Commissioners will be held in the Board Conference Room from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

- Staff will present the Student Assignment Plan to the Board during the meeting. The Board will review the plan and receive public comments through February 1. There will be opportunities for additional comments at one of three public hearings, January 15 at Sanderson High School, January 17 at Green Hope High School, and January 24 at Middle Creek High School. Parents and community members can sign up online. Ms. Gill encouraged community members interested in addressing the student assignment plan to attend one of the meetings.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Margiotta requested to have Facilities Consent Agenda Item, #5 Construction Manager At Risk Agreement: Wake-Forest Rolesville High School added to the Action Agenda

Eleanor Goettee made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ron Margiotta. The motion was unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. SUPERINTENDENT'S MID-TERM REPORT

The work to align and initiate efforts in support of the superintendent's vision and strategic directives, as well as future direction for the school system, will be presented to the Board of Education. Fiscal Implications: To be determined. Recommendation for Action: This item is presented for information.

Dr. Burns reported that "Several weeks ago, Pastor Alexander Herring invited me to the historic Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church to speak to a packed sanctuary about the achievement gaps within Wake County's public schools. I was there to present the data—the good and the bad—about our students' performance. My message at Juniper Level was simple: as good a school system as we are, the time for "business as usual" is behind us.

Their response was passionate. They challenged me to do more, and what's more they challenged themselves to get further involved. It was one of the most gratifying moments I've experienced as superintendent. It was a moment when a community gathered together in common purpose—to secure a bright future for every child in our schools, without exception.

This is a school system that I am proud to lead. When you look at our school system from the 50,000-foot view, you see high performing students and high performing schools in every corner of our county. You see parents and business volunteers not just involved, but engaged. You see a school system with a 31-year history of rising above all challenges to become one of the strongest large school systems in the nation.

And yet, our community has changed. While the breakneck pace of Wake County's growth may be slowing a bit due to the nation's economy, we will still add thousands of students every year for many years to come. Our student population is becoming more complex. The world in which they live is becoming more complex. The challenges of technology and global competition are upon us, and we dare not ignore them. We do mean to graduate students prepared for the future, after all. And believe me, they know we mean business.

Just before the holidays, I spent some quality time at Conn Elementary School, speaking to and talking with about 110 third graders. I talked with them about the vision for this school system. I asked them what it means to be “prepared for the future”. They know. And they told me. What did they tell me? “It means to be prepared to go to college. It means to be prepared for a future we don’t know about. It means to be able to work in a global society working with people from different places that I may never see, but will IM and email and maybe talk to on my cell phone.” Our world and their world, is changing before our eyes.

As an initial response to our changing world, the last 18 months have been a period of returning Wake County Public School System to its fundamentals. We have concentrated on teaching and learning as our core business, with every other function from student assignment to technology services aligned to support teaching and learning. But now it is time for a new phase.

We are one of the strongest public school systems in the nation, but even a plateau of good performance is still a plateau. Ninety-one percent of our students in grades 3 through 8 performed at or above grade level in reading in 2007, but that percentage has barely changed since 2003. We must confront some brutal facts.

There exist significant achievement gaps in our schools. Our on time graduation rate for all students last year was almost 80%. Compared to the state and to large urban districts nation-wide, that’s pretty good. For students qualifying for free or reduced price lunch, a measure of socio-economic status, 63% graduated on time. For students with disabilities, 57% graduated on time. For our limited English proficient students, 44% graduated on time. We must concern ourselves with each of our student’s academic growth – those who are academically gifted as well as those who are academically challenged.

Any child with the proper support can succeed academically, but the truth we must face is that even more of our disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency must succeed academically. And the same time, we must also recognize that even our successful students may not be adequately prepared for the technological and global challenges of this century.

When you put those pieces together, the picture that results tells me that being a good school system isn’t good enough anymore. Last year we requested and underwent a comprehensive curriculum management audit that presented a number of findings and recommendations revealing opportunities for improvement. That audit is a tool that we must use to change our course.

We must purposefully change the culture of the Wake County Public School System to resume the academic growth that our citizens demand and our students deserve. We must make a shift in emphasis from “teaching and learning; to “learning and teaching,” placing our children’s academic needs first in every way. That culture change must be deep enough and broad enough to affect issues ranging from professional learning communities to student assignment.

We are reinventing the Wake County Public School System. We’ve been concentrating on the fundamentals, and that will give us the foundation from which to embark upon purposeful change. First, fiscal accountability. This school year we have taken great steps forward in raising expectations of our staff. We have increased our system controls, streamlined some of our fiscal policies and procedures, including establishing for the first time a policy addressing fund balance, and become more transparent to the public.

As an example, since July our area superintendents have become more involved in promoting fiscal accountability at the school level, by participating in quarterly financial reviews with our principals along with our administrative services staff. Area superintendent's area also helping with the audit process for our schools' Fund 6 accounts, which are funds comprised of school-generated revenue. Our chief officers undergo a similar financial review each quarter as well, as we work to efficiently use resources provided by taxpayers.

What this means for the future is an increase in efficiency, transparency, and accountability at the school level, where 88% of our school system's operational funding goes. And this also connects to the curriculum management audit, which called for us to apply a deeper cost/benefit analysis to all of our educational programs and activities. As we improve our fiscal accountability to our citizens, we will also ensure that every dollar has the maximum impact upon learning and teaching in our classrooms.

Second, systems and organizational structures or processes-how we work- that support our schools, ensures accountability, and engages our community. Before we could embark upon purposeful change, we had to ensure that these structures were in place so that we could operate more effectively. A public school system may not be a business, but we certainly need to be business-like.

In terms of supporting schools, this year began a five-year technology refresh plan for our schools as part of our capital improvement plan, support by the 2006 bond. Those bond funds are directly benefiting student learning by systematically replacing obsolete equipment- one fifth each year for the next five years. We have worked closely with our principals to accomplish this, and this means that you will see greater equity among our schools as well as greater access to modern technology for all of our students.

Third, retaining, recruiting, and training of high quality employees. This year, more than 20 principals will be eligible for retirement. In the next five years, a fourth of our 9,000 teachers will be at retirement age. When you consider those sobering facts, and also recognize that we are always opening new school and welcoming new students, then our need becomes clear. We need to keep our strong employees, aggressively recruit talented new employees, and constantly invest in their future potential. We need employees who can be leaders where they are, as well as employees who may become tomorrow's principals, administrators, and superintendents.

This year, we provided leadership training for assistant principals for the first time our first superintendent Dr. John Murphy, gathered them together 30 years ago. It wasn't just about helping them get a leg up for a future principal's job, although succession planning is certainly on my mind. But we expect more of our assistant principals than was expected in the past. We ask them to be instructional leaders. They are uniquely positioned to be team builders as well as team players—and that gives them a key role in orientation, induction, retention, and training of teachers as well.

Effective retaining, recruiting and training means enhanced professionalism, leadership and accountability at all levels of the Wake County Public School System, and it speaks to aligning our resources for the best benefit of our students- which was another point in the curriculum management audit.

Finally, teaching and learning—this, after today, in the Wake County Public School System, becomes learning and teaching. Make no mistake: it's more than it seems and this will be on the test! Over 18 months, we have examined our processes and relationships in the classrooms and in the schools. What we have learned, and what the curriculum management audit has taught us, enables us to change the focus from how we teach or children to what our children are learning.

We received the audit last September. Since then we have been studying it closely—all 117 suggested action steps of it—have assigned eight senior level administrators to assemble a team responsible for planning and implementing the eight major recommendations. As I said, the audit is our tool for purposeful change, and we are eager to use it.

As we have been reviewing the audit, we have also been moving forward with establishing Professional Learning Communities in our schools, to provide a team-based approach to solving new challenges in the classroom. PLCs make collaboration part of a school's culture, so teachers can benefit from the experiences and insights of their colleagues while sharing and analyzing individual student performance data. We have also made PLCs, or team-based collaboration, a requirement in central services, as we align and attune efforts to provide services supporting schools as our customers.

For the last six months have been carefully establishing PLCs—and the curriculum management audit itself—as the drivers that enable us to change the culture of the Wake County Public School System. We are a strong school system with a strong foundation. There is no gimmick, no parade of new programs, and no silver bullet that will have a lasting effect on students' ability to graduate on time, prepared for the future. Instead our change must be purposeful, it must be strategic, and it must strengthen our culture of learning and teaching.

"Learning and teaching" instead of "teaching and learning" is more than a semantic change. It is about attunement. It changes how we think about processes and relationships. The most important thing is it clearly places the result first. The triangle that guides much of our work has the processes and relationships at the bottom- both important foundational components, but the focus, must be results. Focusing upon results supports our purposeful change into a learning organization for the current century—constantly going to the data; going to our community; going to outside experts, parents, and business volunteers—to continuously improve themselves.

Looking ahead to the end of the school year, we will finally begin the process of implementing the curriculum management audit's administrative recommendations, while continuing to gather information and working in tandem with the Board of Education on the audit's governance recommendations. The audit must become a "shelf document". Implementation of the audit recommendations will take months and even years; it is, however, past time we began.

In the next six months we will continue enhancing our school's professional learning communities to make them even more student-centered—teaming and focusing on results for children will be visible parts of our school system's purposeful changes in central services as well as in every school building.

The Growth and Planning Department for the last time will present a one-year student assignment plan. Our staff has the data, the talent, and the community feedback. There is no reason we cannot provide a multi-year student assignment plan for our community, and we will be able to provide that greater level of stability and predictability for parents for the 2009-2011 school years.

That is just one example of the kind of community responsiveness we intend to foster as part of this purposeful change. First and foremost we are accountable to student learning, but we must also become more nimble and more open. As quickly as our community is growing, and as complex as our lives are becoming, parents and citizens need more information and access to their school system to be reassured that

we're doing the right things for children. Twelve months from now, I will be able to report that we're doing even better.

The full statement of our vision is: working as a community of educators and stakeholders, with support of the broader community, we will ensure that every child educated in our school system graduates on time, prepared for the future. Notice how important that word "community" is. The vision describes all of us within the Wake County Public School System as a community, a learning community, working with and not against each other. The vision sees us as engaged with our broader community, parents, and non-parents alike, business volunteers, and people of faith and commitment, from every corner of the county.

The purposeful change I am talking about, the building of a culture of learning and teaching will help us better realize this vision by binding us all together in support of children.

At the end of the day, when that vision is realized, our aligned focus from every classroom in every school to this board room will be on our children, our children will be achieving their potential, and any one of us will be able to stand before Pastor Herring's congregation... and Chamber of Commerce members.. and third graders at Conn Elementary or any other school... and Wake Early College.. and any other Wake County citizen and say with pride "look at the accomplishments of all of our children, look at the accomplishments of this great system, look at the accomplishments that this great community has achieved. Now what's next?" An why ask what's next? Because that is the hallmark of continuous improvement focused on results in an aligned school system committed to learning.

I am proud of the hard work our 17,000 employees are doing every day in support of learning for 134,000 students. I'm looking forward to the future with excitement as we consider the possibilities and make them realities for students."

2. NAME FOR NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN WENDELL (E-34)

On or about December 19, 2007, the Board of Education acquired approximately 17.63 acres for use as an elementary school in the E-34 target area, with a school scheduled to open in 2009. Naming of the new elementary school facility is now required. The following names are proposed for consideration (1) Lake Myra Elementary and (2) Elk Falls Drive Elementary.

Lake Myra Elementary is proposed because of the site's proximity to Lake Myra, which is the nearest notable geographic or natural feature, and will be consistent with the adjacent Wake County Open Space Park that is to be named "Lake Myra Park". Elk Falls Drive Elementary is proposed as it identifies the road from which the school will be accessed and will help to specifically identify the location of the site. Staff recommends name selection of Lake Myra Elementary. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: None, as this item is presented for information only and Board approval will be requested at the second presentation to the Board.

Betty Parker presented the item to the Board. Ms. Parker stated that Lake Myra Elementary is proposed because of the site's proximity to Lake Myra, which is the nearest notable geographic or natural feature, and will be consistent with the adjacent Wake County Open Space Park that is to be named "Lake Myra Park". Elk Falls Drive Elementary is proposed as it identifies the road from which the school will be accessed and will help to specifically identify the location of the site. Staff recommends Lake Myra

Elementary School.

Ms. Millberg questioned if the naming of this site Lake Myra Elementary, was okay since future elementary sites would be relatively close.

Ms. Parker stated that the site borders Lake Myra and is the closest in proximity. The other sites are north, and northeast of the lake.

With no further questions from the Board, staff will seek Board approval at the second presentation for naming of E-34.

3. GROWTH AND PLANNING STUDENT REASSIGNMENT PLAN FOR 2008 2009

The staff of the Growth and Planning Department will present recommendations for the 2008-2009 Growth and Planning Reassignment Plan. A draft reassignment plan was released to the public at 5:00 p.m., December 7, 2007, and staff considered public comments as they developed their final recommendations.

The reassignment plan for 2008-09 addresses the opening of three new year-round elementary schools and changes that staff believes to be consistent with Board Policy 6200. Fiscal Implications: The opening of new schools and student movement will result in increased transportation costs. Other facility-related costs will be avoided. Recommendation for Action: Staff is presenting for information.

Chuck Dulaney presented an overview of the recommendations for the 2008-2009 Growth and Planning Reassignment Plan. The objectives for growth management was to assign students to three new elementary schools: Laurel Park, Mills Park, and Sycamore Creek Elementary schools and to implement Board Policy 6200 which instructs staff to reduce the number of schools where more than 40% of students are from low-income families, make neighboring schools demographically more comparable to each other, improve alignment of student assignment with the objectives of the Magnet School Program, and to move schools toward optimal utilization of the long-range building capacity.

Staff followed a process that began in Fall 2007 where they met with school leadership teams and compiled trend data which was shared at community engagement meetings. Staff developed draft scenarios and reviewed the scenarios with the Student Assignment Advisory Committee. On December 7, staff published a draft proposal on the WCPSS website. Staff reviewed comments and suggestions which were compiled where 1,352 suggestions and comments were submitted through the district website, 137 email messages and 39 phone messages were received. All comments were reviewed by a Director or Senior Administrator and summarized in meetings. Comments were discussed in a series of meetings of the Growth Management Team where staff drafted a finalized set of recommendations.

The Office of Growth Management will begin using multi-year planning from this point forward. The recommendations anticipate the opening of four additional elementary schools and the relocation of River Bend Elementary and Wendell Middle into their new

buildings in 2009-2010. Staff made no recommendations for middle schools and high schools so that a full review of feeder patterns could be incorporated into a multi-year assignment plan addressing the next twelve schools that will be opened in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Mr. Dulaney shared that the right of the Board of Education to assign students to year-round schools is uncertain until the Court of Appeals considers the appeal of the District Court ruling on informed consent. The staff assignment recommendations for 2008-2009 are not based upon anticipation of a particular ruling by the court, but are intended to provide as many options for families as possible and work toward the long-range goal of 95% utilization of elementary school capacity. If the Board of Education chooses to assign students to traditional calendar schools because they do not consent to year-round assignment at their base schools, staff plans to obtain consent forms and recommend traditional calendar alternatives after the results of the magnet and calendar option application processes are known in March.

Staff made the following recommendations:

Recommendation for Laurel Park Elementary which should have a capacity of 963 students on a year-round calendar:

76 students from Dillard Elementary,
159 students from Baucom Elementary,
102 students from Briarcliff Elementary,
172 students from Davis Drive Elementary,
63 year-round students from Adams Elementary, and
36 year-round students from Morrisville Elementary.

The result for Laurel Park will include 791 students in the school's first year population. 26% of the population will be from low-income families.

Recommendation for Mills Park Elementary which should have a capacity of 1, 078 students on a year-round calendar:

455 students from Highcroft Drive Elementary,
308 students from Green Hope Elementary,
62 students from Cary Elementary,
50 students from Reedy Creek Elementary, and
4 year-round students from Adams Elementary.

The result for Mills Park will include 879 students. 18% of the population will be from low-income families.

Recommendation for Sycamore Creek Elementary which should have a capacity of 1,078 students on a year-round calendar.

12 students from Leesville Road Elementary,
575 students from Hilburn Elementary,
122 students from North Ridge Elementary,
61 students from Baileywick Elementary,
155 year-round students from Brier Creek Elementary, and
4 year-round students at Green Elementary.

The result for Sycamore Creek is 929 students. 18% of the population will be from low-income families.

With opening three new schools it has had a dramatic effect on other schools, including Hilburn Drive Elementary. Hilburn Elementary School has a capacity of 761. If there were no changes for next year, the projected enrollment would be approximately 941 or 180 students over capacity. In the assignment recommendations for 2008-2009, staff recommends that:

575 students from Hilburn go to Sycamore Creek,
131 students from Hilburn go to Brier Creek, and
14 students from Hilburn go to Leesville Road Elementary.

Staff recommended re-populating Hilburn Drive Elementary with:

81 students from York Elementary,
38 students from Lynn Road Elementary, and
185 students from Leesville Road Elementary.

The result for Hilburn Elementary is 525 students. 40% of the population will be from low-income families. The recommendation will leave room for approximately 230 applications for the traditional calendar option.

Staff made the recommendation to have two parts of the Lynn Road base come out of the school which include 57 students from Lynn Road go to Farmington Woods Elementary. Recommendations add back 172 students to Lynn Road which includes 87 students from Brooks and 85 students from Lead Mine. The 172 students that were added to Lynn Road reduces the percentage of students from low income families from 42% to 39%.

Staff made the following recommendations to reduce the percentage of students from low income families at Lead Mine from 43% to 37%:

85 students would be reassigned from Lead Mine Elementary to Lynn Road Elementary,
57 students would be reassigned from Lynn Road Elementary to Farmington Woods Elementary, and
45 students from Farmington Woods Elementary to Turner Creek Elementary.

Staff made the following recommendations to increase comparability across schools:

103 students reassigned from Penny Road Elementary to Davis Drive Elementary,
54 students reassigned from Penny Road Elementary to Salem Elementary,
44 students reassigned from Briarcliff Elementary to Salem Elementary,
63 students reassigned from Swift Creek Elementary to Laurel Park Elementary,
67 students reassigned from Smith Elementary to Penny Road Elementary,
66 students reassigned from Stough Elementary to Hunter Elementary,
76 students reassigned from Brooks Elementary to Leesville Road Elementary,
110 students reassigned from Powell Elementary to Leesville Road Elementary,
91 students reassigned from Vandora Springs Elementary to Vance Elementary,
84 students reassigned from Brentwood Elementary to Baileywick Elementary,
38 students reassigned from Baileywick Elementary to Jeffreys Grove Elementary,
182 students reassigned from Dillard Drive Elementary to Oak Grove Elementary, and
118 students reassigned from Oak Grove to Adams Elementary.

Staff made the following recommendations to reduce crowding:
105 students reassigned from Wildwood Forest Elementary to North Forest Pines Elementary to reduce overcrowding at Wildwood Forest Elementary,
96 students reassigned from Forest Pines Elementary to Heritage Elementary to reduce overcrowding at Forest Pines Elementary,
59 students reassigned from Creech Road Elementary to Rand Road Elementary to reduce overcrowding at Creech Road Elementary, and
34 students reassigned from Underwood Elementary to Green Hope Elementary.

Staff made the following recommendations to improve the alignment of student assignment and magnet schools:
Reduce base assignments to Brooks Museums Magnet by approximately 75 students while increasing the number of students from low-income families,
Reduce base assignments to Combs Leadership Magnet by approximately 212 students,
Reduce base assignments to Douglas Arts Magnet by approximately 47 students,
Reduce base assignments to Farmington Woods IB Magnet by approximately 101 Students, and
Reduce base assignments to Powell GT Magnet by approximately 110 students.

Staff made the recommendation to cap Forest Pines Elementary at its current enrollment level of 780 students and to send their overflow to Wake Forest Elementary.

Staff made the recommendation to cap Cedar Fork at its current enrollment level of 800 and to send overflow to Reedy Creek Elementary from the area east of Highway 55 and to send overflow to Weatherstone Elementary from the area west of Highway 55.

Finally, staff stated that the following actions were not recommended for 2008-2009:
Changes in assignments that are likely to be impacted by new schools opening in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and
Changes in assignments that presume the outcome of the court challenge to year-round calendar assignments.

Ms. Goettee asked Mr. Dulaney to confirm the projection at Laurel Park Elementary for the next two years. Mr. Dulaney stated that the projections in the materials are the populations that staff anticipates for next year based on the growth that was shown in nodes this past year. Mr. Dulaney stated that there may be fallacies in the numbers of magnet or year-round students that might be impacted. Those are controlled through an application process.

Mr. Margiotta inquired as to when the draft plan would be available on the website. Mr. Dulaney responded that it would be available at 5 p.m.

Mr. Margiotta asked was any consideration given to keep more students at Highcroft, and open Mills Park as a traditional calendar school. Mr. Dulaney stated that staff has a directive to limit the number of new schools that need to be built in future years by opening all new elementary and middle schools on year-round calendars. If staff is directed to do other than that, they could, but that is the understanding under the current intent of the capital improvement plan. In the case for Highcroft, staff is concerned that

there is quite a bit of undeveloped land that remains to the west and southwest of the elementary school. All of the land is zoned as residential, building did slow down some last year. At some point it will accelerate again. Staff believes that it is wise to keep Highcroft below its capacity for a couple of years to anticipate the growth. The new schools that will be coming into that area of the county are going to be affecting north of there having an impact on Cedar Fork, and south of there having an impact on Olive Chapel.

Mr. Margiotta stated that staff would see a lot of opting out of year-round schools for the Apex area and asked what was staff going to do with the students. Mr. Dulaney responded that staff has designated as they did last year, a traditional calendar application for every node. Staff thinks that their recommendation leaves sufficient space to absorb applications. Staff will try to accommodate all traditional applications if they can and if they need to come back to the Board with requests for adjusting traditional calendar applications and transportation area to accommodate people, then they are glad to do that.

Mr. Margiotta asked if staff was reassigning Oak Grove to make the school more diverse. Mr. Dulaney shared that the primary reason is to strengthen the application base for Adams and staff wanted to increase the diversity at Oak Grove.

With no further questions from the Board, staff will seek Board approval at the final presentation of the 2008-2009 Student Assignment Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 4 P.M.

Citizens who signed up to address the board during public comment will be called on in priority order first for items on the agenda and then for items not on the agenda. Each individual speaker will be allowed three minutes for remarks. Issues or concerns involving personnel matters are not appropriate for this public comment setting. After 30 minutes of public comment, any speakers remaining will be recognized at the end of the agenda for their comments.

- **Lisa Phillips** – Ms. Phillips publicly presented a petition by parents and non-parents who do not support the reassignment plan as it pertains to the changes being made at Davis Drive Elementary School.
- **Nancy Caggia** – Ms. Caggia spoke regarding GOAL 2008 and if the WCPSS met the goal and what the impact of the new reassignment plan has on GOAL 2008.
- **Rook Roskam** – Mr. Roskam was concerned regarding gifted education services. Mr. Roskam home-schooled his children prior to placing them in public schools. Several evaluations were conducted on his children and Mr. Roskam is concerned that WCPSS just placed them and did not have regard to the tests that were completed. Mr. Roskam is concerned that the school system is not listening to the parent and not listening to the needs of students.

CONSENT ITEMS

Ron Margiotta made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Lori Millberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2007	-	Board of Education Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2007	-	Board of Education Closed Session Minutes
September 4, 2007	-	Board of Education Meeting Minutes- REVISED
September 4, 2007	-	Board of Education Closed Session Minutes
September 18, 2007	-	Board of Education Closed Session Minutes
October 2, 2007	-	Board of Education Closed Session Minutes
October 16, 2007	-	Board of Education Closed Session Minutes
November 20, 2007	-	Board of Education Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2007	-	Board of Education Meeting Minutes

FINANCE

1. GIFTS TO THE SYSTEM

One hundred and twenty-one gifts have been donated to the Wake County Public School System. The approximate value of the gifts is \$108,076.26. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: No action is required.

FACILITIES

1. CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS: BUGG ELEMENTARY

Staff has reviewed the construction documents prepared by Ramsay GMK Architects, Inc., and requests Board approval and authorization to advertise for the construction of additions and renovations at Bugg Elementary. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$19,569,538, of which \$34,660 is from PLAN 2000 Start-Up, \$75,000 from PLAN 2004 Start-Up, and \$19,459,878 from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

2. LEASE AGREEMENTS: MODULAR SWING SCHOOL FOR ROOT ELEMENTARY

In accordance with the Master Lease Agreement approved by the Board on March 7, 2006, CoMark Building Systems will provide delivery, footer installation, and block level/tie down for five modular complexes for the Root Modular Elementary Annex School. The five complexes are two eight-classroom complexes, one administration/media eight-classroom complex, one kindergarten eight-classroom complex and one multi-purpose/dining six-classroom complex. This will provide a swing school that is required to maintain the schedule for this project. Staff and Gurel Architecture, PA recommends approval of the five agreements with a combined total amount of \$477,942.08. CoMark was the lowest bidder for a modular school. The per-classroom cost of this phase of the project is \$12,577. The general construction contract will be separately bid. Lease payments will be funded from the project budget and will be shown when the general construction bids are presented for approval. Fiscal Implications: The revised project budget for Root Elementary is \$21,928,650, of which \$300,000 is from PLAN 2004 and \$21,628,650 from CIP 2006 which includes \$2,065,000 for this swing campus. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

3. CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK SELECTIONS: PACKAGE 2007C

In accordance with the professional services selection procedures (policy 7265) adopted by the Wake County Board of Education August 9, 2005, the selection committee recommends the selection of the construction management at risk firm of Barnhill Contracting Company for construction of the CIP 2006 Wilburn Elementary renovation and addition project, and the selection of the construction management at risk firm of Clancy & Theys Construction Company for construction of the Wake Forest-Rolesville High renovation and addition project anticipated to be funded in the next building program. Fiscal Implications: Construction Management fees will be negotiated in accordance with professional services procedures using the Board approved construction manager at risk contract. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

4. CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK AGREEMENT: WILBURN ELEMENTARY

Negotiations have been completed with Barnhill Contracting Company for only the construction manager's pre-construction services at Wilburn Elementary. The form of agreement for Construction Management At Risk has been previously reviewed and approved by the Board. Modifications to this agreement have been approved by the Board's attorney and are noted on the attached summary. This contract includes reimbursable general conditions. These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of the standard form of agreement. Moseley Architects P.C. was previously selected as the designer for this project. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$20,969,520, all of which is from CIP 2006. The total project budget includes proposed compensation for the Construction Manager of \$118,438 for pre-construction basic services. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

5. DESIGN CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS: FUQUAY-VARINA HIGH AND GARNER HIGH

Enhanced Design Narratives are being developed to establish the scope of projects potentially in the next bond program. Negotiations have been completed with BJAC Architects for the Design Narrative phase for the additions and renovations at Fuquay-Varina High. In addition, negotiations have been completed with Cherry Huffman Architects for the additions and renovations at Garner High. A sample form of agreement, approved by the Board attorney, is attached. Fiscal Implications: Each of these projects has an available total project budget of \$250,000, as provided in the Start-Up for Design of Next Bond component of CIP 2006. These budgets include \$188,800 for BJAC at Fuquay-Varina High and \$189,980 for Cherry Huffman at Garner High. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

6. CHANGE ORDER NO. GC-01: E-27 ELEMENTARY (FUQUAY-VARINA)

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. GC-01 to Clancy & Theys Construction Company for their Construction Management at Risk contract. This change order, in the amount of \$2,152,813, is to establish a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the early steel work package which is part of the 32 construction packages for the E-27 elementary school, which is located on Herbert Akins Road in Fuquay-Varina. A list of the bid packages is attached. Future change orders will be brought to the March 4, 2008 and March 18, 2008 Board meetings to establish the GMP for the total project.

Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$22,914,681, all of which is from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

7. CHANGE ORDER NO. GC-01: E-34 ELEMENTARY (WENDELL)

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. GC-01 to Clancy & Theys Construction Company for their Construction Management at Risk contract. This change order, in the amount of \$2,012,025 is to establish a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the early steel work package, which is part of the thirty-three (33) construction packages for the E-34 elementary school, which is located on Elk Falls Drive in Wendell. A list of bid packages is attached. A future change order will be brought to the February 19, 2008 Board meeting to establish the GMP for the total project. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$22,746,541, all of which is from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

8. BIDS: CENTRAL SERVICES BUS FUELING STATION-FUEL TANK ADDITION

Bids for the fuel tank addition at Central Services Bus Fueling Station were received on December 13, 2007. Staff and Dewberry & Davis, Inc. recommend award of the single-prime contract to Jones & Frank Corporation in the amount of \$277,389.99. This project will increase the diesel fuel storage capacity by 48%. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$536,000, of which \$306,000 is from the PLAN 2000 Deferred Maintenance and \$230,000 is from Fiscal Year 06-07 Capital Outlay Carry Forward Funding. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

1. GRANT PROPOSALS

- Entitlement (#1124): US Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Title VIII Impact Aid / Central Services, Administrative Services.
- Contract (#1126): Wake Education Partnership, Skills for Life / Central Services, Instructional Services Division, Health and Physical Education Office.
- Competitive (#1202): PPG Industries Foundation, Educational Grants / Middle Creek High School.
- Competitive (#1203): US Department of Education, Smaller Learning Communities / Individual high schools.
- Collaboration (#1204): William T. Grant Foundation, Intervention Research To Improve Youth-Serving Organizations / Central Services, Instructional Services Division with Duke University as the fiscal agent.
- Competitive (#1205): State Library of North Carolina, Library Services and Technology Act, School Library Collection Development / Individual schools.

Fiscal Implications: Any required cash and/or in-kind matching contributions vary by grant program. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

- A. Professional

B. Support

2. REQUEST FOR LEAVES

BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

This represents new nominations to the Board Advisory Councils. The nomination forms are attached for the Board's review and consideration. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORT

Mr. Tart reported that the Facilities Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 15 and Tuesday, January 29 at 9:30 a.m. At the January 15 meeting, there will be a report on plans to accommodate crowding in the years to come. A status report on public-private partnerships process will be given, as well as a presentation on a proposed Level 4 Joint Use Agreement with the Town of Zebulon for Wakelon Elementary.

Ms. Head reported that the Community Relations Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 16 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Ms. Clark reported that the Program Committee would not meet on Wednesday, January 9.

Ms. Goettee reported that the Human Resources Committee would not meet on Wednesday, January 9.

Mr. Margiotta stated that he had been made aware of information regarding recent legislative action pertaining to the process for student appeal hearings. Ms. Majestic responded that the only changes allow the Board to appoint a hearing officer in lieu of a Board panel, and a change that allows a Board different ways of notifying parents of the decision that doesn't rely only on certified mail.

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE

1. FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATION

To appropriate fund balance for the purpose of reimbursing the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for excess months of employment paid from State Fund for the 2006-07 fiscal year. This is an annual appropriation to fund the cost associated with maximizing the use of state funds. Fiscal Implications: Funds reserved in fund balance in the amount of \$305,877. Recommendation for Action: Board Approval is requested.

Mark Winters presented information to the Board in regards to appropriating fund balance for the purpose of reimbursing the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for excess months of employment paid in 2006-07. The appropriation is executed annually to assist in funding the costs associated with maximizing use of state funds.

When Mr. Winters presented the financial report to the Board in December, there was a finding in the report where the staff maximized the use of funds, and usually owe the state dollars at the end of year, which saves the school system money. The funds are reserved in Fund Balance.

Ms. Clark stated that she understood that the funds are funds that would need to be spent.

Ms. Goettee stated that she noticed that management is planning to automate the internal salary audit form and create an interface for reporting. She inquired if that process would begin now. Mr. Winters responded that staff would have that in place by the end of the fiscal year.

With no further questions from the Board, Beverley Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Lori Millberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

POLICY

1. POLICY 6201- SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Revised: First Reading. Request Waiver of Second Reading.

Policy 6201 was last revised on October 16, 2007. Revisions are being made to align the policy with House Bill 1357. We are recommending that in section 6201.3.g the words “Wake County” be removed and replaced with “the local school administrative unit in which the student resides” as aligned to the statute’s language as well as the practice followed by Growth Management. This would allow a student who is not a domiciliary of Wake County to attend, without payment of tuition, our school system if his or her parent or legal guardian is on active military duty and is deployed out of the local school administrative unit in which the student resides. Revisions have been made with the input of staff, and have been reviewed by Ann Majestic. The Policy Committee reviewed and approved the recommended revisions on 12.11.07.

Chuck Dulaney presented information to the Board regarding Policy 6201-School Admissions. Mr. Dulaney stated that revisions to the policy are being made to align with House bill 1357. Staff recommended that in section 6201.3g the words “Wake County” would be removed and replaced with “the local school administrative unit in which the student resides” which will align with the statute’s language as well as the practice that is followed by Growth Management. This action will allow a student who is not a domiciliary of Wake County to attend, without payment of tuition, our school system if his or her parent or legal guardian is on active military duty and is deployed out of the local school administrative unit in which the student resides.

Ms. Head stated that the policy had been reviewed by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Goettee inquired as to how many students would be affected. Mr. Dulaney responded that it would be a small percentage.

With no further questions from the Board, Beverley Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Patti Head. The motion was unanimously approved.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

1. CONTRACT WITH ACCURATE COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION, INC.

For the past two (2) years the costs for providing interpreting and transliteration services have increased significantly. In November we disseminated a Request for Proposal (RFP) for interpreting and transliteration services in hopes of receiving a reasonable cost proposal. The proposal submitted by Accurate Communication and Transportation, Inc. met all of the conditions set forth by our RFP. In addition, Accurate Communication submitted the lowest bid for these services. This is the first year we have contracted with Accurate Communication and will evaluate the services provided this year in order to determine whether or we will continue to contract with this agency. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available in the Special Education Services' budget in the amount of \$300,000.00 to pay for the cost of these services. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Marvin Connelly introduced Bob Sturey, Senior Director of Special Education Services, who presented information to the Board regarding a contract with Accurate Communications and Transportation Inc. Mr. Sturey reported that the contract is a first attempt to disseminate a request for proposals (RFP).

Mr. Sturey stated that over the past couple of years, staff has seen a rate increase for providing interpreting and transliteration services and investigated to find a lower rate for services. Accurate Communications and Transportation, Inc. met specifications for the RFP that staff released. As staff reviewed rate structure, which is currently \$60/hour for standard rate, \$80/hour for non-standard rate, and \$110/hour for emergency rate. The bid came in at a \$58/hour rate for standard, an \$85/hour rate, and \$110/hour rate which is less than the current rate structure.

The contract with Accurate Communications and Transportation, Inc. will be from January 14, 2008 through June 30, 2008 at which time, staff will determine whether the contract will be continued, with continuation being at the current rate of the contract.

Ms. Clark asked if the company provides its services to other school districts. Mr. Sturey responded that Accurate Communications and Transportation, Inc. provided three references, one of which was a school district Pasco County Florida, Land O Lakes, Florida. The contract was minimal for provision of substitutes. Most of the services provided with Accurate Communications and Transportation, Inc are through mental health agencies and other governmental agencies.

Mr. Margiotta inquired if Accurate Communications would be a provider of services or a facilitator.

Mr. Sturey responded that they would primarily be a facilitator. They will look at subcontracting with individuals in the area.

Mr. Margiotta inquired about the percentage of students that are receiving special education services generally. Mr. Sturey responded that 14.6% are receiving special education services and that the state reimburses WCPSS at 12.5%.

Ms. Goettee asked if the funding of \$300,000 is for use of Accurate Communications from January 14, 2008 through June 30. Mr. Sturey responded that affirmatively.

Dr. McLaurin asked how many hearing-impaired students are there in WCPSS. Mr. Sturey responded that there are 190, however, children with hearing impairments that receive services is 240.

Mr. Hill asked what provisions are in place to have background checks completed for personnel that will be working with children. Mr. Sturey stated that Accurate Communications will provide them to WCPSS.

Mr. Tart asked how many other companies bid on the contract. Mr. Sturey responded that only one other had, and it was a company that WCPSS had been using and the rate structure was significantly different.

With no further questions coming from the Board, Ron Margiotta made a motion to approve, seconded by Lori Millberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

FACILITIES

1. CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK AGREEMENT: WAKE FOREST-ROLESVILLE HIGH

A high priority project to be considered for the next building program is the construction of an addition and renovation to the Wake Forest-Rolesville High school. Negotiations have been completed with Clancy & Theys Construction Company for only the construction manager's pre-construction services for this project. The form of agreement for Construction Management At Risk has been previously reviewed and approved by the Board. Modifications to this agreement have been approved by the Board's attorney and are noted on the attached summary. This contract includes reimbursable general conditions. These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of the standard form of agreement. Davis Kane Architects was previously selected as the designer for this project. Fiscal Implications: The total proposed budget will be determined with the development of the next building program. The current estimated budget is \$67,000,000, of which \$2,500,000 is currently available from the CIP 2006 and \$200,000 from PLAN 2004 Start-Up. The remaining funds will be provided from the next building program or partially from the current building program. The total project budget includes proposed compensation for the construction manager in the amount of \$300,000 for pre-construction basic services. The amount authorized by this contract funds the pre-construction services through the Schematic Design Phase. Thus, this agreement is for \$100,000. The remaining amount of \$200,000 will be authorized by change order. The contract authorized by this action will be awarded from currently available funds. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Mike Burriss presented information to the Board. Mr. Burriss reported that as staff moves forward with the examination of Wake Forest-Rolesville High School project and the schematic design phasing, which is funded within CIP 2006, staff has

interviewed and selected all qualifications for construction manager at risk firm and have reached an agreement for pre-construction services for the entire project and for the current phase of the schematic design. The first phase through schematic design phase is \$100,000. The full amount of the contract for pre-construction services is \$300,000.

Mr. Margiotta stated that there was a hold on the item until the Board of Education met with the County Commissioners.

Mr. Burriss stated that the current funds are available in CIP 2006 and the additional discussion at the Joint meeting of the Board of Education and County Commissioners scheduled for January 16, is for reserve funds.

Ms. Millberg agreed that the Board had decided that it would discuss the project with the County Commissioners and was talking about holding, at least any decision about how we should go forward, and action taken today does not involve any additional funding. Ms. Millberg questioned if there was a reason to take action now.

Mr. Burriss stated that the timing of this is such that staff would like to have the pre-construction services phase in place so that the firm can assist staff with the development of the full scope of the project.

Lori Millberg made a motion to table the Construction Manager At Risk Agreement: Wake Forest-Rolesville High, seconded by Beverley Clark. The motion was unanimous.

RECOGNITION

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS – 6 P.M.

Nineteen students will be recognized as Spotlight on Students award winners.

Eric Sparks presented each student for recognition. Mrs. Gill thanked the students and their supporters for sharing in the special occasion. Mrs. Gill stated that the students are great examples of students who exhibit outstanding character traits every day. The students were commended because they make a difference in their school and community. Mrs. Gill congratulated the students and thanked them for serving as leaders and role models.

Patti Head made a motion to go into Closed Session at 5:16 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115C-319, and to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the Board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion was seconded by Kevin Hill.

ACTION ITEMS- Cont'd

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)

Ron Margiotta made a motion to approve the following Administrative Appointments:

- (1) Mike Chappell, Human Resources, Senior Director for Staffing and Operations, to Principal at Jones Dairy Elementary School, effective date February 1, 2008 (Permanent position).
- (2) John Daniels, Retired Principal to Assistant Principal at East Wake Middle School, effective January 9, 2008 (Permanent position).
- (3) Jonathan Enns, Assistant Principal Intern at Green Hope High School to Assistant Principal at Fuquay-Varina High School effective January 1, 2008 (Permanent position).
- (4) Dolores Gill, Applicant, to Interim Assistant Principal at Forestville Elementary School, effective January 28, 2008 through March 28, 2008 (Interim Position).
- (5) Samantha Whittington, Assistant Principal Intern at Fuquay-Varina Elementary School to Assistant Principal at Fuquay-Varina Elementary School effective January 15, 2008 (Permanent Position).

The motion was seconded by Beverley Clark. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business coming before the Board, Patti Head made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lori Millberg. The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa U. Gill, Chair, Wake County Board of Education

Del Burns, Superintendent, WCPSS

Melissa R. Christmas, Recording Secretary