



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 21, 2014**

<b><u>Board Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Members Present</u></b>	
Christine Kushner, Chair	James G. Merrill, Superintendent	Karen Hamilton
Tom Benton, Vice Chair	Cathy Moore	Mark Winters
Monika Johnson-Hostler	Stella Shelton	Doug Thilman
Kevin L. Hill	David Neter	Edward McFarland
Keith Sutton	Marvin Connelly	Rose Anne Gonzalez
Jim Martin	Pamela Kinsey-Barker	Todd Wirt
Zora Felton	Clinton Robinson	
Susan P. Evans	Jacqueline Ellis	<b><u>Board Attorney Present</u></b>
Bill Fletcher	Lloyd Gardner	Jonathan Blumberg
	Andre Smith	

Chairwoman Kushner called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Chair’s Comments**

Chairwoman Kushner shared comments related to the arts program and attending the Annual Meeting of the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County during the week of January 13<sup>th</sup>, attending the N.C. Symphony’s performance honoring Elected Officials where Wake County fourth graders were able to participate on January 16<sup>th</sup>, attending Rolesville High School’s opening of their visual arts department, thanking the Lacy Elementary School PTA for allowing her to speak and share information at the January PTA meeting, attending the Raising Achievement and Closing the Gaps Committee meeting on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, attending several Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial services over the weekend.

**Superintendent’s Comments**

Dr. Merrill shared comments related to the Superintendent’s Direct Line which gives an opportunity to hear from employees, parents, and the public about top priorities for the school system. Five sessions will be held beginning Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at East Wake High School, Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at Broughton High School, Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at Panther Creek High School, Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Southeast Raleigh High School, and Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at Wakefield High School.

Dr. Merrill also shared comments related to plans being underway for the Board’s 2014 Black History Month Recognition honoring the pioneers of the school desegregation movement in Wake County. “A Salute to the Trailblazers- This Is My Story” is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> at Marbles Museum, beginning at 6:00 with a reception followed by a program featuring some of the trailblazers. An art exhibit featuring 40 pieces of work by 75 students at Barwell Road Elementary featuring Dr. King and President Lincoln will be on display at Marbles Kids Museum.

### **Board Members' Comments**

Board Members shared comments related to attending professional development training, and reconstituting Board Advisory Councils, attending the National Board Certified Teachers reception, attending the Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast, working with high school teachers on discipline-related professional development, reading an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1967 book *Where Do We Go From Here, Chaos or Community*, the Board's discussion regarding Read to Achieve, the January Commencement ceremony held at Millbrook High School, reminding those that are sick to stay home and remembering to wash their hands, the District 9 Board Advisory Council having an in-depth conversation regarding middle school reading challenges, needs, gaps in resources, etc., recognizing the WRAL Teacher of the Week at Banks Road Elementary School, and attending Martin Luther King, Jr events being held in Garner and Fuquay-Varina.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

Chairwoman Kushner announced that the Board postponed the Employee Excellence Award and Spotlight on Students recognition in regards to the inclement weather. Keith Sutton made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. The motion was seconded by Monika Johnson-Hostler and unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - The following persons offered public comments to the Board.

- Sarah Winslow
- Ellis Hankins
- Suzanne Templeton
- Larry Nilles

### **RECOGNITION ITEMS**

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **6. EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD – POSTPONED**

#### **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

#### **7. SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS – POSTPONED**

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Keith Sutton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **FACILITIES**

Betty Parker, Director of Planning and Construction, requested to combine Facilities Action Items number 20, 21, and 22. Ms. Parker shared that all three items are interrelated to the E-20 project where the District is collaborating with the City of Raleigh and Wake County for an elementary school site.

Ms. Parker shared that the Interlocal Agreement Amendment modifies some terms slightly dealing with the City's use and one term dealing with the Board's lease rather than the

purchase of the school site.

Ms. Parker shared that the acquisition and development agreement came forth after costs were discussed and planning was completed; which apportions the cost sharing and responsibilities of the parties as the district moves forward with construction.

The Joint Use Agreement dictates how the district will share the facilities, the maintenance, and the responsibilities going forward.

On October 15 2013, the Board of Education approved the acquisition and development agreement and the interlocal agreement amendment, those documents went forward in December to Wake County, but the item was tabled as there was limited discussion on the lease versus purchase issue. The initial understanding was that the school board would be purchasing the school site. The district's understanding from the County staff, is that there are some entanglements associated with how the county initially funded the land purchase; the County is scheduled to take up the matter at its next meeting in February.

The District staff prepared a lease version and a purchase version of each document (acquisition and development agreement, amendment to the interlocal agreement, and a joint use agreement). Staff suggested that the Board approve both versions so that once the County elects, staff can move forward expeditiously to keep the E-20 project. Staff requested that all versions be presented for approval subject to review and approval by Board counsel as to form so that if there are any last minute tweaks out of the County's decision, staff is poised together with Counsel to make corrections and move forward expeditiously.

**20. ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR ABBOTTS CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ABBOTTS CREEK PARK**

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve the Acquisition and Development Agreement for Abbotts Creek Elementary School and Abbotts Creek Park in its two forms as described by staff. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**21. AMENDMENT TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: ABBOTTS CREEK ELEMENTARY (E-20)**

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve the Amendment to Interlocal Agreement: Abbotts Creek Elementary (E-20) with staff's addition of a lease version or a purchase version subject to Counsel's review. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**22. JOINT USE AGREEMENT: ABBOTTS CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve the Joint Use Agreement for Abbotts Creek Elementary School with any final legal changes. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

**23. BOARD POLICY 6410: CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT LEVEL 1 VIOLATIONS**

Marvin Connelly, Chief of Staff and Strategic Planning and Cristina O'Neal, Director of Student Due Process presented the revisions to the Board which included direction that when brought

back for second reading will have language added that relates to electronic cigarettes and for the policy amendments to be effective July 1, 2014. Jim Martin made a motion to approve Board Policy 6410: Code of Student Conduct Level 1 Violations on first reading. The motion was seconded by Tom Benton. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **24. DISCOVERY EDUCATION, INC.**

Cathy Moore, Deputy Superintendent for School Performance and Todd Wirt, Assistant Superintendent for Academics presented information to the Board regarding Discovery Education's Science Techbook which is a web-based teaching and learning tool that incorporates digital content, assessment options, and professional development options for teachers. Staff reviewed the components of the techbook. After some discussion from Board members and clarifying questions, Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Keith Sutton made a motion to go into Closed Session at 6:51 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) and 115C-319, to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), to consider confidential student information protected under G.S. 115C-402 and the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and to establish or give instructions concerning the Board's negotiating position related to a potential acquisition of real property, as provided in G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(5). The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:14 p.m.

#### **ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED**

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

##### **25. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)**

Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented the personnel report. Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill and unanimously approved.

#### **FACILITIES**

##### **26. OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT: PROPERTY NEAR EAST WAKE COUNTY (E-36)**

Betty Parker, Director of Planning and Construction shared terms and conditions of an Offer to Purchase and Contract that have been reached with Beaver Dam Lake, Inc., to acquire approximately 24.00 acres located near Tarheel Club Road and Milburnie Road for a future elementary school site. The property includes a portion of the parcel having Wake County PIN #1745029854. Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve with the optional lot size. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin and unanimously approved.

##### **27. RESOLUTION: CIP 2013 APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR STARTUP DESIGN**

Joe Desormeaux, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities shared information regarding the resolution requesting \$700,000 of County funds to be allocated towards CIP 2013 for initial design work for one 2016 opening elementary school. The remaining design costs and

construction of the school are planned as part of CIP 2013 and will be requested for appropriation at a later date. Jim Martin made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Monika Johnson-Hostler and unanimously approved.

**28. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGARDING SCHOOL SITE ACQUISITION, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION**

Christine Kushner, Board Chair, stated that the Board of Education and staff carefully reviewed the proposed Agreement and, while leaving intact many of the provisions suggested by the County, revised the Agreement to focus on enhanced collaboration among the Board of Education, the County Commissioners, and their staffs while maintaining the system of checks and balances intended by General Statutes.

The revised Agreement recognizes the success of the Board of Education’s building program, the need for an efficient and timely process for site acquisition, design, and construction of school buildings, and is based on the understanding that added collaboration will be beneficial.

The revised Agreement includes provisions for enhanced dialogue and cooperation during the site acquisition, design, and construction phases of school building development and recognizes the authority of the Board of Education to delegate authority to the County Commissioners for a particular project when appropriate.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the Wake County Board of Commissioners regarding school site acquisition, design, and construction. The motion was seconded by Tom Benton. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business coming before the Board, Susan P. Evans made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine Kushner, Board Chair

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James G. Merrill, Superintendent

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Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary