



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### January 23, 2007

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Members Present</u>	
Patti Head, Chair	Superintendent Del Burns	Michael Evans
Rosa Gill, Vice Chair	Chuck Dulaney	Lloyd Gardner
Horace Tart	Maurice Boswell	Julye Mizelle
Beverly Clark	David Holdzkom	Danny Barnes
Carol Parker	Mike Burriss	Kathy Chontos
Eleanor Goettee	Don Haydon	David Neter
Susan Parry	Marvin Connelly	Jonibel Willis
Lori Millberg	Ann Hooker	
Ron Margiotta	Mark Winters	
	Donna Hargens	<b><u>Board Attorney Present</u></b>
	Bev White	Ann Majestic

Patti Head called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### INFORMATION

#### Chair's Comments

- Patti Head reported that the calendar updates and events normally reviewed as part of the Chair's Comments would be delayed until later in the meeting due to a very special guest being in the audience who was on a limited time schedule.
- Ms Head continued her comments by making the following statement:  
*"The events of the last few weeks have been challenging for our Board of Education, and I suspect, for the County Commissioners also. Wake County's phenomenal growth has been difficult to grapple with. As the County Manager has noted, our population's residential growth is not paying for itself when it comes to the services we all expect, including our schools. After years of higher growth than our county planners were able to foresee, the time came for both our Boards to come together and make hard choices. Where there are hard choices, there will also be deep passion in a community that, understandably, is looking for stability and reassurance. The School Board and the County Commissioners worked together over a period of eighteen months to arrive at a compromised solution as a prudent response to the growth. Despite the frustrations that many of us have had on both of our Boards and have been expressed in the last few weeks, it is my hope that we can now get back to the earlier spirit of partnership. Checks and balances, yes, but also cooperation and coordination. Wake County is growing so fast that our School Board, the County Commission, and twelve municipalities must work together to respond to this growth."*

*I do want to address a misconception about the County Commissioners' actions at their last meeting. The County Commission did not increase funding for the Capital Improvement Program we developed together last year. In particular, they did not increase funding for school construction. As of that meeting, they offered the School Board an advance on the funding for school construction, but at this late date, the advance cannot help us open new schools and find the new seats we need for our students in six months from now. Advancing funding for E-29, E-31, and M-6 will not provide additional classroom seats until 2009 or 2010. E-29 was slated to be located on the existing East Wake High School campus, and construction couldn't begin until the high school's renovation project was completed in 2009. We could search for an alternative site, but the earliest the school could be ready is 2009. We do not have the land for the other two schools, as of yet. There are serious ramifications to the commissioners' actions. More than 100*

*mobile/modular classrooms for traditional calendar schools are now in jeopardy. These units are desperately needed to relieve overcrowding. The availability of these units was factored into the draft 2007 Growth Management Plan. With them no longer available, additional reassignments would be necessary. We already had design and construction management contracts ready to be approved for the majority of the renovation projects. Due to the commissioners delaying funding, we had to turn away bidders for early construction packages for East Millbrook Middle and for swing space at Lynn Road Elementary. Delays in projects mean increased costs.*

*The Capital Improvement Program that the County Commissioners and School Board agreed to addresses short-term crowding through calendar changes and mobile/modular units, as well as a long-term response to growth, including advanced purchases of land for schools. We went through an exhaustive process that started in September 2005, when both Boards discussed the impact of expanding year-round programs, new schools, renovations, technology, and purchases of land, with different bond costs associated. The presentation of the current plan to the commissioners occurred in May, and the commissioners placed the corresponding bond on the ballot in July.*

*The next few meetings may be difficult ones, and we are going to struggle to meet the needs of our communities and our students. We need to maintain our focus on a plan for a successful start of the 2007-2008 school year. We must maintain our focus on that plan because our Wake County families and our teachers deserve the best. Today, I am calling on both of the Boards to look for ways to resolve the impasse. Special effort will be needed in order to re-establish the environment of trust and respect in which we can achieve Wake County Public Schools' goal and the community's goal of educating each student to be responsible and productive citizens who can effectively manage the future challenges. I know that - I and you - are committed to that end.*

*I thank you for listening to these comments. I felt like we needed to share some of what the impact was of the decision made by our County Commissioners and our pledge that we are committed to working together for the good of WCPSS and our children."*

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Burns reported that since he would be sharing a great deal of information today with the Board and the public in his Mid-Year Report, he will be forgoing his comments.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Susan Parry made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

#### **1. SUPERINTENDENT'S MID-YEAR REPORT**

Since July 1, 2007 steps have been taken to focus the Wake County Public School System on the Superintendent's vision. The efforts to align and initiate effort in support of the strategic directives will be presented to the Board of Education as well as future direction. Fiscal Implications: To be determined. Recommendation for Action: This item is presented for information.

Superintendent Burns began his presentation by introducing and recognizing Molly Harnden, a first year teacher. Dr. Burns stated, *"She is a strong teacher. Molly could have gone to any school system, and she chose the Wake County Public School System. We are proud to have you."* Dr. Burns recapped the time he had spent in Ms. Harnden's classroom, giving her a break and taking over her class of fifth graders for the better part of an hour. There were two reasons Dr. Burns invited Ms. Harnden to be present today. First, he wanted her presence to show that he didn't do any lasting damage to her class; but more importantly, Dr. Burns wanted this Midterm Report, *"right from the beginning, to reflect the reason we are here."* He stated, *"Our work requires us to make tough choices – tough choices about funding; tough choices about construction; tough choices about handling our community and county's growth; and responding to state and federal mandates and many other matters require us to make tough choices. The fact is, we are here for Ms. Harnden's students and the 128,000 others just like them. Our*

*students are not cogs in a machine. We are not just 'playing school.' We take our core business very seriously. Our students are individuals, representing our collective future whom we serve by teaching them to succeed and to instill in them a love of learning. It is our duty. It is our moral responsibility. It is a constitutional responsibility; in fact, right there in Article IX, Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution – equal educational opportunities shall be provided for all students. All students shall have access to a sound, basic education.”*

Dr. Burns further stated, “*Ms. Harnden, the people of the Wake County Public School System, and if I may be so bold, the Board members facing you today as well, are united in acknowledging that responsibility. That means we are united in support of you and more than 8,500 other teachers, veteran and newcomer alike. This report is about you, and it’s about your students, and I thank you for being here to share in it.”*

The following is the Mid-Year Report as presented in the words of Superintendent Burns:  
Today’s midterm report is directly tied to the vision that working as a community of educators and stakeholders, with support from our broader community, we will ensure that *every child* educated in our school system graduates on time, prepared for the future. We have taken meaningful steps toward fulfilling that vision in the last six months, and we have charted a course for the coming months. It is my pleasure to share with you both today.

I have talked before about the “7 Cs.” As a school system, we face a number of challenges – academic, organizational, and financial – as a result of the changes in our society; the changes in our community; and the changes resulting from globalization. Based on these changes, we, as the leaders of the Wake County Public School System, must make choices, many of them very hard choices, in order to respond effectively to those changes. These choices will also require us to make commitments to ensure the results we demand, and we must demonstrate courage – courage to meet the challenges; courage to embrace changes; courage to make difficult choices. We must do these things in order to fulfill our responsibilities for children and our community.

In February, when you selected me to serve as the seventh superintendent of the Wake County Public School System, I shared with you the four strategic directives I established to guide our work toward my vision and presented them as a frame for the picture that will be painted within them in the months and the years ahead. I’ll now share the beginnings of those pictures since July 1, using those frames as a guide and addressing results, processes, and relationships, with a special focus on results. And I will end with our core business.

### **1) Expanding Fiscal Accountability**

Early in August, I hired the first ever Chief Business Officer for the Wake County Public School System. David Neter stood out among more than 100 individuals as the person to help us continue to improve our business practices. As you know, Mr. Neter has more than 24 years of for-profit business experience. He has an MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke. He is a Certified Public Accountant. Since his arrival, he has begun assessing our business practices with the fresh eye of an experienced businessman, looking for improvements in efficiency and effectiveness in running the business of the Wake County Public School System. In a recent column in *The News and Observer*, he outlined many opportunities for improvement, and you’ll hear more from him in the coming months. An internal risk assessment is underway as recommended by both the Summerford Fraud Vulnerability Audit and our external auditors. The certification requirements for budget managers are under review and will reflect changes in our business practices. Mr. Neter, the finance officer, and the senior director for Budget lead quarterly meetings with our senior leadership to assess current spending and look for savings as well as efficiencies. Our efforts dovetail with the School Board’s leadership in promoting fiscal accountability. As a Board, you took a giant step forward in becoming the first school district in our state to put in place an independent Audit Committee to review the findings of our external audits. There is no legal requirement to do that, but you have once again gone the extra mile in working to be good stewards of taxpayers’ dollars and to further increase our school system’s financial transparency.

## **2) Develop and Implement Systems and Structures to Support Schools, Ensure Accountability, and Engage the Community**

On July 1, I realigned our organizational structure to better support our vision and strategic directives. First, the role of the former area assistant superintendents was redefined. They now serve as area superintendents, each with a special assistant – not a new position, but one re-purposed from existing resources to assist and be accountable for school improvement planning in each one of our 147 schools. A chief of staff and five other chief officers were identified: a chief academic officer, a chief business officer, a chief communications officer, a chief facilities and operations officer, and a chief technology officer. There is no deputy superintendent in this realignment, and in the process, ten percent of the senior leadership positions were eliminated. This flattened our organization in order for me to be in direct contact with those who support schools, represented by the chief officers, and those who lead schools, represented by the area superintendents. We are communicating more frequently and purposefully with our principals and central services administrators to focus on providing information they need to do their jobs better and for professional growth. I've also expanded engagement and discussion at the advisory level. In the past, a superintendent's teacher advisory council existed as did a superintendent's parent advisory council. Each operated in isolation – in a silo, if you will. I have brought them together, along with a superintendent's support staff advisory council, and a superintendent's principal advisory council. When we meet, all views are at the table at the same time. We have held two summits – one addressing professional learning communities and how we can best support them in our system, and the other reviewing Goal 2008 and asking the very tough question: what's next?

We're expanding our long-range planning for growth as well. On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the traditional calendar schools this year, we counted 128,070 students – almost 7,600 more than the prior year. That increase alone is about the size of most school districts in our state. In the current Growth Management Plan, you find a long-range planning component for each school in our system. We are already engaged in a higher level of planning in the use of data and the methodology presented by Or-ED labs from NCSU as we work to site our schools. These efforts will be expanded.

The 22 schools transitioning to multi-track year-round calendars next year are being supported by all department and divisions in our system going forward, and also are receiving support from existing year-round schools in order to make certain that we provide the structure necessary for a smooth opening of those schools next July. And while I'm on the subject of systems and structures, I want to again highlight this accomplishment that I have shared with you before: since July 1, five new elementary schools opened for students and staff two months ahead of schedule. This was no small feat. It occurred as a result of the hard work and the dedication of the Facilities construction management team and five very dedicated, knowledgeable, and highly-skilled principals.

## **3) Retaining, Recruiting, and Training High Quality Employees**

Finding new teachers like Molly Harnden is hard work. It's a task that we'll always have, but every high quality teacher we retain is one less we have to recruit. Our teacher retention rate for last year was 9.4%. That is better than the prior year's 10.24% and better still than the state's average of 12.95%. There is still a cost, however, to replacing those who leave; not just a financial cost for locating, hiring, orienting, inducting, and mentoring new teachers, which is roughly \$14,000 per teacher, but a cost that cannot be calculated in lost experience and disruptions of continuity for students and schools. And we are expanding our retention efforts to support staff – not just focusing on teachers. Ninety-five percent of our employees are based in schools. We need high quality employees across the board – teachers and those who support teaching and learning every day.

Area superintendents are working closely with principals and schools to review the ratios of initially licensed teachers to mentors and developing plans to improve them. Every school improvement plan will address teacher retention as a significant component. Focusing on climate and working conditions in

each of our schools, we will also analyze and use data from the Teacher Working Conditions Survey completed last spring, again to be found in school improvement planning.

Chief officers are analyzing data related to employee turnover in central services to determine how to provide more effective induction programs to support new employees, and we are sharing best practices in employee retention in our schools and in central services. Our retention efforts are being strengthened; however, our recruitment needs to continue as we face the prospect of 8,000 more students next year. We hired over 1,000 teachers new to Wake County Public Schools for this year. That was a difficult task for us. A fall job fair has been held, attended by over 8,000 candidates seeking 50 jobs, which is encouraging. We've also held a lateral entry job fair with over 400 candidates attending.

As we focus on retention and recruitment, we must also make sure Ms. Harnden and all her colleagues in our schools and central services have the support they need to be successful. We are ramping up leadership training to build capacity at all levels. We now have two cohorts of teacher leaders participating in a 24-month program. The first Assistant Principal Leadership Academy, also a 24-month program, began in the fall. Training and discussions to improve the manner in which we work as collaborative teams, also known as professional learning communities, is ongoing and expanding from our high schools into our middle and elementary schools.

We have very good people serving the children of Wake County. It's important to me that everyone in this room recognize that fact and understand my commitment to improving their capacity to support both our students and the vision of the Wake County Public School System. It's a commitment I make to you and to them.

#### **4) Rededicating Our Focus on Teaching and Learning**

Usually, this is the first strategic directive I talk about. Today, it is the last. Under the leadership of Dr. Donna Hargens, Chief Academic Officer, the Instructional Services Division has been realigned and flattened to sharpen the focus on our core business – that of teaching and learning for all students.

During the last six months, academic results from the 2005-2006 school year have been released. Our SAT scores at 1066 are still well ahead of the state and our nation, and the participation rate is among the highest. Re-normed math end-of-grade scores indicate that while we are clearly ahead of the rest of the state, we have much more work to do. More students than ever – 3,621 – took advanced placement tests as we continue to encourage students to pursue higher level courses in high school. And speaking of high school, the on-time graduation rate for our school system – 82% – was the second highest of large urban districts in our nation, second only to Fairfax County, Virginia. Compared to a 66% on-time graduation rate for our state and a 69% on-time graduation rate for our nation, we are doing better than most in our country.

But now it is time to talk about what I see beyond the horizon, not what I see in the rearview mirror. I want to talk now about expectations and standards. We talk a great deal about the globalization of our economy and the flattening of our region, the flattening of our world. The world today is very different from the world we imagined we'd be living in 30 years ago. And the world our children will be living in 30 years from now will no doubt be different from what we imagine for them. The rate of change is constantly increasing. Students of today are knowledge workers of tomorrow. Preparing children for a future about which we cannot imagine – students who graduate ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – is not an option. It is a necessity.

Our parents and our business community have called upon us to excel. Our State Board of Education has deeply considered this matter and has called upon the state to educate all students to ensure they are competitive and ready for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, not the 20<sup>th</sup>.

With us today is the Chairman of the State Board of Education, Howard Lee. Chairman Lee and the State Board of Education recognize that we all have much work to do on behalf of every child in North Carolina. To this end, the State Board has developed new goals – goals intended to prepare our students for the future. They are based on high standards and high expectations for every single child. We would expect nothing less. Through his personal and sustained determination working with the State Board to ensure that every school system in North Carolina aligns their efforts, Chairman Lee has called for every school system to make the most of what they have and focus on the future; preparing our children for the century they are growing up in, not the last one.

It is time to respond to the call of Chairman Lee and the State Board of Education. It is time to respond to the call of our business community. It is time to respond to the call of our parents, our teachers, our principals, and our students themselves. Today, I am calling for a comprehensive, independent curriculum management audit of the Wake County Public School System. The audit investigates two fundamental instructional management questions:

1. Does the Wake County Public School System have a properly managed instructional program or curriculum that is planned, executed, and assessed in accordance with generally accepted principles and standards?
2. Does the Wake County Public School System conform to the standards of quality in instructional organization, including the following:
  - Adequacy, specificity, and scope of Board policies and planning?
  - Sufficient quality in direction for teaching and learning?
  - Consistency and equity in schools and program implementation?
  - Effectiveness of program and process monitoring and assessment?
  - Use and allocations of budget and resources for productivity and quality improvement?

Conducted by the International Curriculum Management Audit Center of Phi Delta Kappa International, this audit is based on a business model, following generally accepted auditing principles. This business model was developed in the past by the accounting firm Peat, Marwick, and Mitchell and has been used by scores of districts across our nation to improve and advance quality in their instructional program. It is my expectation that this audit will identify weaknesses and areas for improvement, not just identify the things we are doing well.

Why a curriculum audit? Because we have never independently audited our core business, that of teaching and learning, before. We are doing a very good job of preparing our students against today's standards. But the question comes, "What about tomorrow's standards?"

Each year we engage external auditors to examine our financial position and internal control. We have also undergone an independent fraud vulnerability assessment to review internal controls. We have had many external reviews and audits of our building programs and finances, as well as management. Such oversight of our support functions is welcomed, and certainly necessary.

But it is time for more. The critical question before us is, "In light of significantly higher standards and expectations for all students; in light of the need to prepare children to not just live, but to thrive in a global economy in a global society, are we doing enough?" I think that we, as a community, should be at least as vigilant in monitoring, reviewing, and auditing our core business as we are our support systems. Our support systems maintain our schools. But what we teach and how we teach it are our reason for being. It's time to put that to the test.

During the last six months, we have worked hard to become well aligned as a school system. We will keep working on it, because with improved alignment comes improved efficiency. But now it's time to focus on attunement. We have to listen to our children. We have to see clearly the changes in our world. We have to anticipate the challenges our children will face tomorrow and the challenges today; such as:

growth, poverty, and a great diversity of need among our student population, high-achieving and struggling alike.

Finally, here is the vision again: every child in our school system graduating on time, prepared for the future. Our community demands it. Our educators, like Ms. Harnden, are committed to the task, and our children deserve it. Ms. Head, members of the Board, I believe it's time to chart our course, set sail, and head for the horizon. Thank you.

Following Superintendent Burns' presentation of the Mid-Year Report, Patti Head shared the following remarks:

*"Well, Dr. Burns, obviously you hit the floor running six months ago. Volunteering for an independent audit of our educational system shows the leadership, the vision, and the courage that we knew we were getting in our new superintendent. We knew you were the right man, for the right job, for the right time, and you have just affirmed that today. We thank you for that. I do commend the school system, and you, as part of the administration, for taking the initiative to request the curriculum audit. We have talked a lot over the last few years about how we can take our school system from being a good system – a very good school system – to a great school system. We are not just respectable, but we are impressive in our on-time graduation rate. As you've said, we have the second highest graduation rate for large districts in the nation; but there is still much to do. You would think that with all the successes of our teachers, our principals, and our staff, that we'd be tempted to pat ourselves on the back and say "well done." But that is not the spirit of Wake County, nor is it the mindset of Wake County. We are continually looking for ways to improve and ways to better serve our children. We are about doing everything we can to improve student performance for every child at every grade level. We are all about making the most of the resources we have, and we are all about taking those last 18% of the students who are not graduating on time and making sure that they 'make that grade' and graduate on time.*

*I would, too, anticipate that what we will find from an independent audit of our curriculum is that the teachers, principals, and staff of WCPSS are doing an excellent job. However, no audit would be complete without lots of recommendations of how we can take this system to new levels and new heights. So we as a Board, as I know you, as the superintendent, and administration, will be looking for that kind of advice and input from an independent audit. We, this Board of Education, and administration are accountable for 128,000 plus students, and yes, 8,000 more next year and probably 9,000 more the next year. We are welcoming this audit and will look forward to getting the recommendations and have that audit come before us and before North Carolina as another step in our success.*

*Finally, I would like to thank Chairman Howard Lee for being here today. Chairman Lee, you have traveled all over this state and have shared with all of us, especially with the boards of education, the perspective of being bold in our view and mission of making student success the highest of our priorities. We thank you for that job, for the number of hours that you spend, and your tireless efforts to have school systems and the communities come together. That is not any small task when you look at the diversity in North Carolina – from Wake County, who is an urban district, to the rural, to the poor, to the rich and bringing us together with a shared vision of what we need to be doing for our children. I also appreciate the fact that you bring to us a statewide perspective in continuing to encourage us to ask those questions of, 'Who needs our help' and 'How can we go about it?' I am delighted that you are here to witness this next step for Wake County as we embark on something that we think is very exciting – to audit our curriculum and then take the steps needed to make sure that our students are successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I would be honored to have you come to the podium if you have a few words that you would like to share with us."*

Howard Lee, Chairman of the State Board of Education shared the following remarks:

*"Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Board. What an honor it is to be here. I appreciate the invitation and the opportunity to bear the presentation by the superintendent, which not only has demonstrated great vision, but certainly is a symbol of strong courage, which is what we look for in the educational leaders in our state who occupy the superintendent's position. First, I'd like to extend greetings to you on behalf of our governor, Governor Mike Easley; on behalf of the members of the State Board of Education; and on behalf of our superintendent, June Atkinson. We join in commending you for the great courage that you as a Board have shown in facing some of the tough challenges you have had to deal with over the last few months and years. As a system, you are under great pressure. I was in conversation with a chief executive officer who is moving to the state just a few days ago. He indicated to me, 'I have offices around the state in several communities. Coming from a far western state, I*

*looked at all of the school systems in North Carolina and the one that I chose to select for my children was the Wake County Public School System.’ I think that is a tremendous commentary for how good you are, and the fact that because you are good, you become a tremendous magnet for people moving to North Carolina.*

*Your State Board of Education is trying very hard to show leadership and to adopt the same kind of vision which the superintendent spoke of and which you have embraced as a Board. We have put in place a framework for a new core curriculum which will raise standards and emphasize higher quality experiences for our students. I am so delighted that one of the first superintendents to step up and embrace that concept was Superintendent Del Burns. He is a man who has shown tremendous insight. I have come to appreciate him as one of our strongest educational leaders in the state. I know how blessed you feel to have him leading this system, and I simply wanted to share with you that we have the same degree of respect and confidence in him that you as a Board have in him. Thank you for letting me come and hear this presentation. I commend you, Mr. Superintendent, for the instructional audit. Don’t be surprised if over the next few weeks, you receive an invitation to come and make a presentation to the State Board, presenting the Wake County vision, because you are one of the model systems in our state. We are so proud of the achievements of this system and this Board and what you do. And finally to you, members of the Board— this is a tough job. I am so grateful that you are willing to do it. I work with Boards all over the state, and I know you have your challenges, but you certainly carry yourselves as a model Board. I commend you for that. Facing these tough challenges, you have done it with grace; you have done it with patience; but you have done it with tenacity and determination, and it takes a lot of strength and courage to do that. I appreciate the privilege of this podium, and thank you so much for letting me be a part of this great day and the presentation by the superintendent.”*

Following Chairman Lee’s remarks, Patti Head made the following statement:

*“Thank you, Chairman Lee, for those kind words. We are honored that you are here with us today and for the faith that you have in the Wake County Public School System. I commit to you that we will continue to have that vision and to work very hard together as a Board, with our administration and with our community, to continue educating our children for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Thank you for being here. Thank you, Molly, for being here. We are going to be looking forward to seeing you in the years to come as one of the very brightest, star-studded teachers in this community. We thank you so much, too.”*

## **2. (AVID) ACHIEVEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION**

- Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic preparatory program for students typically under represented in our highest-level classes. The program’s goal is to incorporate these students into the college going ranks though many may be first generation college attendees.
- WCPSS has twenty-three AVID middle schools this year. Twenty-one of them began the AVID program with a cohort of sixth grade students in 2005-2006.
- AVID students are placed in advanced math and other rigorous courses while receiving support through the AVID elective and the AVID curriculum.
- The AVID elective emphasizes college awareness and WIC-R (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, and Reading) strategies as well as direct tutorial days.
- Fiscal Implications: The cost per AVID student is less than \$1.50 per day per student.  
Recommendation for Action: This item is for information only.

Catherine Norris, district director for AVID for Wake County, made a presentation to the Board. Ms. Norris explained that AVID is an in-school academic support program for grades 5-12 that prepares students for college eligibility and successes. AVID targets those students in the academic middle, and levels the playing field for minority, rural, low-income, and other students without a college-going tradition in their family. AVID is in 23 middle schools this year and serves 865 sixth and seventh graders enrolled in the 48 AVID electives that are offered. AVID provides support and possibilities for students to achieve academic success through rigor, relevance, and relationships. Zebulon Middle School is an AVID site, and Dalphine Perry, principal of Zebulon Middle, shared comments about the many positive aspects of the AVID program. Ms. Webb, the AVID teacher at Zebulon Middle, also shared comments about the effectiveness of the AVID program. Following Ms. Webb’s comments, Robin Alston, a



student at Zebulon Middle, shared how her experience in the AVID program has opened her eyes to all the opportunities available to her.

Patti Head commended Robin on her presentation. Beverley Clark thanked Robin for coming and sharing her experiences in the AVID program with the Board. Eleanor Goettee applauded Robin's speaking ability at such a young age. Catherine Norris answered clarifying questions from the Board. Beverley Clark shared that AVID is a fabulous program that meets an unmet need in this school system. Ms. Clark further shared that AVID is a research-based program that is nationally adopted, and Ms. Norris shared further information with the Board in this regard at Ms. Clark's request. David Holdzkom also clarified that next year E&R will be able to look at three cohorts at various stages of implementation and provide data to the Board on the success of the AVID students. Patti Head thanked Ms. Norris, Ms. Perry, Ms. Webb, and Robin for sharing exciting and inspiring information about the AVID program.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*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.*

- **Jennifer Lanane, President of Wake NCAE.** Ms. Lanane spoke on the growth in Wake County. She thanked the Board for voting to move forward with the 22 new year-round schools and for giving the staff at those schools the permission to figure out what they have to do in the next 4 ½ months. She shared that the staffs at those schools are anxious to get their plans laid and to get down to the business of teaching and learning. Most of the schools are looking at the conversion to year-round in a positive light and are truly looking forward to making it work. She again thanked the Board for honoring its decision so that teachers have time to make the 2007-08 school year a great year.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS (cont'd.)**

### **FINANCE**

#### **1. POTENTIAL CHANGES IN LOCAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2006-2007**

To report potential changes in local expenditures for 2006-2007 as of December 31, 2006. Fiscal Implications: Potential adjustments within the local budget. Transactions transferring budget between accounts will be reported to the Board of Education with all Budget Amendments and Transfers quarterly. Recommendation for Action: No action. Administration is reporting potential changes in local expenditures.

Terri Kimzey made a presentation to the Board. She clarified that she would only be sharing information on the items in the packet with asterisks before them, as these are the ones that either the values or the items have changed since the first quarter. Ms. Kimzey gave detailed reports on each of these items. Following her presentation, Ms. Kimzey answered clarifying questions from the Board. Beverley Clark highly praised and thanked Ms. Kimzey and the Budget staff for their professionalism and "laser-like" accuracy in providing this information to the Board. She had no doubt that most school systems across the state or nation could not provide this kind of detail to their Board or community. Terri Kimzey gave credit to the 200 plus budget managers across the system. Patti Head echoed Beverley Clark's praise of Ms. Kimzey and her staff. Superintendent Burns joined Ms. Clark and Ms. Head in commending the work of Terri Kimzey and the Budget Department.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

Rosa Gill made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Lori Millberg. The vote was unanimous.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

November 8, 2006 – Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2006 – Instructional Program Committee Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2006 – Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2007 – Committee of the Whole Minutes

January 9, 2007 – Board Meeting Minutes

## **FINANCE**

### **1. BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS, 2006-2007**

To report changes in the budget resolution resulting from transactions processed during October – December, 2006. Fiscal Implications:

Adjust State Public School Fund	+	\$	14,044,514
Adjust Local Current Expense Fund	+	\$	685,564
Adjust Federal Programs Fund	+	\$	1,721,553
Adjust Capital Outlay Fund	+	\$	678,951
Adjust Multiple Enterprise Fund	+	\$	1,918,259
 Net Changes	 +	 \$	 19,048,841

Recommendation for Action: No action. In accordance with the Budget Resolution, administration is reporting changes in appropriations.

### **2. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION APPROVED CONTRACTS**

The attached summaries are provided as information in accordance with Board Policy 8361. The summaries list all change orders, and contracts having a value greater than \$50,000 and not over \$100,000, and purchase orders in excess of \$250,000 for December 2006. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Not applicable

## **FACILITIES**

### **1. BIDS: KNIGHTDALE ELEMENTARY ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS PHASE 2**

On January 9, 2007, the Board pre-approved bids, provided they were within the bid budget of \$5,025,625. The issuance of Notice to Proceed and the execution of the contracts were also granted. Bids were opened on January 4, 2007, and the bids, including alternates, were within the project budget. Therefore, staff and SFL&A Architects present for ratification the recommendation for award of the single-prime contract to Harrod & Associates Constructors, in the amount of \$3,477,000. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$6,426,511, as provided in PLAN 2000. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

### **2. BIDS: SITE SET-UP OF MODULAR UNITS AT LYNN ROAD ELEMENTARY**

Bids were received on January 16, 2007 for the site set-up of two eight-classroom modular complex at Lynn Road Elementary School. Staff and H. S. Annis Architecture, PA recommend award of the single-prime contract to Beau Chene Company, LLC in the amount of \$543,820. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$22,098,150, of which \$1,206,943 is from PLAN 2004. \$20,891,207 will be available from CIP 2006 upon appropriation by Wake County Board of Commissioners. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

### **3. BIDS: SITE SET-UP OF MODULAR UNIT AT AVERSBORO ELEMENTARY**

Bids were received on January 4, 2007 for the site set-up of one six-classroom modular complex at Aversboro Elementary School. Staff and H. S. Annis Architecture, PA recommend award of the single-prime contract to C. Blake Lewis Construction in the amount of \$107,733. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$21,066,323, of which \$978,228 is from the PLAN 2004 and \$20,088,095 from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

**4. PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE: AVERSBORO ELEMENTARY**

The Board approved the schematic design of its September 19, 2006 meeting. In order to meet the tight construction schedule needed to complete this project for a 2008 school opening, it is proposed to advertise the steel, foundation, and site bid packages early, before completion of the final construction documents. Staff has reviewed the construction documents for these early bid packages and requests Board approval and authorization to advertise. Staff will present the award of the contracts to the Board for approval on March 6, 2007. Staff also requests Board approval and authorization to advertise for the remaining project packages upon completion of design and satisfactory review by staff. Staff will bring these packages to the Board for approval after receipt of bids. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$21,066,323, of which \$978,228 is from PLAN 2004 and \$20,088,095 from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

**5. CHANGE ORDER NO. 1: AVERSBORO ELEMENTARY**

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. 1 to Ramsay GMK. This design phase change order, in the amount of \$250,620 is to fully fund the design consultant agreement to include bidding and permitting, construction administration, and close-out of the project; and to authorize the design consultant to provide services for the remainder of the project. The design consultant had previously been authorized to provide services through the preparation of construction documents. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$21,066,323, of which \$978,228 is from PLAN 2004 and \$20,088,095 from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

**6. CHANGE ORDER NO. 4: RIVER BEND ELEMENTARY (E-19)**

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. 4 to Pearce, Brinkley, Cease & Lee, P.A. This change order, in the amount of \$314,325, is to fully fund the design consultant agreement to include bidding and permitting, construction administration, and close out of the project; and to authorize the design consultant to provide services for the remainder of the project. The design consultant has previously been authorized to provide services through the preparation of construction documents. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$21,803,819, of which \$2,292,654 is from PLAN 2004 and \$19,511,165 from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

**7. CHANGE ORDER NO. 4: E-22 ELEMENTARY (CARY PARK)**

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. 4 to Cherry Huffman Architects. P.A. This change order, in the amount of \$360,250, is to fully fund the design consultant agreement to include bidding and permitting, construction administration, and close out of the project; and to authorize the design consultant to provide services for the remainder of the project. The design consultant has previously been authorized to provide services through the preparation of construction documents. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$22,148,874, of which \$745,000 is from PLAN 2004, \$330,823 is from funds passed through Wake County from the developer in fiscal year 2004-2005, \$15,897,874 is from CIP 2006, and \$5,169,177 is to be provided by the developer. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

**8. CHANGE ORDER NO. 2: BANKS ROAD ELEMENTARY (E-23)**

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. 2 to Pearce, Brinkley, Cease & Lee, P.A. This change order, in the amount of \$363,250, is to fully fund the design consultant agreement to include bidding and permitting, construction administration, and close out of the project; and to authorize the design consultant to provide services for the remainder of the project. The design consultant has previously been authorized to provide services through the preparation of construction documents. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$21,904,465 of which \$745,000 is from PLAN 2004 Start Up and \$21,159,465 from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

**9. CHANGE ORDER NO. 1: LAUREL PARK ELEMENTARY (E-26)**

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. 1 to Pearce, Brinkley, Cease & Lee, P.A. This change order, in the amount of \$505,336, is to fully fund the design consultant agreement to include the remainder of construction documents, bidding and permitting, construction administration, and close out of the project; and to authorize the design consultant to provide services for the remainder of the project. The design consultant has previously been authorized to provide services through 75% of construction documents. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$20,973,513 of which \$895,000 is from PLAN 2004 Start-Up and \$20,078,513 from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

**10. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT FOR SURPLUS 2.51 ACRE TRACT OF LAND IN ZEBULON**

The Board of Education owns 2.51 acres of land in Zebulon located at the southern end of Jones Street on the eastern side of the road, near the intersection of Dogwood Drive, in Zebulon, North Carolina. The Board of Education declared it as surplus property and ordered its sale on August 8, 2006. At its September 18, 2006 meeting, the Wake County Board of Commissioners declined to purchase the property at fair market value. The Board of Education approved the terms and conditions of an Offer to Purchase and Contract to sell the 2.51 acre surplus tract to LRC Development Company, LLC at a purchase price of \$574,000 on December 5, 2006, conditioned upon and subject to completion of additional advertisement and upset bid process as required by N.C.G.S. 115C-518 and N.C.G.S. 160A-269. The upset bid process is now complete, there having been no upset bids. The property is further identified as Wake County PIN #2705.05-19-9739, and Wake County Tax Account #0211541. Fiscal Implications: Estimated income is \$574,000 to the Board of Education to reduce the County's bonded indebtedness for schools or for future land acquisitions for schools. Recommendation for Action: Staff requests Board approval and execution of the Offer to Purchase and Contract to sell the subject property to LRC Development Company, LLC.

**11. RENEWAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER SITE LEASE: SANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL**

Terms and conditions of a Lease Agreement have been reached with Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless (formerly GTE Mobilnet) to renew its existing lease for location and operation of a telecommunications tower on the Sanderson High School campus. Real property, subject to the lease, consist of approximately 1,000 square feet, together with an easement for access to the tower site. The new term is for five years beginning March 1, 2007, with the possibility of extension of term thereafter. Fiscal Implications: The general fund receives rental rate income is \$23,175 per year beginning March 1, 2007, with an automatic annual rate increase of 3% of the annual rent due for the immediately preceding year. Recommendation for Action: Staff requests Board approval.

**12. 2006 – 2007 CAPACITY REPORT**

Staff presented the 2006-2007 Capacity Report at the Committee of the Whole (COW) on Tuesday, January 16, 2007 and request that the Board accept the Capacity Report. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting the Board accept the Capacity Report.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

**1. WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO LONDON, ENGLAND**

- Students participating will be representative of grades 9-12.
- Approximately 16 students will participate and 4 chaperones.
- Students will depart from RDU on Friday, March 30, and return Saturday, April 7, 2007. Only 2 days of school will be missed as this is over Spring Break.
- This is a cultural exchange program for theatre in London England. Theatre arts students will be viewing plays, the globe theatre and sightseeing various places throughout London and Stratford.

Fiscal Implications: The cost per student is \$2200.00. This trip is enrichment only and not a required trip. Boosters will assist with some funding as well as using incentives toward lowering group costs.  
 Recommendation for Action: This item is recommended for consent.

## **2. GRANT PROPOSALS**

1. Contract Amendment (#1003): Public School Forum, New Schools Project, East Wake High School.
2. Competitive (#1127): The John Rex Endowment and UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention / Wake to Wellness / Individual Schools.
3. Competitive (#1128): Town of Garner / Garner Magnet High School.
4. Competitive (#1129): NC Division of Public Health, Physical Activity and Nutrition Branch, Active Community and Neighborhood Grant Program / Individual schools.
5. Competitive (#1130): NC Governor's Crime Commission, Juvenile Justice Planning Committee / Central Office, Project Enlightenment.

Fiscal Implications: Any required cash and/or in-kind matching contributions vary by grant program.

Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

## **POLICY**

### **1. POLICY 1323-RULES OF ORDER**

*Revised Second Reading*

The policy has been revised in order to provide guidelines and parameters regarding absentee voting by Board Members. The policy was revised with the guidance of Ann Majestic. It was approved by the Policy Committee on 12.12.06. Fiscal Implications: none. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

### **2. POLICY 3222-INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING**

*Revised Second Reading*

The policy has been revised in alignment with recent changes in legislation. As revised, the policy specifies that School Improvement Plans must include a plan to provide duty-free instructional planning for teachers. The policy was revised with the guidance of Ann Majestic. It was approved by the Policy Committee on 12.12.06. Fiscal Implications: none. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

### **3. POLICY 3224-DUTY FREE LUNCH PERIOD**

*Revised Second Reading*

The policy has been revised in alignment with recent changes in legislation. As revised, the policy specifies that School Improvement Plans must include a plan to provide all full-time assigned classroom teachers a duty free lunch period on a daily basis or as otherwise approved by the school improvement plan. The policy was revised with the guidance of Ann Majestic. It was approved by the Policy Committee on 12.12.06. Fiscal Implications: none. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **1. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH VISITING INTERNATIONAL FACULTY (VIF)**

Staff recommends approval of the contract with Visiting International Faculty (VIF) to employ highly qualified international teachers in critical need areas for not longer than a three-year period. The VIF program is an additional recruitment strategy that our system has used for the past 5 years. The State has a formal agreement with VIF to supply qualified teachers to local school systems. The salaries and other costs for VIF teachers are paid by converting ADM allotted teacher positions. This process also enables WCPSS to provide \$2,000 per teacher for supplies. No incremental local funds are being expended.

Fiscal Implications: The fiscal implications will include the appropriate salary and benefit costs.

Recommendation for Action: Please approve as presented.

## **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' REPORTS**

Before proceeding with the committee chairs' reports, Patti Head took a moment to thank staff for setting up for the public hearings. She individually thanked Don Haydon, Chuck Dulaney, Michael Evans, and Melanie Upton for their efforts in this regard.

### **Calendar Updates**

- Patti Head gave a reminder of the public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Knightdale High School. She also reminded Board members of the work session on Friday, January 26 at 8:30 a.m. at Crossroads II.
- Eleanor Goettee attended the presentation given by Marva Collins last Wednesday. Ms. Goettee spoke of how inspired she was by Ms. Collins' eloquent presentation.
- On Thursday, January 18, several Board members attended Wake Education Partnership's *Quality Matters* briefing. Patti Head shared that the *Quality Matters* report was presented, which was full of good information. The report emphasized a focus on teaching and learning. Susan Parry also commented on the *Quality Matters* report. She shared the Board's gratitude for the time spent by the business community and the corporate world in providing a thoughtful and objective look at what the school system is doing right as well as where there is need for improvement. Ms. Parry emphasized how closely the *Quality Matters* report paralleled Superintendent Burns' earlier comments regarding the curriculum audit and his increased efforts to move the system forward in addressing the needs of students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- On Saturday, January 20, Carol Parker attended the Year-Round Workshop Round-up in Cary sponsored by the Wake County PTA Council. Ms. Parker expressed her gratitude to the Wake County PTA Council and members of that organization for planning this event. There were 22 exhibitors who offered track-out camps and information to parents. Workshops were conducted by experienced veterans of the year-round PTAs. They gave helpful hints and advice to the schools who are being converted. Fifteen of the twenty-two elementary and middle schools being converted were represented. Ms. Parker received very good feedback, and she shared the following comment that was made to her by one of the parents: "Get on with it; we're over it; move forward. We need to know what we are doing, and this uncertainty is very disruptive to our planning." Patti Head offered a special thanks to Cindy Smith, president of the Wake County PTA Council, and Liza Weidle for the \$3000 worth of door prizes that were given away. Carol Parker recognized Jan Ammons, Jill Touchberry, and others who spoke, gave advice, and offered help to the PTAs of the schools being converted to year-round.
- Eleanor Goettee reported that she, Kathy Chontos, and David Holdzkom spoke this morning to the participants of *Leadership Cary*, sponsored by the Cary Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Goettee shared that every year the focus of one of their sessions is the Wake County Public School System. The session was well attended, and Ms. Goettee, Ms. Chontos, and Dr. Holdzkom responded to numerous questions from the participants.
- Carol Parker attended a civics project presentation by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade AG class at East Millbrook Middle School. The students chose "exploring the lottery" as their project. Ms. Parker shared the various ways in which the students had obtained the information for their projects. She thoroughly enjoyed hearing the students' very thorough presentations and even shared one of their suggestions of changing the name of the lottery with the Wake Legislative Delegation and County Commissioners.
- Beverley Clark referenced and read an excerpt from an editorial in yesterday's edition of *The News and Observer* as follows: "Where are all the newcomers' kids going to go to school? There seems to be a disconnect between land use policies that encourage rapid growth and the county schools' space crisis. Ms. Clark emphasized the idea of bringing together, with the Board, other elected officials from the town and county to discuss and understand "where the rubber meets the road."

- Eleanor Goettee reported that she will be attending the Federal Relations Network Conference beginning Saturday, January 27 in Washington, DC, sponsored by the North Carolina School Boards Association in conjunction with the National School Boards Association. The focus of the conference will be for Board members to give feedback and input to federal legislators on NCLB legislation. Ms. Goettee publicly thanked David Holdzkom, Bob Sturey, Willi Webb, and David Howell for providing her with data and statistics in preparation for her presentation of why there is a shortfall in funding and the resulting consequences. Ms. Goettee will be reporting back to the Board when she returns. She also encouraged Board members to share any of their observations on NCLB legislation with her. Patti Head thanked Ms. Goettee for representing WCPSS at this very important conference.

### **Community Relations Committee**

Lori Millberg reported that the Community Relations Committee met on January 10. The primary focus of the meeting related to the committee's website work in communicating with the public. The webmaster is working on overhauling the website based on input from the committee. The meeting generated lots of great ideas. Ms. Millberg reported that the Community Relations Committee does not currently have plans to hold a meeting in February or March unless it becomes necessary. The next committee meeting is planned for April.

### **Human Resources Committee**

Eleanor Goettee reported that the Human Resources Committee did not meet in January, but there will be a joint meeting of the Human Resources Committee and the Instructional Program Committee on February 14 at 12:30 p.m. Donna Hargens and staff will be sharing information about an initiative that addresses teacher quality. Ms. Goettee invited all Board members to attend.

### **Instructional Program Committee**

Beverly Clark reported that the Instructional Program Committee had a very interesting meeting on January 10. The focus of the meeting was discussion of the opportunities and obligations to serve special education pre-school students. Ms. Clark shared that under IDEA, WCPSS is required to serve special education students identified as early as the age of three. The committee learned valuable information about the programs that are available in Wake County that help these students to be successful in the classroom. There was also a very interesting presentation on Project Enlightenment. Ms. Clark shared that Project Enlightenment is a program that was founded over 20 years ago in Wake County to provide pre-school education. It serves not only as resource for pre-school educators across the county, but it also provides instructional training for WCPSS kindergarten teachers. Ms. Clark extended an invitation to Board members to attend an upcoming guided observation on Friday, February 2 from 8:30 – 11 a.m. Ms. Clark asked Board members to confirm their attendance with her or Dr. Hargens. Ms. Clark reported that the third part of the meeting focused on the success of Title I programs and how Title I funds are also used to address pre-school education.

### **Facilities Committee**

Horace Tart reported that the Facilities Committee met on January 16. At that meeting, there was a representative from the legal profession who shared the legal ramifications and documentations dealing with public-private partnerships. Also present was a developer who shared information regarding public-private partnerships from a developer's perspective. Mr. Tart reported that many of the Board members found this meeting to be very informative, and the committee is intending to schedule a meeting with the County Commissioners to share this information. Mr. Tart reported that the next Facilities Committee meeting will be held on February 13.

### **Citizens Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC)**

Horace Tart reported that the upcoming CFAC meetings that were scheduled on January 22 and January 30 have been cancelled due to information not being ready from DeJong, Inc. The next CFAC meeting will be held on January 31 at 4 p.m. at the Wake County Office Building on Salisbury Street. At this meeting,

information will be shared that compares the costs of construction between several different school systems in the U.S.

Ron Margiotta asked clarifying questions of Horace Tart regarding the meeting with the County Commissioners and the status of moving forward with the public-private partnerships. Mr. Tart and Ms. Head responded to Mr. Margiotta's questions.

### **Finance Committee**

Carol Parker reported that the Finance Committee did not meet in January, but she wanted to report to the Board and public that that the Board chair and the Finance Committee chair have quarterly meetings with internal auditor, Doug Kinney to receive internal audit updates. The most recent of these quarterly meetings occurred last week. Ms. Parker shared that there are now five WCPSS internal auditors. In addition to the quarterly meetings, Ms. Parker and Ms. Head receive monthly updates on what functions are being audited and the results of those audits.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **FACILITIES**

#### **1. AGREEMENT FOR CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT**

##### **AGREEMENT– NORTHWEST CARY/MORRISVILLE AREA ELEMENTARY (E-22/M10)**

Terms and conditions of an Agreement have been reached with Town of Cary and Panther Creek-Raleigh Limited Partnership to acquire approximately 21 acres for an elementary facility and approximately 32 acres for a middle school facility together in a tract of a total of approximately 53 acres on Green Level-to-Durham Road, Cary. This contract is supplemental to the original agreement entered by the Board of Education on February 7, 2005, with the primary change being the size and location of the land identified for school use within the larger tract currently owned by Town of Cary. Fiscal Implications: Estimated land cost for 20 acres of the elementary school site is zero, as that amount of land for the elementary school site is being donated by the Town of Cary, pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding previously entered into by the parties. The cost of the balance of the total acreage designated for the elementary and middle school sites (approximately 33 acres) is \$21,225 per acre for a total cost of approximately \$700,425. The Town of Cary and the Board of Education are also jointly responsible for the costs associated with the installation of the access road from Green Level to Durham Road to the school sites, as well as the provision of a water line to the school sites. Panther Creek-Raleigh Limited Partnership will provide to the Wake County Board of Education the sum of \$5,169,177 towards the construction of an elementary school upon the site. Previously the developer provided \$330,823. There is no current fiscal implication associated therewith. Recommendation for Action: Staff requests Board approval.

Eleanor Goettee made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Margiotta. Betty Parker made a presentation to the Board. She shared that this is a follow-up to an information item that was previously brought to the Board. Ms. Parker stated that the contract that is being brought before the Board today amends the first contract by substituting the new land area for the site. Betty Parker answered clarifying questions from the Board. Patti Head expressed the Board's gratitude to the Town of Cary for their collaboration and partnership. Ms. Head also thanked Betty Parker for her hard work. The vote was unanimous.

#### **2. LEASE AGREEMENT: LEASE FOR CAPITAL BUILDING PROGRAM AND SUPPORT SPACE WITH HOBBY PROPERTIES**

Terms and conditions of a Lease Agreement have been reached with Hobby Properties, LLC to lease approximately 17,500 square feet of office/flex space in a building that it owns at 1429 Rock Quarry Road, Suite 110, Raleigh, NC, under a two year lease beginning May 1, 2007. Appropriate parking areas are also included. The projected use is as office and warehouse space for administrative and support functions of the Capital Building Program. Fiscal Implications: Rental rate is \$9.50 per square foot of



space, which equates to approximately \$166,255 per year, for each year of the lease and is first due and payable in an annual single sum payment at lease inception, and the anniversary date thereafter. Utilities costs are not included therewith. Funding is available from the program management budget. Recommendation for Action: Staff requests Board approval.

Beverley Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. Betty Parker made a presentation to the Board. Ms. Parker answered a clarifying question from Beverley Clark. The vote was 7 to 1 with Susan Parry, Rosa Gill, Ron Margiotta, Horace Tart, Beverley Clark, Lori Millberg, and Eleanor Goettee voting “yes,” and Carol Parker voting “no.” The motion passed.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

### **1. 2008-2009 TRADITIONAL CALENDAR**

The 2007-08 calendar was adopted in 2005. The calendar presented is for 2008-09.

- This calendar meets all requirements of the Calendar Law.
- This calendar contains 180 student days, 11 paid holidays, 10 paid vacation days, and 9 of 14 teacher workdays. The Division of Principals will make recommendations for the remaining teacher workdays.
- The first day for students will be Monday, August 25, 2008. The last day will be Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications. Recommendation for Action: This item is presented for action.

Because there were two draft calendars to discuss, Patti Head asked that a motion not be made until the pleasure of the Board was decided. Dawn Dawson made a presentation of Draft 1, which had been presented in December, as well as Draft 2. The revision that has been made in Draft 2 is that spring break has been moved to March 2 -6 in order to align with track out days for Track 2 on the year-round calendar. Ms. Dawson explained the reason for February 16 no longer being a workday on Draft 2. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding Draft 2, and Ms. Dawson answered numerous clarifying questions from the Board. Caroline Massengill also answered clarifying questions from the Board. Lori Millberg suggested changing the date for the end of the third quarter to April 9 and moving the end-of-quarter workday to April 13.

Beverley Clark made a motion to approve Draft 2 as revised with the end of the third quarter being on April 9 and the end-of-quarter workday being on April 13, seconded by Ron Margiotta. The vote was unanimous.

### **2. 2008-2009 SINGLE-TRACK YEAR-ROUND CALENDAR**

The 2007-08 calendar was adopted in 2005. The calendar presented is for 2008-09.

- The single-track year-round instructional calendar combines features of the traditional and year-round calendar.
- The calendar is broken into six-week instructional periods with either a one- or two-week break between each instructional period.
- The calendar provides a summer break of approximately six weeks.
- The first day for students will be Monday, July 22, 2008. The last day will be Wednesday, June 3, 2009.

Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Rosa Gill made a motion to approve, seconded by Beverley Clark. Ken Branch made a presentation to the Board. Dr. Branch provided Board members with two draft calendars. He explained that Draft 1 somewhat coincides with Draft 1 of the traditional calendar, and Draft 2 coincides with Draft 2 of the traditional calendar. Dr. Branch further explained that the only difference in the two drafts is where the

two-week second semester break falls. Beverley Clark questioned which schools might use this calendar, and Dr. Branch responded that there is tremendous interest in this calendar from many schools. Dr. Branch continued to share further information regarding moving modified calendar schools to this calendar. Carol Parker questioned the total days off in common with the traditional and multi-track year-round calendars. Dr. Branch will provide this information. Ms. Parker asked for clarification that the legislators have the same interpretation of a single-track year-round calendar as staff, and she asked for assurance that the modified calendar schools can be moved to the single-track year-round calendar. Dr. Branch will find out this information. Lori Millberg suggested that it would be helpful for the student holidays to be shown in orange as is the case on the multi-track year-round calendar. Dr. Branch will make this change.

Because there were requests for additional information from Board members, Rosa Gill withdrew her motion, and Beverley Clark withdrew the second. This item was sent back to staff for additional information and will be brought back at the next Board meeting on February 6 as an action item.

### **3. PROPOSED 2008-2009 YEAR-ROUND MULTI-TRACK CALENDAR**

Attached is the proposed calendar for 2008-2009 Multi-Track Year-Round schedule. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: Recommend the board approves calendar.

Beverley Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. Caroline Massengill made a presentation to the Board. She shared that this is the same draft that came before the Board previously. The Board had questioned the lack of a holiday for students on Memorial Day. Ms. Massengill explained that there was no where to put it without taking the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, one of the days during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week, or one of the days of the two-week winter break. The debate came down to the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or Memorial Day. She shared that year-round schools preferred having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off instead of Memorial Day. There was lengthy discussion, and Board members shared their feelings and thoughts about whether the calendar should remain as it is, without Memorial Day as a holiday. The vote was 5 to 3 with Susan Parry, Eleanor Goettee, Rosa Gill, Beverley Clark, and Lori Millberg voting “yes,” and Horace Tart, Carol Parker, and Ron Margiotta voting “no.” The motion passed.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Ron Margiotta made a motion to go into Closed Session at 4:20 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115C-319; to consider confidential student information protected under the Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and G.S. 115C-402; 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); 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 Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous. The Board recessed Closed Session at 4:53 p.m. and reconvened Open Session.

### **RECOGNITION**

#### **EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS (Exhibit A)**

Eleven (11) employees were nominated for the Employee Excellence Award. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: None.

Maurice Boswell presented each employee for recognition. Each recipient of the award received an acrylic plate and a gift certificate for dinner for two, compliments of Golden Corral. Patti Head expressed to the award recipients the Board’s appreciation for their dedication to WCPSS. Ms. Head compared WCPSS to a puzzle with lots of pieces, with the puzzle being the students and the excellent education they receive. Ms. Head described the award winners as “the brightly colored pieces that go into that puzzle.” She further praised them by stating, “Each important piece of that puzzle has to come together to make the system what

it is. We are so truly grateful for all that you do and for who you are. You make us look good; but more importantly, you help each child achieve their best. With gratitude, we thank you for coming tonight and letting us honor you in a small way.” Ms. Head offered the Board’s congratulations, and the audience and Board joined Ms. Head in giving all of the Employee Excellence Award recipients a standing ovation.

The Board returned to Closed Session at 5:17 p.m.

The Board reconvened Open Session at 7:53 p.m. on a motion made by Susan Parry, seconded by Horace Tart. The vote was unanimous.

Rosa Gill made a motion to amend the meeting agenda to add the following two Facilities items to the Action Agenda: Offer to Purchase and Contract – Western Wendell Area (E-34) and Offer to Purchase and Contract – Western Apex Area (E-32). The motion was seconded by Eleanor Goettee. The vote was unanimous.

### **ACTION ITEMS (cont’d)**

#### **FACILITIES**

##### **1. OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT – WESTERN WENDELL AREA (E-34)**

Terms and conditions of an Offer to Purchase and Contract have been reached with WENDELL FALLS DEVELOPMENT, LLC to acquire approximately 16.8 acres on the northwestern side of Poole Road in or near Wendell, for a new elementary school. The subject property is a portion of Wake County PIN #1773116988. Fiscal Implications: Estimated land cost at \$40,000 per acre is \$672,000, and would come from the Land Acquisition Component of Plan 2006 Funds. Recommendation for Action: Staff requests Board approval.

Betty Parker made a presentation to the Board. Beverley Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

##### **2. OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT – WESTERN APEX AREA (E-32)**

Terms and conditions of an Offer to Purchase and Contract have been reached with CAPSTONE BUILDING GROUP, LLC to acquire approximately 32.33 acres on Apex Barbecue Road, Apex, for a new elementary school. Staff has engaged in preliminary discussions with the Town of Apex, who have represented a desire to further explore conceptual planning opportunities for park space upon a portion of the land, and acquire such park space as can be cooperatively developed. The subject property is comprised of three parcels of land: one parcel having Wake County PIN #0731475559 and containing approximately 25.72 acres, one parcel being a portion of that tract having Wake County PIN #0731368718 and containing approximately 5.3 acres. Fiscal Implications: Estimated land cost at \$105,000 per acre is \$3,394,650, and would come from the Land Acquisition Component of Plan 2006 Funds. Recommendation for Action: Staff requests Board approval.

Betty Parker made a presentation to the Board. Beverley Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

##### **1. RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

Eleanor Goettee made a motion to approve the following administrative appointments:

- Triplet Crayton, Assistant Principal at Wakefield High School, to Principal at Wakefield Middle School, effective date January 24, 2007
- Allison G. Everette, Assistant Principal at Carver Elementary School, to Principal at Carver Elementary School, effective date January 24, 2007.
- Samuel Greene, Retired Principal, to Interim Assistant Principal at East Wake Middle School, effective January 24, 2007 through June 7, 2007.

- James E. Hinton, Retired Assistant Principal, to Interim Assistant Principal at Millbrook High School, effective January 24, 2007 through June 8, 2007.
- Teresa B. James, Teacher at Cary Elementary School, to Assistant Principal at Fuquay-Varina High School, effective date January 24, 2007.
- Dwight Womble, Retired Principal/Applicant, to Interim Assistant Principal at Millbrook High School, effective January 24, 2007 through June 8, 2007.

The motion was seconded by Ron Margiotta. The vote was unanimous.

## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER

Eleanor Goettee read the following administrative transfer:

- Douglas Thilman, Principal at West Cary Middle School, to Principal at Cary High School, effective date January 29, 2007.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before the Board, Rosa Gill made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Susan Parry. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Melanie A. Upton, Recording Secretary

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Del Burns, Superintendent, WCPSS

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Patti Head, Chair, Wake County Board of Education