

**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINTUES  
February 15, 2011**

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present	
Ron Margiotta, Chair	Superintendent Tony Tata	David Holdzkom
Debra Goldman, Vice Chair	Terri Cobb	Ann Hooker
Kevin L. Hill	Marvin Connelly	Julye Mizelle
Chris Malone	Joe Desormeaux	Cathy Moore
Kevin Hill	Laura Evans	David Neter
Anne McLaurin	Michael Evans	
Carolyn Morrison	Stephen Gainey	
Deborah Prickett	Lloyd Gardner	
Keith Sutton	Donna Hargens	<b>Board Attorney</b>
John Tedesco	Don Haydon	Ann Majestic

Board Chair Ron Margiotta called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Superintendent's Comments**

Superintendent Tata gave a brief update on his listening tour. Some of the highlights were:

- Visiting 17 schools, meeting most of central services staff, and speaking with multiple principal, teacher and parent groups across the county.
- Spending three half-days touring with three Board members. Will be doing the same with the other six in the weeks to come.
- Participating in several very important programs, including the Achievement Gap Conference, Southeast Raleigh High Magnet Fair, and the Walnut Creek community discussion.
- Apex High Women's Swim team won the State 4-H Championship.
- Knightdale High Men's Indoor Track Team and the Wakefield Women's Indoor Track Team also won their respective championships.
- The WCPSS Purchasing Department has met the requirements to receive the 2010 Sustained Professional Purchasing Award.
- Sarah Morgan, a Sanderson High 9<sup>th</sup> grader, recently won the WRAL Teacher Appreciation contest by writing an essay about her choral teacher, Marshall Butler. As a result, Mr. Butler received a \$1000.00 gift certificate and Sarah received a \$500.00 gift certificate.
- Over 500 middle school students and family members will be attending the annual Battle of the Books competition at Dillard Drive Middle.

Mr. Tata also wanted to give Board members an update on the three audits that the Broad Center is coordinating and funding at WCPSS's request,

- Communications Audit – results from Terri Abbot should be received within the next couple of weeks.
- In early March Dr. Robert Schiller will be conducting an organizational audit to review the system's organizational efficiency and structure.

- Also in early March, Dr. John Fullerton will conduct an analysis of the achievement gap at both ends of the spectrum.

Lastly, Mr. Tata wanted to thank the Wake Ed Partnership and the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce for funding and developing a viable student assignment option, the "Wake School Choice Plan". He also thanked the Board for approving his request to take the plan as another input on his listening tour. He will combine the plan with other input he has received and will establish a task force of key personnel and experts to develop a holistic student assignment plan that will be presented to the Board in late Spring.

## APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Chair Margiotta made the following amendments to the action agenda:

- Add a motion to adopt guidelines for the redistricting process
- Add a Grant approval item
- Add a Resolution regarding redistricting

Mr. Sutton requested that the resolution regarding redistricting be placed in the agenda right after the item related to redistricting guidelines.

Deborah Prickett offered a motion to approve the Amended Agenda, seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion was unanimously approved.

## PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO ADDITIONAL SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT CHANGES FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR – 5:45 P.M.

*Each individual speaker will be allowed two 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.*

- **Anne Stockdell-Geisler** – Is concerned with her daughter's school assignment for next year. She lives in the Savannah sub-division (node 380.7). Ms. Geisler says that although their past assignment situation was confusing, at least they had peer continuity. However, with the new assignment her node doesn't have continuity, stability, proximity or a logical feeder pattern.
- **Arden Stockdell-Geisler** – would like to be able to go to school with her current classmates or with the children from the rest of her neighborhood.
- **Jaysun Stockdell-Geisler** – favors neighborhood schools. All he is asking for is for his family to remain with the rest of the neighborhood schools.

## PUBLIC COMMENT – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

*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 two 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.*

- **Mary Martorella** – asked the Board why is it necessary to offer bonus pay to be able to hire an appropriate principal for Walnut Creek ES when this has not been WCPSS’s practice in the past. She wonders if the reason for this is that the Board recognizes that it is establishing a high poverty school that will be under close scrutiny where the probability of failure is increased precisely because it is a high poverty school. She asks the Board to please not increase the number of high poverty schools.
- **Tama Bouncer** – informed the Board that Wake NCAE has received questions from two of the Renaissance Schools regarding the process for staffing these schools. The staffs at those schools feel that they are being penalized by having to reapply for their positions. There’s concern regarding action item #9: Renaissance Schools Bonus Plan, and the use of bonus pay as a recruiting tool and the environment it will create in schools.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**FACILITIES**

**5. CROSSROADS BOARD ROOM – Pulled from the Agenda during the Work Session**

Staff will provide information as needed for discussion of plans for the Crossroads Board Room.  
 Fiscal Implications: To be determined. Recommendation for Action: To be determined.

**6. APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT CHANGES FOR THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR**

The staff of the Growth and Planning Department will present three final changes to the 2011-12 Growth and Planning Student Assignment Plan. The Board of Education approved the majority of the 2011-12 reassignment plan on Tuesday, February 1, 2011. The Board of Education held an additional public hearing on February 15, 2011 to receive community input on these three proposed changes. The final recommendations are:

- Base elementary students in Node 504.1 from Creek Rd. ES to Aversboro ES
- Base elementary students in Node 246.1 from Forest Pines Drive ES to Wildwood Forest ES
- Base middle school students in Node 380.7 from East Cary MS to West Cary MS and TCA students from Reedy Creek MS to West Cary MS

Fiscal Implications: Changes in bus routes may affect funding. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested

Laura Evans, Sr. Director for Growth Planning, presented the last three changes to the 2011-12 Growth and Planning Student Assignment Plan. After some clarifying questions regarding node 380.7 John Tedesco made motion to accept staff recommendations.

Chair Margiotta called for a brief recess at 6:03 p.m. The Board reconvened at 6:09 p.m.

Deborah Prickett seconded John Tedesco’s motion. The Board voted by Roll Call Vote with Carolyn Morrison voting “yes”, Keith Sutton voting “yes”, Deborah Prickett voting “yes”, Chris Malone voting “yes”, Debra Goldman voting “yes”, Kevin Hill voting “no”, John Tedesco voting “yes”, Anne McLaurin voting “no”. The motion passed on a 6 to 2 vote.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

**7. AMIKIDS, INC.**

We are proposing to contract with AMIkids, Inc. to provide on-site alternative instructional services for students with disabilities that have been long term suspended. The services provided through AMIkids, Inc. will meet the instructional needs of students that require more intensive special education services. These services will be provided in accordance with North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Wake County Public School System policies and procedures pertaining to

students with disabilities. This will assist us in meeting our obligation to continue general and special education services for students with disabilities removed from school for disciplinary reasons. Fiscal Implications: Funding in the Special Education Services' budget in the amount of \$213,930 will be used to pay for the cost of these services. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Marvin Connelly, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, presented the contract with AMIKIDS, Inc. John Tedesco indicated that the Economically Disadvantaged Student Task Force had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Connelly and have their questions answered so at this point he is recommending accepting this proposal from staff at this time. After extensive clarifying questions from Board members, John Tedesco made a motion seconded by Kevin Hill. The motion carried on a 6-2 vote with Carolyn Morrison voting "yes", Keith Sutton voting "yes", Deborah Prickett voting "no", Chris Malone voting "yes", Debra Goldman voting "no", Kevin Hill voting "yes", John Tedesco voting "yes", Anne McLaurin voting "yes".

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **8. SIGNING BONUS FOR WALNUT CREEK ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL POSITION**

Walnut Creek Elementary will open during the 2011-2012 school year on a traditional calendar. The opening of a new school is a difficult task. Furthermore, the challenge of opening a new school with high expectations as well as a foundation for immediate and future success cannot be overlooked. As a result, the leadership of WCPSS would like to offer a signing bonus as an aid to our nation-wide search to hire the most capable principal as the leader of Walnut Creek Elementary. Fiscal Implications: The cost of this initiative would be \$7,000. WCPSS' 2010-2011 over/under would be the source of the funding for this initiative. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Stephen Gainey, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented the item and offered to answer any questions the Board members may have had. Keith Sutton made a motion to approve seconded by John Tedesco. The motion carried on a 7-1 vote with Carolyn Morrison voting "yes", Keith Sutton voting "yes", Deborah Prickett voting "yes", Chris Malone voting "yes", Debra Goldman voting "yes", Kevin Hill voting "no", John Tedesco voting "yes", Anne McLaurin voting "yes".

### **9. RENAISSANCE SCHOOLS BONUS PLAN**

The Wake County Public School System has included Barwell Road Elementary, Brentwood Elementary, Creech Road Elementary, and Wilburn Elementary in its "Renaissance School" plan. As a result, the staff at each school will be reconstructed for the 2011-2012 school year in all areas with the exception of Child Nutrition Services, custodial, and bus driver positions. The goal will be to hire the most capable staff members in all position types to dramatically improve the academic performance of each school. In an effort to promote and sustain high expectations for the future academic performance of these schools, a "signing bonus/performance bonus" plan will be implemented. The school system's "Race to the Top" funds from the Federal Government will be used to support this initiative. Fiscal Implications: This initiative will cost \$950,000 per year from the school system's "Race to the Top" funding allotment for the 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 school years. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Stephen Gainey, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented the item and offered to answer any questions the Board members may have had. John Tedesco made a motion to approve seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion carried on a 7-1 vote with Carolyn Morrison voting "yes", Keith Sutton voting "yes", Deborah Prickett voting "yes", Chris Malone voting "yes", Debra Goldman voting "yes", Kevin Hill voting "no", John Tedesco voting "yes", Anne McLaurin voting "yes".

## **PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR REDISTRICTING (SEE ATTACHMENT 1)**

Debra Goldman made a motion to accept the guidelines for redistricting prepared by Mr. Shanahan with the following changes:

- Item #7 – Replace the word “*should*” with the word “*shall*” and after the word “*hearing*” insert “(or *hearings*)” so that it will read:  
*“The Wake County Board of Education shall conduct a public hearing (or hearings) on any proposed redistricting plan to allow input from all affected communities.”*
- Add #8 from the 2000 Possible Redistricting Guidelines list with the words “*to the extent practical*” so it reads:  
*“To avoid questions about adequate representation, new boundaries should not be drawn to take incumbents out of their districts, to the extent practical”*
- Add #9 from the 2000 Possible Redistricting Guidelines list:  
*“In analyzing district population balance, political party registration should not be taken into account”*

Chris Malone seconded the motion to approve. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **RESOLUTION FOR REDISTRICTING BY THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION (SEE ATTACHMENT 2)**

Kevin Hill presented a Resolution for Redistricting by the Wake County Board of Education. The key points are that the Board of Education commits to develop a redistricting plan through an open, transparent, and inclusive manner.

Kevin Hill made a motion to accept the Resolution as presented, seconded by Anne McLaurin. After comments from Chair Margiotta and some clarifying questions from Board members the Board voted to adopt the Resolution. The motion carried on a vote of 7-1 with Carolyn Morrison voting “yes”, Keith Sutton voting “yes”, Deborah Prickett voting “no”, Chris Malone voting “yes”, Debra Goldman voting “yes”, Kevin Hill voting “yes”, John Tedesco voting “yes”, Anne McLaurin voting “yes”.

## **GRANT PROPOSALS**

- Competitive (#010511): US Department of Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG) / Central Services.

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

Angie Wright, Sr. Director of Grants Administration Office presented the Title I School Improvement Grant. Funding from this grant is specifically intended to provide support for activities which improve student achievement in Title I and Title I-eligible schools. The NC Department of Public Instruction recently applied for a school improvement grant and our state share of the \$3.5 billion in school improvement grant funds are available through the US Department of Education. These funds will be awarded to LEAs and the eligible schools in which they serve through a competitive grant process.

John Tedesco made a motion to approve the staff submission of the grant, seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion was unanimously approved.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:49 p.m. Debra Goldman made a motion to go into Closed Session to:

- To consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) and 115C-319.
- To consider confidential student information protected under G.S. 115C-402 and the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g.
- 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).

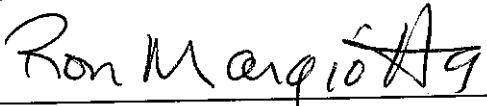
The motion was unanimously approved.

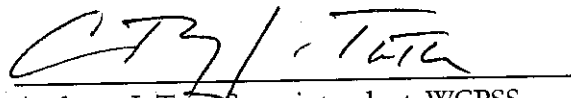
The Board returned to Open Session at 7:55 p.m.


**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business coming before the Board, Kevin Hill made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Malone. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

  
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Ron Margiotta, Chair

  
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Anthony J. Tata, Superintendent, WCPSS

  
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Lorraine D. Dumas, Recording Secretary