



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2014**

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

Chairwoman Kushner called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair’s Comments

Chairwoman Kushner shared comments related to the Board of Education’s recent review of the school board policy concerning gifts to employees, updating the community on the start of the strategic planning process, the winter retreat that was held at White Deer Park in Garner, and information gleaned at the Emerging Issues forum that was recently held.

Superintendent’s Comments

Dr. Merrill shared comments related to Read to Achieve being a huge issue for the district; the State Board approved some flexibility using school system-based assessments that meet state standards; which the Board approved use of at the retreat, the Board receiving an update from Wake Up and Read and an upcoming book drive that will kick-off on March 2nd, Read Across America Day, and will run for four weeks through March 29th.

Board Members’ Comments

Board members shared individual comments related to attending and enjoying the winter retreat and the Emerging Issues Institute, the District 5 Board Advisory Council Meeting, attending the Dillard Drive Career Fair, Read to Achieve and the goal of helping all students achieve using sound, positive practices, thanking staff for the time and effort in planning and executing the winter retreat, the District 8 Board Advisory Council Meeting, being invited to the Annual Apex Chamber of Commerce Luncheon to honor Apex Area Teachers nominated as their school’s Teacher of the Year, the speakers at the Emerging Issues Institute, and students using online book clubs as a way to increase reading achievement levels.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Chairwoman Kushner, with the consensus of the Board, pulled item #21, 2014-2015 School Enrollment Capping from the agenda.

Keith Sutton made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

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

- Kerri Eklund
- Cris Mulder
- Joni Klem
- Jeff Greiner
- Kim Coley
- Qasima Wideman
- Tavon Bridges
- Markyona Patrick
- Elena Erlich
- Ajamu Dillahunt
- Will Lominack
- Louise Lee

RECOGNITION ITEM

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

6. RECOGNITION OF THE FALL SPORTS SEASON ATHLETIC TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS

Deran Coe, Senior Administrator for Athletics presented the coaches and captains of the district's state championship teams. Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, through the fall sport season this year; Wake County Schools has won 128 state championships, 64 women and 64 men, this is approximately 48% of all 4-A state championships statewide. Chairwoman Kushner congratulated and thanked the students and the coaches for their hard work and achievements.

HUMAN RESOURCES

7. EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented the six recipients to the Board for recognition. Chairwoman Kushner thanked and congratulated the recipients for their hard work, time, dedication, and labor to the Wake County Public School System.

The Board recessed at 6:46p.m. The Board returned to Open Session at 6:58 p.m.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

8. SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Crystal Reardon, Director of School Counseling presented the twenty-two students that were recognized as Spotlight on Students award winners. Chairwoman Kushner thanked and congratulated the students for their courage, perseverance, grace, focus, drive, and leadership.

The Board recessed at 7:27 p.m. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:43 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

9. WAKE UP AND READ COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Sherri Miller, Director of Literacy, introduced Carolyn Merrifield from Reach Out and Read, Hardin Englehart from Marbles Kids Museum, and Julie Crain from Wake Education Partnership. A brief history of Wake Up and Read Community Collaborative was shared. Ms. Miller shared that funding has been received from various community organizations and local Businesses.

The Collaborative is developing an ongoing community awareness campaign which will begin soon with a book drive. A comprehensive plan is being created for increasing the numbers of children that are read to daily. The Collaborative wants to increase parental education around literacy and provide books and other literacy opportunities for low income preschoolers and families. The Collaborative is currently reviewing the research behind how to reduce summer reading loss.

Resources that have been created and that are being worked on to provide to the community were shared with the Board as well as sharing the Wake Up and Read mascot, Ruben the Rooster. The student that selected the name of the mascot, Ruben De La Cruz, a third grade student at Briarcliff was acknowledged and presented with a Wake Up and Read t-shirt, passes for free admission to Marbles Kids Museum, and books.

Dawn Dawson, Senior Director for the Office of Early Learning shared the upcoming book drive theme: 40,000 books, 4 weeks, 4 our kids, 4 our community. Partners within the community will be joining in the focus on literacy targeting school-age and birth to age five. The book drive will be held March 2nd - 29th, with a kickoff event at Barnes and Noble at Brier Creek on March 2nd from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Drop off sites for the books will be listed on the Wake Up and Read website.

Board members began the book drive by donating books. Chairwoman Kushner encouraged the public to follow the example and accept the challenge of assisting in collecting 40,000 books.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

ACTION ITEMS

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

21. 2014-2015 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT CAPPING – PULLED

POLICY

22. BOARD POLICY 6011: ENTRANCE TO THE WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Revised; First Reading

Laura Evans, Senior Director of Student Assignment shared that the revisions to the policy were reviewed by the Superintendent’s Leadership Team on 1/13/14 and was presented at the Policy Committee meeting on 2/6/14. At the Policy Committee meeting, there was a minor change in 6011.7B, the very last sentence should read, “*to enroll in kindergarten a student must meet the age requirement set forth above in this policy.*” Jim Martin made a motion to approve the revised policy with the correction on first reading. The motion was seconded by Monika Johnson Hostler. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

23. BOARD POLICY 6201: SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Revised; First Reading

Laura Evans, Senior Director of Student Assignment shared that the revisions to this policy were reviewed by the Superintendent’s Leadership Team on 1/13/14 and was presented at the Policy Committee on 2/6/14. At the Policy Committee meeting, there was a minor change in 6201.1D, it should read, “*long term suspension is suspension for a period of time in excess of ten consecutive school days.*” Jim Martin made a motion to approve the revised policy with the correction on first reading. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

Bill Fletcher made a motion to go into Closed Session at 8:07 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) and 115C-319, to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), and to establish or give instructions concerning the Board’s negotiating position related to a potential acquisition of real property, as provided in G.s. 143-318.11(a)(5). The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:03 p.m.

ACTION ITEM

HUMAN RESOURCES

24. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)

Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented the personnel report. Keith Sutton made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Tom Benton and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board returned to Closed Session at 9:08 p.m. on a motion by Kevin L. Hill. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans and unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:25 p.m.

Keith Sutton made a motion to amend the agenda to add Offer to Purchase and Amend Contract-Southwest Cary (E-37). The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher and unanimously approved.

FACILITIES

**25. REPORT ON SETTLEMENT OF PATRICIA ANN LYSEN AND LEON T. LYSEN
CONDEMNATION ACTION: ROLESVILLE MIDDLE**

The Board reached consensus on compensating Mrs. Lysen in the total amount of \$1400.00.

26. OFFER TO PURCHASE AND AMEND CONTRACT- SOUTHWEST CARY (E-37)

Jim Martin made a motion to approve the amended contract. The motion was seconded by Tom Benton and approved unanimously by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Board, Bill Fletcher made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kushner, Board Chair

James G. Merrill, Superintendent

Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary