



# WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 21, 2012

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Members Present</u>
Kevin L. Hill, Chair	Superintendent Anthony J. Tata
Keith Sutton, Vice Chair	Judy Pepler
Chris Malone	Cathy Moore
John Tedesco	Chris Mulder
Jim Martin	David Neter
Christine Kushner	Stephen Gainey
Deborah Prickett	
Susan P. Evans	<u>Board Attorney Present</u>
Debra Goldman	Ann Majestic

Chairman, Kevin L. Hill, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There were no questions regarding the meeting agenda.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **BOARD**

#### **5. RECONSIDERATION OF PANTHER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CENTER SITE**

At the closed session meeting on February 7, 2012, staff presented two options for a ninth grade center for Panther Creek High School—a leased building located near RDU Airport and a modular campus to be constructed on the M-16 site, adjacent to Alston Ridge Elementary School. The Board approved the former, but based upon feedback from parents, staff is presenting the options for reconsideration. Background information is attached. Fiscal Implications: The six year cost for the M-16 location is estimated to be \$11.9 million and for the leased site \$11.0 million. Savings: N/A. Recommendation for Action: This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Board to reconsider the previous decision.

Don Haydon, Chief Facilities and Operations Officer, shared information with the Board regarding the two options for a ninth grade center for Panther Creek High School.

Chairman Hill referred to Board Counsel to clarify the process of rescinding a previous Board action. Board Attorney, Ann Majestic, shared that, *“if there were a motion to undo the past action, it would be a motion to rescind and would require a majority vote because all Board members are present.”*

Keith Sutton made a motion to rescind the decision on the Panther Creek 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center from The previous meeting and recommended that the Board give the issue further study. The motion

was seconded by Jim Martin.

Mr. Malone shared that the Board had a vote. He does not think that it is a good idea to go back on a vote that the Board previously had; especially if it seems like a precedent is being set for the future.

Mr. Tedesco shared his concern in the way the motion is offered, “to give further study”, the issue is not something that can be left hanging. Relief is needed in the community.

Mr. Sutton stated that his intent was not to delay indefinitely, but to have time to conduct further study and to gather more information to make a more informed decision.

Ms. Goldman shared that, she does not as a general practice, favor rescinding votes. The way that the item was brought forward, was very quick where the Board was forced to make a decision. Ms. Goldman further stated that Board members had received email on the topic, but have not had Public Comment on the issue. Ms. Goldman also requested that staff look into all opportunities available in the area for space.

Ms. Evans shared that she is fully committed to finding a solution to overcrowding at Panther Creek High School. She feels as though she was rushed into a decision without time to pursue various options and without time for the community to have input.

Ms. Goldman asked if there was way to suspend action by staff, or if rescinding the decision is the best way to handle the issue. Mrs. Majestic stated that the Board can delay to a time certain, which would keep things in abeyance. Mrs. Majestic stated that the Board currently has a vote to enter into a contract at the leased site. If the Board were to delay further consideration of the site, there would need to be some instruction to staff about what to do in the interim.

Mrs. Prickett shared that her concern is for the crowding in the area. If the Board rescinds the vote; she is afraid that the Board will not do anything. Mrs. Prickett stated that she was not happy with rescinding the vote, and agrees with Mr. Malone in sticking with the first vote.

Dr. Martin offered an amendment, that the Board take action after having public comment on March 6<sup>th</sup>, which gives time for further study and make a commitment to families that the Board take the ninth grade center off of this year’s possibilities for choice in the student assignment plan.

Board Attorney, Ann Majestic, shared that Dr. Martin suggested two independent motions. Mrs. Majestic stated that Dr. Martin’s motion is to *“postpone to a definite time, being March 20<sup>th</sup>, and in the interim, have a public hearing at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.”* Removing the ninth grade center from Choice Selection would be another motion.

Debra Goldman made a motion to postpone until March 6<sup>th</sup> with instructions to staff not to move forward. John Tedesco seconded the motion.

Chairman Hill asked Mr. Haydon what the deadline was for the Board to have a decision. Mr. Haydon’s recommendation was March 6<sup>th</sup>, as either site had a very tight timeline.

Chairman Hill clarified that the March 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Prickett shared that she is not willing, as a Board member, to give up the opportunity for the Panther Creek area to have a ninth grade center. It has been long overdue and it's time for them to have some relief. Mrs. Prickett shared that she does not want to lose the opportunity of having the leased building .

Mrs. Kushner stated that she hears the urgency in ensuring that the overcrowding is relieved in the Panther Creek area, however, she wants to make sure that the Board hears from the public, so that the Board makes the right decision down the road for the community.

Mr. Hill shared that it is important that parents have some understanding of what the situation will be for the coming 2012-13 school year. He has heard from staff several times, that Panther Creek can accommodate the students next year. Mr. Hill's concern is if this is put off, that there will be uncertainty for parents during the last week of Choice Selection. His other concern is the site in question, in terms of distance and delaying the decision.

The Board voted on Debra Goldman's motion to suspend action by staff until March 6<sup>th</sup>, to listen to public comment, and then address the issue as a Board. Mrs. Majestic clarified that, there is still a motion to rescind that will need to be considered at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. The Board voted 4 to 5, with Debra Goldman, John Tedesco, Chris Malone, and Deborah Prickett voting "yes" and Jim Martin, Keith Sutton, Kevin L. Hill, Susan Evans, and Christine Kushner voting "no". The motion failed to pass.

The Board then returned to the original motion to rescind the decision on the Panther Creek 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center from the previous meeting and recommend that the Board give the issue further study. The Board voted 5 to 4, with Jim Martin, Keith Sutton, Kevin L. Hill, Susan P. Evans, and Christine Kushner voting "yes", and Debra Goldman, John Tedesco, Chris Malone, and Deborah Prickett voting "no". The motion passed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before the Board, Keith Sutton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Tedesco. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin L. Hill, Chair, Wake County Board of Education

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Anthony J. Tata, Superintendent, WCPSS

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Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary