



WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2009

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Members Present</u>	
Rosa Gill, Chair	Superintendent Del Burns	Donna Hargens
Kevin L. Hill, Vice Chair	Terri Cobb	David Holdzkom
Beverley Clark	Kathy Chontos	Ann Hooker
Eleanor Goettee	Marvin Connelly	Julye Mizelle
Anne McLaurin	Joe Desormeaux	Cathy Moore
Lori Millberg	Chuck Dulaney	David Neter
Horace Tart	Michael Evans	Andre Smith
	Stephen Gainey	Bev White
	Lloyd Gardner	Mark Winters
		Board Attorney
		Ann Majestic

Chair Rosa Gill called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Comments

- On February 18, the Joint Meeting between the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners was held. At the meeting, staff from the County and WCPSS discussed and shared growth projection updates. Ms. Gill thanked Chuck Dulaney, from Growth and Planning, and Nicole Kreiser from Wake County. Ms. Gill stated that they did an outstanding job of sharing how growth can be utilized to determine the capital budget and the operating budget. County Manager David Cooke provided an economic update, which included Capital Budget Implications. The next Joint Meeting with the County Commissioners will be held on March 18 in the Board Conference Room.
- Ms. Gill shared that since the last Board meeting, she has had the opportunity to present information at three Community Forums. Ms. Gill discussed and received information from the community related to the Board goal, graduation rates, gang activity, and parental involvement.
- On March 5, the Board will hold a budget work session in the Board Conference Room from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. If the Board determines additional time is needed, the meeting will be extended to the time scheduled for the Human Resources and Finance Committee Meeting Meetings on Wednesday, March 11.

Superintendent's Comments

- Dr. Burns shared that recently, the finalists for National Merit Scholarships were announced. WCPSS had 51 students among that list. Of the 1.5 million applications, only 1,500 are chosen annually as finalists. Students initially qualify based on their SAT scores. Winners of Merit Scholarship awards are chosen from the finalist group, based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments. Students

submit additional information including their academic record and information about activities and leadership. Students are also required to write essays.

- The 2009 Raleigh Regional Science Olympiad was held on Saturday, February 14, at Garner High School. Division B WCPSS winners for middle school included Carnage Middle, Daniels Middle, and Ligon Middle. Division C WCPSS winners for high school included Enloe, Green Hope, and Leesville Road. These teams will advance to the State level in April.
- On Saturday, February 23, 23 Wake County Middle Schools competed in the Annual Battle of the Books Competition at Green Hope High School. Davis Drive Middle took first place and West Cary Middle took second place. Davis Drive Battle of the Books Team is advised by Bridget Hayes and West Cary Battle of the Books Team is advised by Jan Garrett, Sheila Pattee, and Rachel Cooper. Davis Drive Middle advances to the state regional competition in April.
- A total of 451 staff members have completed the second round of training for Intervention Alignment. The sessions were developed in collaboration with Curriculum and Instruction and Counseling and Student Services. The training focused on universal screenings, progress monitoring, and the development and use of interventions.
- Pam Doak, Director of Special Education Legal and Compliance, presented a workshop recently at NC State University for the Department of Elementary Education during a seminar held at the Friday Institute.
- Maurice L. Moore, Senior Administrator for Prevention Services Department, has implemented an End-of-Grade Tutorial Program to provide remediation for participants of the School/Community Helping Hands Mentoring Program to support with closing the achievement gaps. The program will impact over 500 African-American male students enrolled in 51 Wake County Public Schools (34 elementary schools and 17 middle schools). As a part of the program, students will receive ten weeks of instruction.
- Dr. Burns announced the Middle School Sportsmanship Winners. They included:
 - Southern Division I: Apex Middle and Fuquay-Varina Middle
 - Southern Division II: Davis Drive Middle and West Cary Middle
 - Central Division: Martin Middle, Carnage Middle, and Carroll Middle
 - Northern Division I: Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle, Wendell Middle, Heritage Middle
 - Northern Division II: Leesville Middle and West Millbrook MiddleThese schools were voted on by their opponents for displaying good sportsmanship on and off the field, as well as fan behavior and the school staff cooperation to accommodate visiting teams.
- Elizabeth Grimes-Droessler, Senior Administrator for Arts Education, was honored on Tuesday evening, February 24, by the United Arts Council and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce as their Arts Education awardee. The award recognizes Ms. Grimes-Droessler's outstanding contributions to the arts in our community. Dr. Burns thanked her for her dedication to students in supporting the arts in the Wake County Public Schools.
- 60 Social Studies Teacher Leaders collaborated to make aligned connections between the Learning and Teaching Instructional Guide and the recommended social studies

text/resource. Their work identified tight connections as well as areas where supplemental support materials will be necessary to fully support teachers with K-5 social studies instruction.

- Dr. Burns shared that recently Joe Peel and Terri Cobb have been collaborating on a process to align Department and Division Strategic Plans with School Improvement Plans.
- Tracie A. Robichaud, Middle School Counselor at North Garner, coauthored an article with Dr. Stanley Baker for the February 2009 “Professional School Counselor” Magazine. The title of the article is “School Counselor Consultations: A Pathway to Advocacy, Collaboration, and Leadership.”
- Dr. Burns thanked the staff for their work to ensure the safety of all students during inclement weather. Dr. Burns congratulated Bob Snidemiller, Senior Director for Transportation Operations and Finance, for his first day on the job.
- Dr. Burns reminded Board members, staff, and the community, that Pieces of Gold would be held on Wednesday, March 4, in Memorial Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- Dr. Burns congratulated Chief Business Officer David Neter for the birth of his daughter Celia L. Neter on Saturday, February 28, 2009.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Gill added Policy 1035: Code of Ethics for School Board Members, First Reading to the Action Agenda. The Board approved the Meeting Agenda unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. PRESENTATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED BUDGET

To present the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for 2009-2010. Fiscal Implications: This document establishes the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2009-2010. Recommendation for Action: The Board of Education should establish dates for budget work sessions and for public hearing on the Proposed Budget for 2009-2010.

Superintendent Burns shared information with the Board. Dr. Burns stated that, *“the present uncertainty in our economy and the impact on revenue at the state and local levels present the greatest challenge I have faced during my career as a school administrator. We have been following closely the changes at the national level, at the state level, and here in Wake County. I have spent much time talking with lawmakers in the General Assembly during the past few weeks, speaking with them about their views of the future and the impact on K-12 public education, and more importantly, the possible impact on the Wake County Public School System. Their collective wisdom has great value; however, their projections are uncertain as well.*

Dr. Burns shared that *“At this time in the year, I typically present the Superintendent’s Plan for Student Success: a three-year business plan focused upon your goal, aligned with your direction. We depart somewhat from that practice as I recommend to you a one-year only budget. This is the result of the highest level of financial uncertainty I have experienced not just as a school administrator, but in my lifetime.*

Dr. Burns went on to state that, *“The Wake County manager shared fiscal year 2009-2010*

revenue projections at a recent joint meeting of the Board and County Commissioners. To recap: the county faces a

\$14 million shortfall in revenue compared to the current year without adding the first additional expenditure. Considering otherwise "routine" additions to the county budget that would be based on history, inflation, and projected growth, the shortfall grows to more than \$27 million.

Revenue projections at the state level indicate a deficit of at least \$2 billion- a 10% shortfall. The entire state budget for the current year is \$21 billion. K-12 public school funding within the state budget is more than \$8 billion. It is clear from the numbers being shared, and from my conversations, that decreased funding is indeed likely. The questions at this time appear to be in what areas and to what degree reductions will occur.

The Governor requested scenarios illustrating budget reductions at 3%, 5%, and 7% from all state agencies including the Department of Public Instruction. Recently, for some state agencies, that has been increased to 9%. To translate this to the Wake County Public School System, a 3% reduction in state funds is more than \$20 million while a 7% reduction amounts to nearly \$60 million.

And, as we have developed this budget, final decisions and details are still unknown with respect to additional support provided from federal funds for the state and for our system as a result of the federal stimulus package.

These are the reasons I present to you today a one-year budget. It is not a Plan for Student Success. It is a response to a most challenging economic time, attuned to changes in revenue projections at the county and state levels. The business cases in this budget describe our efforts to limit spending, including re-purposing of funds, reduction of funds and changes in allotment formulas. At the same time, we must maintain the emphasis on our core business, that of learning and teaching for all students.

We find ourselves bracing for an economic hurricane. It is large, its path and landfall are difficult to predict, and it will certainly take some time to pass through. But as with all hurricanes, it will pass through. I share with you today strategies and steps to navigate and stay on course in this very serious storm.

In December you reduced our current budget by more than \$11 million as required by the state and requested by the county. In doing so, only non-personnel expenditures were reduced. And, the direct impact on schools was minimized by reducing central services funding to a far greater degree than school based funding. We made these reductions permanent as we planned for the 2009-2010 school year.

When projected \$2 billion deficit in state revenue was announced and the scenarios the Governor requested were shared, we extended the existing 90-day freeze on Central Services positions to all vacant positions throughout the system, schools included, through the end of the fiscal year, with the exception of school-based teachers. For the remainder of this year, only terminating contracts are allowed for new teacher hires.

Today, I share with you the recommended budget for next year. Making permanent the December reduction to the July 1, 2008, county appropriation of \$316 million resets our baseline budget at \$310 million.

Beyond that, there are only two areas of increase to that baseline budget. One is a very low projected salary

and benefit increase that may be legislated. We do not know the impact of the more than \$300 million shortfall in the state health insurance plan, nor do we know if the legislature will grant any salary increase for that matter. This is a projection formulated several weeks ago, and it is based on information we received several months ago. The other increase is a portion of the projected additional cost for utilities for next year.

No growth, no inflation, no improvements, nothing- except legislated salary and benefits projected at a very low level and a portion of the anticipated utilities cost, mostly just due to additional square footage. Even though we project, 2,300 additional students for next year, this budget maintains the county appropriation request at the prior year level of \$316 million. The result is the per-pupil county appropriation for 2009-2010 will be less than the per-pupil appropriation on July 1, 2008.

Chief Business Officer David Neter shared that several assumptions were made in the development of the budget. First, the budget reductions that were made in December 2008 are being considered permanent base reductions. The second assumption is that state funding formulas do not change, and that state funding will likely be reduced for 2009-2010. Finally, the budget does not assume any additional funding associated with The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (aka, the Federal Stimulus Package). Mr. Neter did share however that the Federal Stimulus Package will impact the state and it will impact public education, but to what extent and to what constraints is still unknown. The Federal Stimulus Package is a one-time funding mechanism and will not recur on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Neter stated that the total proposed budget for 2009-2010 is \$1.7 billion. Of that, \$1.246 billion is the operating budget (day-to-day operating expenditures) and the remaining \$467 million is from the building program. Of the total operating budget, 62% of it will come from the state, 25% from the county appropriation, 7% from federal sources, and 6% from other sources. The budget assumes no changes in the state funding formulas that are likely to occur, nor the impact of the Federal Stimulus Package.

Budget driver categories that existed in the past Superintendent's Plan for Student Success are not used in this proposed budget. The categories for the proposed budget include:

- Legislative salary and benefit increases,
- Utilities,
- Expenditure Adjustments,
- Local Revenues, and
- Fund Balance Appropriation to balance the budget.

Legislative salary and benefit increases- Local funds that are required to provide salary increases on local salary supplements, provide salary increases on locally funded school and central service-based positions, and provide benefit increases for locally funded positions. For the budget, the best information that staff was able to obtain for possible salary increases were, 2% for certified staff and 1.5% for non-certified staff. Based upon these estimates, staff will require an additional \$3.4 million in local funding for the salary increases. It is possible that the salary increases will not be legislated at all, or legislated at a lower level. At the development of the budget, staff's estimate for Employer's Matching Retirement had the rate going from 8.14% in 2008-2009 to 8.55% for 2009-2010. This requires an additional \$234,000 of local funding which is included in the budget.

Recently, the State Treasurer stated that the North Carolina Pension Fund will need an additional \$359 million over the next two years. Based upon this information, the rates will likely be higher than the estimates used for the budget and rise to at least 8.75%. Staff will make adjustments as necessary once the rate is finalized.

The estimate in the 2009-2010 budget has employee matching rates on health insurance increasing from \$4,157 to \$4,406 per employee, and requires an additional \$587,000 of local funding. Two weeks ago major changes were proposed to the State Health Plan. The employer matching rates will likely increase to \$4,460 per employee based upon the latest proposal.

The total estimated benefit increases including the proposed budget are \$822,000 for a total of \$4.2 million of additional local funding required for estimated salary and benefit changes. Final legislative salary increases may shift downward and the employee matching retirement and health insurance rates will likely shift upward.

Utilities

Staff uses standard formulas that are used for utilities cost that the budget is based on. As square footage is added on with the opening of three new schools in 2009-2010, the formulas call for additional utilities funding. Staff also estimates each year, what the utility rate increases will be and apply the rate increases to existing square footage. A total of \$2.1 million has been included for utility increases for the additional square footage and rate increases. The \$2.1 million represents about 1/2 of the actual increases that the formulas and rate adjustments call for.

Staff will be implementing aggressive utility savings programs that Don Haydon and his staff will roll out. Staff will make adjustments to the budget from other areas as needed.

Expenditure Adjustments

Made up from four primary sub-categories, Expenditure Adjustments includes repurposing of existing funding, formula changes, budget reductions, and expenditure deferrals. Certain items must be funded for the 2009-2010 school year, yet staff does not anticipate that there will be additional county appropriation to support the items. In order to fund the critical items, staff has made budget adjustments that fall into these categories. Mr. Neter shared several examples with the Board.

The repurposing of existing funding, formula changes, and budget reductions allows staff to create funding for essential areas with no additional local funding. This also allows for staff to fund the estimated salary and benefit and utility increases and stay within what is estimated being available from the county appropriation.

The net impact of these expenditure adjustments is a local adjustment reduction of \$774,000. The state adjustment has an additional \$5.9 million of funding based upon existing state formulas tied to the growth of 2,300 students arriving next year.

Mr. Neter stated that the proposed budget has not changed the state funding formulas even though staff anticipates a reduction.

Local Revenues

Local revenues include fines and forfeitures, parking fees, interest income, and indirect costs. The budget includes an estimated reduction of approximately \$400,000 in these revenues when compared to the 2008-2009 year. A primary driver of these lower estimated local revenues are the current low interest rates that are anticipated to continue through the coming year. The lower interest rates in turn, reduce the amount of interest income.

Fund Balance Appropriation

The change in fund balance appropriation is a reduction of \$466,000 from the amount of fund balance appropriated for the current year budget. Mr. Neter reiterated that the Board adopted a policy in 2007 limiting the amount of undesignated fund balance that can be used to balance a budget to no more than 50% of that balance. The Board's policy is a good one and fiscally responsible, however, in times when the undesignated fund balance is lower than in a prior year, a reduction in the amount of that undesignated balance that can be used to balance the budget takes place.

The 2008-09 adopted Plan for Student Success included approximately \$9.5 million of undesignated fund balance. The 2009-10 budget will include \$466,000 less.

Summary of County Appropriation

2008-09 County Appropriation - \$316.2 million

Adjusted for the reduction requested in December - \$310.5 million

\$6.4 million in the Superintendent's Proposed 2009-10 budget (by which the county appropriation would increase)

Total County Appropriation \$316.9 million in the Superintendent's Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

Mr. Neter reiterated that the \$6.4 million increase in the county appropriation in the 2009-2010 budget is basically equal to salary and benefit increases and utility increases. There is no local funding for growth, system-wide issues, or new programs, with a projected growth of 2,300 additional students next year.

Mr. Neter thanked Terri Kimzey and the Budget Department for their hard work in preparing the 2009-2010 budget.

Dr. Burns shared that, "we have little in the way of definitive information related to changes in state funding for next year. Still we must prepare for the worst by taking proactive steps. After making permanent the December state-required reduction of \$5.4 million, almost 95% of our state funding in the current year pays for salaries and benefits. Obviously, state funds pay mostly for people, "not things", and there are fewer and fewer "things" remaining to be cut. In order to position our system for state reductions that are likely, we need to take an additional step that started with the position freeze mentioned earlier.

Normally, we would prepare for the coming year expecting to gain a substantial number of state funded positions due to our enrollment growth. Instead, this year we will prepare to address up to a 5% reduction. From discussion with individuals in the General Assembly, I believe that reduction amount is easily within the realm of possibility. To do so means we must identify \$40 million in state reductions. Another

way to look at such a reduction is to consider that it may impact 800-900 positions, depending upon the categories being reduced.

In order to be ready on July 7 for the 41,000 students expected to attend our year round schools, allotment decisions must be made by the end of this month. Even though we will have no indication of the amount, the categories, or the manner in which state reductions may be made, decisions must be made now. In order for principals to organize and staff schools, in order for others to organize necessary support for schools, in addition to the steps already outlined, we will include a reservation of positions within our allotment formulas. 95% of allotments will be available for schools to fill. 5% will be held and will remain unfilled until the General Assembly takes action. If the ultimate change in state funding for the Wake County Public School System is a reduction of less than 5%, then certainly the reservation will be released and position will be quickly filled. If the reduction is greater than 5%, it may be necessary to implement the Board's reduction in force policies. That, members of the board, is entirely another matter. And, I assure you, it is one that I do not wish to contemplate.

In light of these actions, the spring job fair will be postponed until more information is available, and we can more accurately assess our hiring needs. Together, these proactive steps minimize the likelihood of hiring folks and then in a matter of weeks or months, finding it necessary to reduce our workforce following final budget decisions made by the General Assembly.

Freezing vacant positions creates "working room": unfilled positions that can remain unfilled if required in order to balance the budget. This measure, applied to non-certified central services and school-based support staff categories is a proactive approach.

The other approach we must take to generate "working room" requires us to address terminating contract employees in a manner different from years past. Currently we have 1,496 employees on terminating contracts, representing the equivalent of approximately 1,200 full time positions. We anticipate some level of "working room" as a result of resignations and retirements. However, data through February of this year, compared to the same time period last year, indicates we have over 200 fewer resignations and retirements.

As we plan for next year, the first obligation contractually is to employees with continuing contracts. We will identify and factor in the impact of resignations and retirements. In some cases, involuntary transfers from one school to another may be required to meet that contractual obligation. Only after our work to meet the obligation to continuing contract employees is done are we able to begin filling those positions that historically have been filled with terminating contract employees. This will occur within the remainder of the 95% of allotted positions. Steps beyond these, obviously, are dependent upon the action of the General Assembly to approve a budget.

Under these circumstances many of our employees with terminating contracts that end June 30, 2009, may be rehired for the 2009-2010 school year. In previous years, with the rate of student growth being high and with increasing funding, re-hiring employees on terminating contracts was almost a routine.

Many difficult conversations are occurring every day regarding these steps. Recently I received an email from a teacher on a terminating contract who had talked with her principal after the vacant position freeze was implemented. She astutely surmised that the manner in which terminating contracts are managed at the end of the term was likely to be different. Her principal had done a good job of explaining the situation we are facing, and the probable actions related to terminating contracts. Responding to her was

hard, because she was looking for assurances that none of us can give, due to the circumstances shared. Our principals have not had conversations like this before. I have not had conversations like this before. In the face of such uncertainty, very little in the way of assurances can be offered at this time. We have no charts to aid us in navigating these waters; we've never been here before. But then neither has anyone else.

Let me briefly review the steps to brace the Wake County Public School System for this economic "hurricane."

- 1. The \$11 million reductions to state and county appropriation funds have been made permanent in our baseline budget for next year.*
- 2. Vacant positions have been frozen across the system with the exception of school-based teachers and mission critical positions.*
- 3. The recommended 2009-2010 budget repurposes funds, changes formulas, and requests increases only for legislated salary and benefits, and a portion of utility increases.*
- 4. Vacant positions in central services and in support areas will remain vacant and principals will be allowed to fill 95% of all allotments, thereby creating a 5% reservation to help address changes in state funding.*

As a result of taking these steps, there will be an impact on our employees. There will be an impact on our students. There will be an impact on learning system-wide. The depth of the impact is yet to be known.

I wish I did not have to recommend this reduced budget. I wish we did not have to implement the steps outlined. Nevertheless, presented today is an incremental strategy designed to carry the Wake County Public School System through these uncertain times. It is realistic, responsible, and fiscally sound. And equally important, it allows proactive rather than reactive responses to future changes.

As I shared in my mid-term report in early January, if we have additional resources we can accelerate our progress toward your goal, and our vision. But today, I do not see the source of those resources. The facts require that I present to you a budget reflecting austerity, with steps to manage our unclear financial future, which I have done.

We are battening the hatches as we prepare our system to weather this storm, to stay on course, and to come through on the other side, ready to move forward at a faster pace. In the meantime, we'll continue to focus on learning for all students. We'll continue to work in teams to give our students our best every day. We'll continue to do the very best job we can with the resources we're provided. And we'll make no excuses.

Board members shared clarifying questions and comments with staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 4 P.M.

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.

Ann Rouleau- Ms. Rouleau shared that in September 2008, she presented academic results based on DPI data and asked why WCPSS's economically disadvantaged students were performing at or below state average and what WCPSS was doing about it. Ms.

Rouleau shared that in December 2008, David Holdzkom acknowledged that the data was indeed correct and provided explanations to the questions, however, the reply that she was expecting had everything to do with effectiveness and efficiency as stated in Board Policy 5600. Ms. Rouleau is asking for a report on what WCPSS is doing to help economically disadvantaged students and how effective the programs have been.

2. 21ST CENTURY TOOLS IN THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

In order to compete globally, students must be able to connect and collaborate with others in the world using 21st century tools. This presentation illustrates some ways that elementary teachers and technology facilitators in schools bring a 21st century learning environment to their students using *Photostory* and *Voicethread*. *Photostory* is a free application that allows students to create movies by adding pictures, narration and music. *Voicethread* is a free Web 2.0 tool that allows students to have conversations around digital media. These tools can motivate students by allowing wider audiences to access their work. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: This item is presented for information only.

Nancy Mangum presented information to the Board. Ms. Mangum shared that WCPSS students are using Web 2.0 tools to create and communicate via blogs, wikis, podcasts, and digital videos. Students are connected to the world more than ever before and come to school expecting that they will have the same opportunities. In elementary schools, teachers, technology facilitators, and media specialists are collaborating to integrate technology into the core curriculum.

Photostory is free and has been approved by Tech Services for use in Wake County. Photostory is an application that allows students to import photographs, add narration, and music to create a movie. Several examples of Photostory were shared with the Board.

Voicethread is a Web 2.0 tool that allows students to have conversation around digital media. It is similar to a blog, but allows students to record their voice or type their comments. Several examples of Voicethread were shared with the Board.

Ms. Mangum shared that both, Photostory and Voicethread, are examples of how technology is supporting the curriculum and is directly tied.

The elementary team supported teachers by offering two after school trainings on using the Photostory and Voicethread tools as well as other 21st century tools this past Fall. Fifty teachers were trained with over 40 teachers on the waiting list. Staff also has tech contact meetings and monthly learning team meetings for technology leaders at the school. During the sessions, teachers learn how to use the technology and specifically how to integrate them, as well as taking the information back and training others.

The elementary team is also working on the learning and teaching guide providing sample activities that will model technology integration into the curriculum.

Ms. Mangum shared that it is imperative that educators take advantage of students enthusiasm and creativity by integrating technology into all subject areas. This ensures that the content of the standard course of study is addressed by engaging students in the

kind of thinking and doing that will prepare them for the complex real world of work. It is crucial that staff provide meaningful staff development for teachers on 21st century technologies so that they are equipped with the skills needed to prepare our students for the future.

CONSENT ITEMS

Beverly Clark made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Eleanor Goettee. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2009	-	Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2009	-	Human Resources Committee Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2009	-	Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2009	-	Board of Education Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2009	-	Closed Session Meeting Minutes

FINANCE

1. GIFTS TO THE SYSTEM

The report includes twenty-four gifts that were donated in 2008 but not reported because of an error with the electronic-report system. The approximate value of the gifts is \$26,852.00. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: No action is required.

2. GIFTS TO THE SYSTEM

Seventy-two gifts have been donated to the Wake County Public School System. The approximate value of the gifts is \$291,062.00. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: No action is required.

FACILITIES

1. LEASE AGREEMENT: ANDERSON FAMILY HOME AT H-7 SCHOOL SITE

A portion of the H-7 site (the Anderson Tract) was the Anderson family home, and as part of the acquisition negotiations, they bargained to continue to reside in the family home and a surrounding area of approximately 3 acres from closing until December 31, 2009. Until such time as construction begins on the school project after December 2009, this portion of the property is not necessary for school use and/or school-related activities. Since closing on the site has occurred, it is time for formalization of the lease terms that appeared in the purchase contract into a lease agreement with the Andersons. The Andersons will remain responsible for the provision, maintenance, upkeep and usage costs of utilities to the site, and after vacation of the premises, will be responsible for leaving the property in a neat and clean condition, including the removal and appropriate disposal of all debris. The Andersons will obtain an appropriate liability insurance policy insuring Board against any and all claims from any person, whomsoever, which may arise from the Seller's lease of the Property. An excerpt of relevant terms of the purchase contract and a copy of the proposed lease is attached. Fiscal implications: None. The lease rate is for the token sum of \$1, as it was part of the bargain for acquisition of the site. Recommendation for action: Board approval is requested.

2. BIDS: BOILER REPLACEMENT (CARY HIGH)

Cary High had a catastrophic boiler failure on November 6, 2008, which requires the boiler to be replaced. A third party investigation was performed and it was determined that the low water cut-off failed and caused the destruction of the boiler. Staff recommends award of a contract to Bolton Service in the amount of \$173,471, which includes boiler and installation cost. An insurance claim has been filed and approved with a net insurance payment to be received of \$173,759.79. Fiscal implications: Funding is available from the insurance proceeds. If interim funding is required it is available from the 2008-2009 operating budget for maintenance and operations. Recommendation for action: Board approval is requested.

3. CHANGE ORDER NO. GC-18: HERITAGE HIGH

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. GC-18 to the Heery International, Inc., and D.H. Griffin Construction, LLC, Joint Venture, for their Construction Management at Risk contract for construction of the new Heritage High School in Wake Forest. This change order, in the amount of \$114,561, is to sod three practice fields in lieu of seeding/sprigging as specified. This is required due to the delay encountered in the redesign and permitting of the public sewer line that crosses the school site. This delay prevented the fields from being sprigged/seeded during the specified planting season. In order to have established fields and obtain 95% coverage by substantial completion in July 2009, the fields will need sod. Since two of the fields are for the Town of Wake Forest, the Town has agreed to reimburse WCPSS \$70,681.68. Fiscal implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$63,381,778, of which \$1,564,638 is from PLAN 2000 Start Up, \$513,391 from Plan 2004, \$56,129,055 from CIP 2006, \$1,459,904 from CIP 2006 Offsite Improvements. The Town of Wake Forest and the Wake County Parks and Recreation Department will provide \$3,353,538 for additional ball fields and upgrades to the school's ball fields. Wake County will provide \$290,570 for the emergency generator, and the Town of Wake Forest will provide \$70,681.68 to sod two practice fields. Recommendation for action: Board approval is requested.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

1. GRANT PROPOSALS

- Competitive (#006209): Verizon Foundation / Individual Schools.
- Competitive (#006309): Town of Garner / Garner Magnet High School.
- Competitive (#006409): ExxonMobil Educational Alliance / Individual Schools.

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

2. BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

- Students participating will be representative of grades 10-12.
- Approximately 16 students will participate with four chaperones.
- Students will depart from RDU on Saturday, November 21, 2009 and return on Saturday,
November 28, 2009. Only two days of school will be missed as this is over Thanksgiving.

- This trip supports Broughton's service requirement, as well as the Spanish, history, art, and science curricula. It gives students a chance to do community service on the international level and develop awareness, a key component of the IB program.

Fiscal Implications: The cost per student will be approximately \$1500.00. The total cost will be approximately \$24,000.00. The Capital Foundation at Broughton provides scholarship assistance for students who cannot afford to pay the cost of the trip.

Recommendation for Action: This item is recommended for consent.

3. BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO DELHI, RAJASTAN, AND UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

- Students participating will be representative of grades 11-12.
- Approximately 15 students will participate with two chaperones and 2 college professors.
- Students will depart from RDU on Sunday, July 5, 2009 and return on Saturday, July 18, 2009.
- The program we are developing to India, Project Peacock, will help develop a sense of internationalism in the school, central to the IB mission. This trip will provide an opportunity to study the Indian culture, Hindi language, and to do volunteer work with poor children through the Prantham Organization. This service is one of the graduation requirements at Broughton.

Fiscal Implications: The cost per student will be approximately \$3000.00. The total cost will be approximately \$45,000.00. Recommendation for Action: This item is recommended for consent.

4. LEADERSHIP SUMMER CAMP AT CENTENNIAL CAMPUS UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS AND LEADERSHIP MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

Centennial Campus Magnet Middle School (CCMMS) would like to offer for a second year the "Linking Leadership to Learning Summer Camp" from June 22-26, 2009 on the school's campus to strengthen the Center for Leadership and Technology pathway of Combs Elementary, Centennial Middle and Southeast Raleigh High School. The goal is to help current and rising 6th grade students gain the necessary tools to become effective leaders in the school, community and world. Activities will include: team building activities, technology instruction, keynote and small session leadership speakers and daily physical activity through leadership games. Fiscal Implications: The cost for student participants would be \$175.00 for the week. Scholarships will be available through parent scholarship donations. Lunch will be provided daily and transportation will not be provided. The program will be staffed by CCMMS teachers who will be funded through the camp fees. Recommendation for Action: This item is recommended for consent.

POLICY

1. POLICY 1510: POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Policy Revision: Second Reading

Revisions to Policy 1510- Policy Development were adopted on December 2, 2008.

Related R & P includes a new format as a result of recommendations from the

Curriculum Management Audit and the North Carolina School Boards Association. The recommended outline format provides clarity and makes the policies easier to read and locate information for the public and staff. The major revisions in this policy reflect format changes. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

- a. Professional
- b. Support

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.

ACTION ITEMS

POLICY

1. POLICY 1035 CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

New Policy: First Reading

This is a policy that was recommended by the North Carolina School Boards Association. This draft policy was presented to Committee of the Whole on March 3, 2009. The Committee recommended for the policy to be presented to the Board for first reading. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

Terri Cobb presented information to the Board. Ms. Cobb shared that the policy is recommended by the North Carolina School Board's Association.

With no questions from the Board, Beverley Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Lori Millberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

FACILITIES

1. FACILITIES UTILIZATION REPORT PRESENTATION

The staff of the Growth and Planning Department will present the Facilities Utilization Report to the Board of Education. Board Policy 7245 states each year by October 1, the Superintendent or his/her designee will present the Facilities Utilization Report for Board adoption.

Chuck Dulaney presented information to the Board. Mr. Dulaney shared that the Facilities Utilization Report was distributed and discussed in January at the Facilities and Operations Committee Meeting. During the January meeting, staff reviewed the changes shown in the report from the 2007-08 to the 2008-09 school year. Some of the changes included the fact that the utilization or crowding levels decreased between those two school years from 96% to 94%, due in part to the slower growth that the school system is experiencing and the continuation of the Capital Improvement Program.

The utilization levels were also helped by the fact the additional mobiles/modulars were installed during the year raising the total from 1,099 in 2007-08 to 1,171 in 2008-09. The majority of the additional mobile classroom installations went into high schools. Three new elementary schools opened in 2008-09 which also helped with utilization levels.

During the January meeting, staff also discussed the need to review capacity models with the Board during the coming school year. Mr. Dulaney shared that the existing models have some assumptions that may not reflect current thinking about best practices and leads to some confusion when people talk about “what is capacity within a school building and how do you standardize that across schools?”

At the request of the Board, Mr. Dulaney clarified staff not using best practices. Mr. Dulaney stated that the staff in Special Education Services is reviewing to what extent should students be served in their base classroom, so that a teacher moves into the classroom where another teacher is also working at the same time providing support, and to what extent should the services being provided take place in a separate classroom. Mr. Dulaney shared that the models used now, reflect what has been the practice over time.

Mr. Dulaney reviewed the elementary school capacity large model with the Board as an example.

Mr. Dulaney stated that staff will be requesting at a later date to recommend a change in policy to the Board regarding the adoption of the Facilities Utilization Report because the Board’s adoption of the model needs to precede the report from staff on what the implications are. Mr. Dulaney also shared that October 1 is not a reasonable date for staff to report back to the Board on utilization because things are still in flux through September, especially regarding the services and allocation of staff for students with special needs.

Eleanor Goettee made a motion to approve, seconded by Lori Millberg. The Board voted 5 to 1, with Horace Tart, Lori Millberg, Kevin L. Hill, Eleanor Goettee, and Anne McLaurin voting “yes,” and Beverley Clark voting “no”. The motion passed.

2. AGREEMENT REGARDING OFFSITE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FOR PANTHER CREEK HIGH MODULARS

As a condition of approval of the site plan for installation of modular classroom units at Panther Creek High School, the Town of Cary requires that Wake County Public School System comply with its Adequate Public Facilities ordinance by constructing off-site improvements to highway NC-55.

Attorney Kenneth Haywood has negotiated with Town of Cary counsel an agreement whereby Wake County Public School System agrees to construct required road improvements to NC-55 within four years and Town of Cary agrees to grant approval of the site plan, enabling issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the modular units. Fiscal Implications: The road improvements are estimated to cost \$1.4 million. At its meeting on February 17, 2009, the Board approved a request for reallocation of funds for this purpose. Recommendation for Action: Board approval of the agreement is requested.

Kenneth Haywood presented information to the Board. Mr. Haywood shared that at the last Board meeting, the Board approved a resolution to reallocate funds of up to \$1.4 million for the road improvements that were previously discussed with the Board associated with Panther Creek High School. Mr. Haywood has since that time negotiated the agreement between the Board of Education and the Town of Cary that will put in writing the items previously discussed with regards to the commitment of funding, as well as the time schedule of starting the construction no later than three years from the date when the agreement is signed and completing no later than four years.

Staff requested that once there was an approved agreement to come back before the Board informing them of an agreement being in place and request that the Board authorize the execution of the agreement by way of an explanation of what happens next.

Mr. Haywood stated that the County of Wake has already issued the Certificate of Occupancy. Once the agreement is signed, the Town of Cary has informed Mr. Haywood through their staff, that the Town of Cary will finalize the site review process, issue the Site Compliance Certificate, and allow the modular units to be occupied by the students and teachers prior to the Town of Cary signing the agreement.

Eleanor Goettee made a motion to approve, seconded by Kevin L. Hill. The motion was unanimously approved.

CLOSED SESSION

Beverly Clark made a motion to go into Closed Session at 4:50 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 G.S. 115c-402 and the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 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 Kevin L. Hill. The motion was unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION – 6 P.M.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Twenty-two students will be recognized as Spotlight on Students award winners.

Karen Hamilton presented the students to the Board. Ms. Gill stated that the students were role models in their schools and an inspiration to everyone. She commended the students for being recognized by teachers and administrators who saw the difference that they are making in their schools and communities every day.

ACTION ITEMS – Cont'd

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)

Beverly Clark made a motion to approve the following Administrative Appointment(s):

- (1) Phyllis H. Lewis, Applicant, to Senior Director, Human Resources-Employee Relations, effective date March 6, 2009. (Permanent position)

- (2) Elizabeth Battle, Assistant Principal at Sanderson High School, to Principal at Daniels Middle School, effective date March 9, 2009 (Permanent position).
- (3) C. Diane Payne, Retired Principal, to Interim Principal at Leesville Road High School, effective, January 29, 2009- March 27, 2009 (Interim position)
- (4) John R. Umstead, Jr. Assistant Principal at Swift Creek Elementary School, to Principal at Swift Creek Elementary School, effective March 4, 2009. (Permanent position)

The motion was seconded by Lori Millberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Board, Lori Millberg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eleanor Goettee. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa U. Gill, Chair, Wake County Board of Education

Del Burns, Superintendent, WCPSS

Melissa R. Christmas, Recording Secretary