

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OPEN MINUTES  
March 12, 2001

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Board Members Present:

Bill Fletcher, Chair  
Beverley Clark  
Rosa Gill  
J.C. O'Neal  
Tom Oxholm  
Susan Parry  
Kathryn Quigg

Staff Members Present:

Karen Banks  
Jo Baker  
Danny Barnes  
Del Burns  
Mike Burriss  
Linda Isley  
Cindi Jolly  
Ray Massey  
Toni Patterson  
Janice Shearin  
Walt Sherlin  
Jonibel Willis

Board Attorneys Present:

Ann Majestic

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Bill Fletcher called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **INFORMATION**

### **Chairman's Comments**

Mr. Fletcher reported that a presentation was made earlier in the day to the County Commissioners reflecting a three-year forecast of Wake County Public School System funding needs and three key strategies to reach Goal 2003.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. McNeal thanked the presentation team, Board, community leaders and all in attendance at the meeting for their support, as well as staff for the work accomplished in preparation for the County Commissioner's meeting. He reported that Representative Art Pope and Senator Eric Reeves have both sponsored bills for school construction flexibility in Wake County. He also presented a framed letter to Mr. Oxholm from Eastern Wake County principals

thanking him for the contributions of time and money that he and Wake Stone Corporation give in support of education.

Ms. Quigg noted that Wake County was well represented in the state basketball finals by the East Wake girl's team and the Leesville boy's team.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

*J.C. O'Neal made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Rosa Gill and the vote was unanimous.*

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

*Lisa Markland* asked the Board to consider a change in the bell schedule at Zebulon Elementary from 9:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. to lessen the waiting time between daycare at 7:00 a.m. and the start of school. *Gina Smith* spoke on the same issue in favor of a bell schedule change at Zebulon.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Mr. Oxholm* reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 1 at 3:30 in the Board Conference Room. The committee began discussing in detail the Arthur Andersen study and issues such as vertical and horizontal compression; however more discussion is needed to arrive at solutions and recommendations. The next Finance Committee meeting is March 15 at 4:00 p.m. with the goal of making some recommendations to the Board on how to deal with the problems that putting this study in place may cause, recognizing that the study's intent is to relieve certain problems.

He also noted that an issue now out in the public needs to be addressed concerning the fees proposed to be charged for community use of facilities. He requested that an appropriate committee meeting be set up for review.

*Susan Parry* offered that a Program Committee meeting took place on Monday, March 5 at 12 noon in the Board Conference Room, and that the items are reported out in the agenda.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

*J.C. O'Neal made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Quigg to approve all the consent items. The vote was unanimous.*

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 5, 2001 - Facilities Committee Meeting  
January 18, 2001 – Facilities Committee Meeting  
February 6, 2001 – Facilities Committee Meeting  
February 15, 2001 – Finance Committee Meeting  
February 20, 2001 – Board Work Session  
February 26, 2001 – Board Meeting

## **PERSONNEL**

### **1. Recommendations for Employment**

Professional List #13, 2000-2001 and Support List #13, 2000-2001

## **FACILITIES**

### **1. Bids: Ballentine Elementary (E-1)**

Bids were received on February 27, 2001 for Ballentine Elementary (E-1). Staff and Doggett Architects, Inc. recommend awarding of a single-prime contract to Centurion Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$8,549,000. The lowest responsive multi-prime bid was \$8,527,340. Fiscal Implications - Funding is available for the total project budget of \$10,302,533. The total project budget consists of \$10,194,233 from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program, \$50,000 from Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program, and \$58,300 from Wake County Parks and Recreation. Recommendation for Action - Board approval was requested. *Ms. Clark noted that there was a revision for accuracy to the back-up information. The figure amount for the carpeting estimate should have said \$35,000.*

### **2. Bids: Roof Replacement – Millbrook High**

Bids for the gym/auditorium roof replacement at Millbrook High were received on February 21, 2001. The low bidder, Baker Roofing Company requested to withdraw their bid due to a mathematical error. Staff and Rooftop Systems Engineers, P. C. recommend award of the contract to Simon Roofing and Sheet Metal Corporation in the amount of \$ 217,320. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$3,277,640. The total project budget consists of \$2,222,211 in Phase IIIB long-range building program funds, \$963,429 from the board-approved state bond project budget, and \$92,000 from the technology component of the state bond program. Recommendation for Action - Board approval was requested to allow Baker Roofing Company to withdraw their bid in accordance with statutory provisions and to award the contract to Simon Roofing and Sheet Metal Corporation.

### **3. Driveway Permit and Encroachment Agreement – Holly Ridge Middle (M-3) and Elementary (E-3)**

The site work and road improvements for Holly Ridge Middle (M-3) and Elementary (E-3) Schools require an agreement from DOT for curb and gutter, pavement widening, and storm drainage along Holly Springs Road and for driveway construction for entrance into the site. A three-party right-of-way encroachment between DOT, the Town of Holly Springs, and the board of education for an 8-inch waterline to serve the site is also needed. Fiscal Implications - None. Recommendation for Action - Board approval was requested.

### **4. Encroachment Agreement – Mount Vernon Redirection**

The road improvements for Mount Vernon Redirection require an agreement from DOT for curb and gutter, pavement widening, and storm drainage along NC 54 (Chapel Hill Road). A two-party right-of way encroachment between DOT and the board of education is needed. Fiscal Implications - None. Recommendation for Action - Board approval was requested.

### **5. Settlement Agreement – Pine State Electrical Contractors, Inc.**

Board approval was requested for the settlement agreement between Pine State Electrical Contractors, Inc., St. Paul Fire and Marine Guaranty Company, and the board. This agreement resolved all outstanding issues arising out of Pine State's default on the following construction projects: Apex High, Baucom Elementary, Brooks Elementary, Cary High, Daniels Middle, Douglas Elementary, Fuller Elementary, Mt. Vernon Redirection, West Millbrook Middle and Wilburn Elementary. Fiscal Implications - The board will receive a total of \$100,000 due to the default.

### **6. Resolution: Heritage Middle (M-4) Designer Selection**

Resolution was presented to waive the traditional designer selection process and to select Innovative Design, Inc., for the design of Heritage Middle School (M-4) This request is in

accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-64.32, which allows the exemption of the statutory designer selection process. The specific reason for this exemption is that this is a re-use of the Durant Road/Dillard Drive Middle School prototype. This will shorten design time, reduce cost, and help expedite the project. Staff recommended proceeding with the negotiation of a design contract with Innovative Design, Inc. Fiscal Implications - None. Potential reduction in design cost, exact amount to be determined through negotiations. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the designer selection waiver resolution was requested.

## **FINANCE**

### **1. Budget Amendments and Transfers, 2000-2001**

To report changes in the budget resolution for the month of January. Fiscal Implications:

Adjust State Public School Fund	+	\$	213,295
Adjust Local Current Expense Fund	+	\$	180,750
Adjust Federal Programs Fund	+	\$	1,257,805
Adjust Capital Outlay Fund	+	\$	370,614,788
Adjust Multiple Enterprise Fund	+	\$	0

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

### **2. Authorization Forms**

These authorization forms designate the persons authorized to sign vouchers for the payment of money on behalf of East Wake Middle. Fiscal Implications: None

### **3. Gifts to the System**

Twenty-seven gifts have been donated to the Wake County Public School System. The approximate value of the gifts is \$24,869. Fiscal Implications: None

### **4. IBM Lease Agreement: Symmetrix ICDA Mirrored DASD**

Technology Services requested approval of a 2-year lease agreement with IBM Credit Corporation related to upgrading outdated and failing storage disk drives. The upgrade is necessary in order to maintain data integrity as the older disks fail regularly and need to be replaced. A resolution was approved by the Wake County Board of Commissioners on January 8, 2001. Fiscal Implications: Lease payments are approximately \$92,930/year to be paid during the 2000-01 and 2001-02 fiscal years. Total amount is \$185,860.00. Funding is available through the Technology Services Division current expense budget.

## **PROGRAM**

### **1. Grant Proposals**

Competitive (#529): U. S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant program / Individual Schools (\$375,000 per school); Competitive (#530): North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy grant program / Title I of Central Office (\$250,000); Competitive (#531): North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Christa McAuliffe Fellowship program / Carolyn Moser of Leesville Road Middle School (\$24,000); Competitive (#532): U. S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, Secondary Agriculture Education Challenge grant program / Michael Johnson of Wake Forest - Rolesville HS (\$25,000). Funding varies by grant. Recommended that the board approve the applications.

## **2. Driver Education Contract 2001-2002**

Statutory authority G.S. 20-881, 115C-216 and Title 16 of the N.C. Administrative Code provide enabling authority to contract for Driver Education Program Services. The Request for Proposal (RFP) solicits proposals that must meet the specifications and conditions of the RFP. The board of education must ultimately approve the contract with the successful vendor. The Driving School, North Carolina Driving School, and Jordan Driving School requested RFPs and turned in proposals. Recommended awarding contract for Driver Education Program Services to Jordan Driving School, Inc. Total projected contract cost is \$1,664,000.00. The N.C. Department of Transportation Allocation will fund all costs of the program for Driver Education. No local funds will be used to support this program. This was presented to Wake County Public Schools Board of Education to approve the contract for Driver Education with Jordan Driving School for the period of July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. Under the current RFP, WCPSS may allow renewal of this agreement for two consecutive one-year terms effective July 1, 2002.

## **3. Southeast Raleigh High School Bell Schedule**

Southeast Raleigh High School is preparing a bell schedule for 2001-02 which has an opening time of 7:45 a.m. and dismissal at 2:50 p.m. This is the result of studies conducted by the SERHS staff regarding how they could better meet the needs of the students. Using information gathered from the staff, through a telephone survey of a random sample of parents, and a series of parent focus groups, the staff recommended moving from a 3 X 3 plus 1 (3 block classes and 1 single period class per semester) to a 4 X 4 block schedule. Transportation has reviewed the request and has indicated the department supports the school in this request. Child Nutrition has reviewed the request and supports the school's proposal. SERHS will maintain the same graduation requirements and the additional 90 minute period will enhance the school's acceleration magnet theme.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **PROGRAM**

#### **1. Technology Instructional Report**

Technology is an instructional tool which supports student learning and classroom management. Teachers will present an overview of how they have incorporated it into the instructional program. Project Lighthouse, a model of effective instructional technology, is a collaborative effort between Southeast Raleigh High School, Wake Education Partnership, and business partners. Joe Cooper from First Citizens Bank will give an overview of this project. Funding requirements are outlined in approved state technology plan and additional funding through the budget process as needs are defined.

#### **2. Three-Tier Bell Schedule**

The Wake County Public School System has operated its schools until 1994, on a two-tier schedule, with all secondary schools opening earlier than all elementary schools. The major advantages of the three-tier bell schedule includes savings in operating costs and capital investments, better utilization of equipment, ability to provide better service, reduction in number of buses and drivers, and increased retention of trained CDL employees. The three-tier bell schedule accommodates student growth with limited numbers of buses and drivers. For a three-tier bell schedule to be efficient there must be an equal number of bus runs in all three tiers. Without schools occupying the third tier Wake County will revert to a two-tier system as existed through 1993. Fiscal Implications - Reverting to a two-tier bell schedule would significantly

increase the number of buses and drivers required to transport students. The increase in buses would reduce our efficiency rating causing a reduction in the amount of funding provided by the state.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **FACILITIES**

#### **1. Schematic Design and Master Plan – H-3 High (Knightdale Area)**

Staff presented the schematic design documents and master plan prepared by Boney, PLLC for H-3 High (Knightdale area). The plan includes the location of the high school, park components for Knightdale Parks and Recreation, and the location of a future elementary school. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget is \$40,160,845, which consists of \$39,860,845 from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program and \$300,000 from Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program. Recommendation for Action - Board approval was requested.

*In discussion, staff clarified that the site would not include a future middle school. This master plan reflects a collaboration with the Town of Knightdale (land acquisition, public sewer and water), Wake County Parks and Recreation Department (land acquisition and site design or development for the park) and Wake County Public Schools (land acquisition). The interior portion of the development of the site will be split in costs with the school system paying 60% and the Town of Knightdale paying 40%. The master plan is an exciting look ahead to the future needs of an expanding area.*

*Susan Parry requested that staff give a briefing on the high performance building discussions that have taken place and the criteria that have been developed.*

***Beverly Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathryn Quigg. The vote was unanimous.***

### **PROGRAM**

#### **1. Student Assignment Plan for 2001-2002**

Recommendations for the 2001-2002 Student Assignment Plan were presented to the Board for approval. No fiscal implications. This was presented for Board approval.

*Mr. Beavers explained that an additional option for moving node 79 was included. The original recommendation was to move Wiley students to Leesville, while the second option would move them to Olds Elementary. Another change to the plan was to pull spot node 561, originally going from Baucom to Davis Drive, and Athens to Green Hope. Mr. Beavers also clarified that rising 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Apex Elementary who were part of the magnet program that is being phased out can request a transfer during the May 15-June 2 time frame and it will be automatically approved. Rising 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, juniors and seniors being moved from one school to another also fall into the grandfathering guidelines, without transportation. In discussion about the Wiley move, Ms. Gill said she favored leaving the children where they were or moving them to Olds. Ms. Parry noted that the level of crowding needs to be addressed now. Another possibility suggested by Mr. Fletcher would be to accept staff's recommendation of Leesville because of the logical feeder patterns, but to add the option of grandfathering out of the magnet program. Ms. Parry felt this was addressing policy and setting a precedent for whenever base children would be moved from a magnet school. Mr. O'Neal added that a move to Olds would increase F&R percentages from 17.5 to 30.9, while a move to Leesville would increase the F&R percentages from 7.9 to 15.2. Ms. Quigg noted that many Wiley parents expressed transportation concerns, and she was in favor of a move to Olds that might encourage*

*more parental involvement and participation. Ms. Clark addressed the issue of monitoring the grandfathered rising 10th graders and how difficult it would be to track these children. Since Wiley is also at 184% capacity, she didn't believe staying at Wiley was an option.*

***Rosa Gill made a motion to amend the original staff recommendation so that node 79 would be moved from Wiley to Olds Elementary instead of Leesville Elementary. It was seconded by Kathryn Quigg. The vote did not carry, with Susan Parry, J.C. O'Neal, Beverley Clark and Tom Oxholm against the amended recommendation to Olds, and Rosa Gill and Kathryn Quigg in favor.***

*Mr. Beavers went on to explain the rationale for the middle school moves involving Davis Drive, East Cary and West Cary. East Cary is aging out, stagnant and under capacity. Davis Drive continues to grow, and in a domino effect, staff achieved a solution by moving students from West Cary to East Cary, and Davis Drive to West Cary.*

*Mr. Sherlin recommended that the grandfathering issue be discussed in greater depth over the next year to reach some consensus for future assignment plans.*

*Ms. Clark referred to the meeting with County Commissioners where the school system identified some additional funding needs. She added that one way some of these needs could be met is through the implementation of an impact fee that addressed growth, and had growth helping to pay for the cost of new schools. While the available mechanism of property tax revenue has been identified, there are many people who would like to see the consequences and challenges of growth shared by others.*

***Susan Parry made a motion to approve the student assignment plan for 2001-2002. It was seconded by Beverley Clark and the vote carried with J.C. O'Neal voting No.***

## **CLOSED SESSION**

*Kathryn Quigg made a motion:*

*To consider confidential personnel file information under G.S. 115C-319.*

*It was seconded by J.C. O'Neal and the vote was unanimous.*

## **SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS – 6:30 p.m.**

Fifteen students were recognized as Spotlight on Students award winners: Alissa Abbey, Apex Middle; Carrie McMillan, Carroll Middle; Michael Donnelly, Fuquay-Varina High; London Stillman, Hodge Road Elementary; Timothy Crooks, Kingswod Elementary; Katherine Elizabeth Moran, Lacy Elementary; Terrance Parker, Leesville Road High; Tesia Stephenson, Leesville Road Middle; Gabrielle Woody, Penny Road Elementary; Joshua Michael King, Pleasant Union Elementary; Meghan Kristine Gunning, Poe Elementary; Malcolm Cashwell, Powell Elementary; Melissa Kimberly Lantzer, Wakefield Elementary; Stephen Meyer, Weatherstone Elementary, and Robert Carlton Geiger, Wilburn Elementary.

## **ACTION continued**

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **1. Recommendations for Administrative Appointments**

*Elizabeth Battle, administrative intern at Southeast Raleigh High School, to assistant principal at Southeast Raleigh High School, effective date to be determined.*

*Alice J. Garrett, applicant, to principal at Carroll Middle School, effective date to be determined.*

*MariaRosa Rangel*, teacher and administrative intern at Vance Elementary School, to assistant principal at Joyner Elementary School, effective date to be determined.

*Denise A Tillery*, administrative intern at Wake Forest Elementary School, to assistant principal at Baileywick Elementary School, effective date June 6, 201.

***J.C. O'Neal made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathryn Quigg. The vote was unanimous.***

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

## **SUMMARY**

The Board was invited to attend a Garner Education Summit on March 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Garner.

That same day, the Diversity Awareness Conference is from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Southeast Raleigh High School.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Pieces of Gold is on March 21, 7:00 p.m. at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.

Wake Education Partnership will release an academic and financial audit of the school system on April 5 at 8:00 a.m. at the Cary Chamber of Commerce.

April 5 is also the East Wake Foundation Stars of the East presentation.

Superintendent McNeal and Bill Fletcher will be guest speakers on WPTF March 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Kathryn Quigg will appear on Channel 10 Community Access on March 15 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Discussion on committee structure and strategic planning will take place at the next Board meeting, as well as a possible draft of the budget.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Bill Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annette Maret, Recording Secretary

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Bill McNeal, Secretary

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Bill Fletcher, Chairman