



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

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

Chairwoman Kushner called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Comments

Chairwoman Kushner shared comments related to thanking the Wake County Board of Commissioners for approving the Interlocal Agreement with both entities moving forward working closely together to implement the bond passed by the voters. Chairwoman Kushner gave special commendation to the Wake County Public School System staff for working hard in developing the framework and supporting both boards in the work toward the Interlocal Agreement. Chairwoman Kushner also shared that she was able to attend a breakfast at the Boy Scouts Annual Meeting, attended Broughton High School's International Festival, attended the Dig In at Willow Springs Elementary, and attended Pieces of Gold where all students shared their wonderful arts performances.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Merrill shared comments related to the NCASA Conference that was held at the Raleigh Convention Center, attending Pieces of Gold and thanking the Wake Education Partnership for sponsoring and supporting the event, highlighting the upcoming PTA Reflections event, First in Fitness being cancelled for Tuesday, March 18th and Wednesday, March 19th; the Middle School First in Fitness event for Thursday is still on, but field and weather conditions will determine if the event can go forward. Dr. Merrill thanked and recognized the Phillips High School mathematics teams who experienced excellent results in competition at the eastern regional mathematics fair held in Greenville last Friday.

Board Members' Comments

Board Members shared comments related to the District 9 Board Advisory Council meeting, participating in the Forestville Road Elementary School International Festival and Excellence in Action, the Apex High School Boys' Basketball Team for securing the 4-A State Championship, Bonnie Heller of Moore Square Middle School being recognized as Teacher of the Week, attending Pieces of Gold, attending a reception that allows NC State graduates who have been teaching in

Wake County for 1,2,or 3 years to come together to be thanked and to work to find ways to continue the partnership and provide continuous support for them, attending the high school basketball regionals, recognizing Dr. Clinton Robinson for his recent article in the “Urban Advocate”, enjoying reading at Combs Elementary School, attending Ligon Middle School’s Career Day, attending a practice MPA Concert, attending Jeffreys Grove Elementary School’s Spanish Immersion Program on March 20th and attending Hilburn Academy’s STEAM program next week.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Chairwoman Kushner moved # 16 – Schematic Design: Green Elementary and #20 – N.C. DPI Technology Plan – WCPSS from Consent to Action. Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher and unanimously approved.

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

- Lana McGlynn
- Letha Muhammad
- Markyona Lanae
- Ajamu Dillahunt
- Ramiyah Robinson
- Elena Erlich
- Tavon Bridges
- Qasima Wideman
- Patty Williams

INFORMATION ITEMS

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

6. UPDATE FROM DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Janet Godbold, Senior Director of Special Education Services reviewed the activities surrounding Disability History and Awareness Month and the winners of the poster challenge were recognized.

FINANCE

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED BUDGET, 2014-2015

Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent, presented the Budget to the Board. Dr. Merrill shared that the primary, immediate goal for next year consists of a local appropriation increase of 439,047,149 for the 2014-2015 school year. Many of next year’s expansion items are a result of a data review of the system’s academic results, as well as the Board’s commitment to specific areas of focus.

The budget addresses issues of concern to the school board including;

- Investing \$930,000 in K-12 literacy initiatives,
- Expansion of Pre-K services,
- The second-year implementation of the school-board Curriculum/Technology Facilitators,
- Planning and professional development dollars for the start-up of the Knightdale Education Working Group recommendations;
- New Spanish and Chinese immersion programs within the Global School Network;
- Restoration of high school intervention coordinators at schools with graduation rates below 80 percent,
- Opening the Vernon Malone College and Career Academy (CTE high school); and
- 3.5 percent locally-funded salary increase for all employees.

David Neter, Chief Business Officer, presented an overview of the 2014-2015 Superintendent's Proposed Budget. Mr. Neter provided an orientation of the document and briefly walked the Board through the budget process. Mr. Neter recommended that the board conduct work sessions on the budget beginning April 8th and that the primary purpose of the work sessions will be to discuss potential changes and to direct the Superintendent and staff to come back with any recommendations for the changes.

Mr. Neter shared that staff will continue to closely monitor events at the state and federal levels. The budget was posted to the Wake County Public School System website for public perusal.

Board members shared comments of commendation to the Superintendent for his focus on essential first steps in supporting staff, making a bold, common sense request of an expansion of the budget, and supporting the Board's focus of providing a quality education to all students.

CONSENT ITEMS

Chairwoman Kushner reminded the Board that items #16- Schematic Design: Green Elementary and #20 – N.C. DPI Technology Plan were moved to Action. Susan P. Evans made a motion to approve the Consent items. The motion was seconded by Tom Benton and unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS

POLICY

28. REQUESTED WAIVE OF BOARD POLICY 5032- SCHOOL DAY

David Neter, Chief Business Officer shared that Board Policy 5032 requires the Board to establish the school day (bell schedule) for the subsequent year prior to April 1st. Staff is currently working on an analysis of the N.C. Department of Transportation Fortify project to determine if changes to the existing bell schedules will be recommended. The analysis, based upon information currently available, is nearing conclusion. Staff requested that the Board waive the April 1st date requirement contained within Policy 5032 to allow completion of the analysis. Staff anticipates bringing recommendations to the Board on April 8th.

Board members inquired if there would be any consideration in next year's bell schedules of building additional time onto the school day to bank time for anticipated school closings. Mr. Neter shared that staff will have the conversation prior to bringing recommendations to the Board on April 8th.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill and unanimously approved.

FACILITIES

16. SCHEMATIC DESIGN: GREEN ELEMENTARY

Sheri Green, Director of Planning and Construction shared that the schematic design being presented is a replacement for the project. Ms. Green shared that the schematic design is a part of the CIP 2013 Building Program and shared the schematic design documents prepared by Moseley Architects which were previously presented at the March 12th Facilities Committee meeting.

Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans and

unanimously approved.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

20. N.C. DPI TECHNOLOGY PLAN – WCPSS

David Neter, Chief Business Officer and Cathy Moore, Deputy Superintendent for School Performance shared that the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction requires all LEA's to submit a two-year technology plan in support of state-wide strategic priorities and goals. Mr. Neter shared that the format of the plan and the strategic priorities and goals contained within the plan are prescribed to the district by the Department of Public Instruction.

The plan that the staff proposes to submit is very similar to the plan approved by the Board two years ago; revisions to the plan from two years ago were reviewed in detail at the Student Achievement Committee on March 13th. The goals included within the plan could be considered aspirational and not a specific road map that the District intends to directly follow. Mr. Neter shared that at the Student Achievement Committee, information was discussed pertaining to the District needing to further define and map out its strategic plan with regard to leveraging technology and the learning environment.

Tom Benton made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher. After general comments from the Board and Dr. Martin sharing that he cannot support the plan as written, the Board voted 7 to 1 with Jim Martin casting the dissenting vote. The motion was passed.

CLOSED SESSION

Susan P. Evans made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:16 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) and 115C-319 and to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3). The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill and unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEM

HUMAN RESOURCES

29. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)

Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve the Human Resources report from Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton and unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Board, Keith Sutton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kushner, Board Chair

James G. Merrill, Superintendent

Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary