



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 8, 2014**

<b><u>Board Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>Staff Members Present</u></b>	
Christine Kushner, Chair	James G. Merrill, Superintendent	Joe Desormeaux
Tom Benton, Vice Chair	Marvin Connelly	Mark Winters
Monika Johnson-Hostler	Tim Simmons	Brad McMillen
Kevin L. Hill	Lloyd Gardner	Kathy Chontos
Keith Sutton	Edward McFarland	
Jim Martin	Pamela Kinsey-Barker	
Zora Felton	Rose Anne Gonzalez	
Susan P. Evans	Jacqueline Ellis	<b><u>Board Attorney Present</u></b>
Bill Fletcher	Clinton Robinson	Jonathan Blumberg
	Karen Hamilton	

Chairwoman Kushner called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Chair's Comments**

Chairwoman Kushner shared comments related to welcoming everyone back from spring break, budget season including today's public hearing and the community's support, suspensions and student discipline, and recognizing and honoring the memory of John Kinney, a zealous supporter of Sanderson High School.

**Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Merrill shared comments related to receiving a consolidated data report last week on school suspensions, drop outs, and crime, the dropout rate decreasing by 29%, Wake County having an enrollment of 153,300 students which is an increase of 3,800 and the biggest increase since 2007-2008, the Teacher of Year banquet being held on May 8<sup>th</sup> with 13 finalists and 15 semi-finalists being named for the Diane Kent-Parker First Year Teacher award. Dr. Merrill recognized that there have been over 300 motions on behalf of the Board by Tharrington Smith, to recover more than a million dollars in bond forfeitures. Dr. Merrill also recognized both Ligon Middle School and Washington Elementary School's birthday celebrations this week.

**Board Members' Comments**

Board Members shared comments related to visiting Jeffreys Grove Elementary School and Hilburn Drive Academy, the upcoming District 7 BAC Meeting, the March 26<sup>th</sup> celebration for School Counselors, attending the NSBA National Conference in New Orleans, April 17<sup>th</sup> and Stars in the East Program, the upcoming April 24<sup>th</sup> District 3 BAC meeting, attending the Teacher of Year reception, recognizing the kick off event for the Wake Up and Read Initiative, announcing the April 12<sup>th</sup> book sorting event as a part of the Wake Up and Read Initiative, April being National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, recognizing teachers who were finalists for the Teacher of Year award in District 2, and recognizing Garner High School as being one of the ten schools recognized by the National Secondary Principals Association as a Breakthrough School.

**APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin and unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED BUDGET**

The following persons offered public comments to the Board.

- Ann Overton
- Joshua Gallagher
- Lettice Rhodes
- Mary Martorella
- Ella Ivy-Royall
- Heather Koons
- Adrienne Kelly-Lumpkin
- Vickie Adamson
- Amy Lee
- Hope Ethington
- David Hesselberth
- Jessica Benton
- Larry Nilles
- Gary Lewis
- Wake County Smart Start Representative – Lori Barnes

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

- Qasima Wideman
- Ajamu Dillahunt
- Tavon Bridges
- Ann Rollins

The Board recessed at 7:08 p.m. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:27 p.m.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

**22. BOARD POLICY 5532: ACCELERATION AND ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT**

*Revised; First Reading.*

Cathy Moore, Deputy Superintendent for School Performance shared that the policy was reviewed by the Superintendent’s Leadership Team on September 23, 2013 and October 7, 2013, and at Policy Committee on August 27, 2013, October 29, 2013, December 10, 2013, and February 6, 2014. Board members gave general comments regarding the policy. Jim Martin made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher and unanimously approved.

**23. BOARD POLICY 6410: CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

*Revised; First Reading*

Kathy Chontos, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services shared that the policy was reviewed by the Superintendent’s Leadership Team and the Policy Committee. Staff recommends adding language to include school transportation in the details of the scope of the Student Code of Conduct. Board members made comments regarding revisions that were made from the Policy Committee. Jim Martin made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Monika Johnson-Hostler and unanimously approved.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**24. ESTABLISH AN “INCENTIVE BONSU” TO RECRUIT FULL-TIME TEACHERS IN THE DIFFICULT TO FILL TEACHING AREAS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, HEALTH OCCUPATIONS, AND FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources shared that the Wake County Public School System will provide a one-time \$1,500 incentive bonus to newly hired special education highly qualified licensed teachers, and a one-time \$1,000 incentive bonus to newly hired mathematics, science, health occupations, and family & consumer science highly qualified licensed teachers who accept full-time employment with the district for the 2014-2015 school year. The bonus will be paid in two equal increments in September 2014 and February 2015. The individual must remain employed with WCPSS on the dates of payment to be eligible to receive the respective bonus payments. Individuals hired during the 2014-15 school year are eligible to receive a pro-rata bonus.

Board members shared their concerns for teacher shortages and teacher turnover, and made clarifying comments. Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton and unanimously approved.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Bill Fletcher made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:49 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), 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 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 and unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:34 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**25. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)**

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

**26. SUPERINTENDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM CONTRACT EXTENSIONS**

Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented the contract extensions report. Susan P. Evans made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher and unanimously approved.

**FACILITIES**

**27. OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT – NEAR WILLOW SPINGS ES**

Betty Parker, Director of Real Estate Services shared that terms and conditions of an Offer to Purchase and Contract have been reached with William J. Stephens, Pennie Maria Stephens, Anna W. King, Andrew G. King, Sherre Bunch, James Bunch, Janice W. Jones, and Helen S. Bunn to acquire 1.01 acres, more or less, located near Willow Springs Elementary School to enhance existing conditions at the school. The property includes a portion of the parcel having Wake County PIN #0687018822. Estimated land costs are \$23,000.00 and would come from the Land Acquisition Component of Plan 2006 funds. Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business coming before the Board, Bill Fletcher made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine Kushner, Board Chair

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James G. Merrill, Superintendent

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Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary