



WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joint Meeting of the Wake County Mayor's Association and the Wake County Board of Education April 11, 2012

Board Members Present:

Kevin L. Hill, Chair
Jim Martin, District 5
Christine Kushner, District 6
Deborah Prickett, District 7
Susan P. Evans, District 8
Debra Goldman, District 9

Wake County Mayors Present:

The Honorable Dick Sears, Holly Springs
The Honorable Jackie Holcombe, Morrisville
The Honorable Harold Weinbrecht, Cary
The Honorable Tim Hinnant, Wendell
The Honorable Nancy McFarlane, Raleigh
The Honorable Bob Matheny, Zebulon

Staff Members Present:

Superintendent Tony Tata
Judy Pepler, Chief Transformation Officer/Chief of Staff

The Honorable Jackie Holcombe, 2012 President of the Wake County Mayor's Association, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. The group reviewed the purpose of the meeting and introductions were provided by each body.

Board members then shared specific unmet goals and how the Wake County Mayors can assist in meeting that goal. Unmet goals that were shared included the following:

- Lack of adequate capacity,
- Having more collaboration with municipalities when working on school projects,
- Municipalities being directly involved in planning of facilities,
- Investing in public schools and continuing to advocate for additional funding ,
- Investing in the school system's infrastructure,
- Focusing on efficient public transit/transportation throughout Wake County,
- More collaborative communication, and
- Long range and short-range planning needed for infrastructure and capacity issues ,

Wake County Mayors then shared comments and concerns related to unresolved education issues that are important to their communities and how collaboration with the Wake County Board of Education can resolve the issue. Issues that were shared included the following:

- Receiving information regarding Board meetings, i.e. Board Meeting agendas,
- Capacity ; not building high schools that are large enough

- Staffs from the municipalities and school system working collaboratively in the early planning stages of projects,
- Having a liaison from the municipality attend Board meetings and share information with the Board of Education as well as the Board of Education sharing information with municipalities,
- Reviewing the growth of schools as municipalities begin developing plans for transit, re-zoning, etc.,
- Increasing capacity in Downtown Raleigh as there is a shortage of seats in the area,
- Business recruiting may become harder in the area due to the new choice assignment model as there are no base assignments and individuals are reluctant to purchase homes not knowing where their child may attend school. Businesses may think twice before coming to the Triangle area,
- Economic growth in the area has the potential to decrease due to the uncertainty of the new Choice Assignment Plan,
- There is an increase of free and reduced lunch schools in Raleigh and in the east; equitable distribution should be considered and discussed in moving forward with the new choice plan,
- Concerns of having magnet school options in eastern Wake County beyond the middle school level,
- Need for diversification in eastern Wake County,
- Concern of Rolesville Middle drawing students and families from the Zebulon area and into Rolesville,
- Concerns with eastern Wake County and the development of quality programs to entice consumers to move to the area,
- Eastern Wake County is having issues with their voice being heard and changing their demographics to offset some of the town's challenges,
- Would like to recommend making East Wake High School a magnet school,
- Capacity; some type of enticement is needed where there is capacity so that parents are more inclined to attend schools that have capacity
- A middle school or high school is needed in the Morrisville area in the near future. Consideration of making one campus that has both a middle and high school is an option that is feasible to the Town of Morrisville,
- Re-zoning, school capacity needs to be reviewed when considering re-zoning in municipalities.

Next Steps were reviewed by both Boards including:

- Integrating a municipality liaison between the municipalities and the Board of Education,
- Review assignment of schools and use re-zoning as a guide as changes will be needed for the assignment plan,
- Municipalities would like access to the Board of Education Meeting Agendas,
- Review and consider designating East Wake High School as a magnet,
- Municipalities and the Board of Education will communicate more frequently, especially before critical issues arise, and
- Municipalities and the Board of Education will continue to collaborate and work together.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony J. Tata, Superintendent, WCPSS

Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary