



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD RETREAT
April 26 and 27, 2005**

Board Meeting Present	Staff Members Present	
<i>Susan Parry, Chair</i>	<i>Superintendent McNeal</i>	Ann Hooker
<i>Patti Head, Vice Chair</i>	Luther Cherry	Julye Mizzle
Beverley Clark	Don Haydon	Jonibel Willis
Carol Parker	Jo Baker	Caroline Massengill
Amy White	Del Burns	Mike Burriss
Ron Margiotta <i>-(Present 4-26-05/ absent 4-27-05 due to illness)</i>	Janice Shearin	Ramey Beavers
Kathryn Watson Quigg	Ramey Beavers	Bev White
Bill Fletcher	Linda Isley	David Gammon
Rosa Gill	Michael Evans	
	Bev White	School Board Attorney
	Cindi Jolly	Rod Malone
	Danny Barnes	Jonathan Blumberg
	Donna Hargens	

- Chairwoman Parry opened the meeting at 8:10 a.m. on day one. She thanked all the Board members for coming and gave an overview of the retreat agenda.
- Chrys Browne and Karen Banks will be facilitating the meeting. The objective of the retreat is to address important growth issues facing the district and how to keep all schools healthy while looking at traditional magnet, and year-round schools.

The board established ground rules which to follow below:

- Agree to disagree agreeably
- Use the parking lot to ensure issues aren't forgotten
- Share with the whole group instead of individual side bar conversation
- Everyone is responsible for the success of the meeting
- Facilitators will check for agreement before changing the agenda
- Take focus on the topic of discussion
- Focus are brief and to the point

On Day One of the board retreat, staff made presentations on the issue of addressing growth while keeping all schools healthy. The board reviewed the information on the WCPSS ecosystem and the current definition of what is considered a healthy school. The Board then broke into small groups to review three external reports: Citizens Advisory Council (CAC); Mayors' Task Force; and the Healthy Schools Task Force reports for relevance and to pull out recommendations related to our current challenges.

Break - Lunch 12:15 p.m.

Reconvened 12:51 p.m.

After lunch, the Board we began looking at year-round options and expansion opportunities. The Board brainstormed strategies for expanding year-round schools and worked to reach consensus on the highest-priority strategies for future study and possible implementation.

At the conclusion of Day One, the board summarized the first day. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will reconvene on Wednesday, April 27, 2005, starting at 8:00 a.m. at the North Carolina School Boards Association, 7208 Falls of the Neuse Road.

Day Two-April 27, 2005

Reconvene the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

Chrys Browne and Karen Banks continue to facilitate the meeting. The facilitator gave a recap of the accomplishments of yesterday's work session.

Caroline Massengill gave an overview of the parameters for magnet programs. Parameters are rules, policies, guidelines, and boundaries that must be adhered to and cannot be waived. The parameters establish, to a large extent, the degree of autonomy assigned to the schools. Discussion to follow about what is currently working and not working in the magnet programs and what possible changes could take place to improve this program. Ms. Massengill also discussed the magnetization or demagnetization of a school.

Ramey Beavers reviewed the current magnet application and selection processes. Dr. Beavers stated that applicants have an opportunity to be selected in the magnet or year-round selection process. Students are chosen from the applicant pool by computer, using a random number selection process. Factors in the selection process include transportation pattern, crowding, and diversity.

Break 10:20 a.m.

Reconvened 10:28 a.m.

The board then reviewed the challenges experienced by rim schools and identified strategies to help keep them healthy. The definition of rim schools was discussed. The proximity of magnets makes them an attractive option for parents of students assigned to the rim schools. Discussion followed regarding guiding principle for rim schools.

Break - Lunch 1:00 p.m.

Reconvened 1:45 p.m.

After lengthy discussion, suggestions were made for changes to the principles parameter for magnet schools, and the guidelines for magnetizing and demagnetizing. A number of themes were discussed related to the development or changes in magnet programs that staff will review. At the conclusion of the meeting, the parking lot issues were reviewed. A date was set for the Board to work on its work plan for the next year. Staff will compile the information from the retreat and bring to the May 3, Committee of the Whole for review or work completed and next steps.

All of the brainstorming and prioritizing documents are attached as Exhibit 1-13.

The meeting adjourned for Day two of the board retreat at 5:00 p.m.

Susan Parry, Chair

Elwanda Farrow, Recording Secretary