

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MINUTES
May 14, 2001

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

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

Board Attorneys Present:

Rod Malone

Bill Fletcher called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

INFORMATION

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McNeal recognized three Wake County schools (Timber Drive Elementary, Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle and Centennial Campus Middle), as having been selected by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources for environmental grants of \$1000 for each school. Unfortunately, due to the state budget shortfall, those grant funds have been frozen. However, CP&L, a subsidiary of Progress Energy, had generously decided to fund these grants not only in Wake County but across the state for a total of thirty-two \$1000 grants. He publicly thanked CP&L/Progress Energy for their generous support in funding these grants.

McNeal also spoke about the status of resource officers in Wake County middle and high schools, the participating police departments, and the grant programs that help support their efforts. For the past three years, the school system requested that the Raleigh Police Department join the other municipalities in the county and partner with Wake County Public Schools on middle school grants, specifically for the 11 schools that would come under their jurisdiction. The Raleigh Police Department has declined participation, and since that time Sheriff Baker has placed eight deputies in 16 middle schools for four hours each day for the rest of this school

year. Sheriff Baker is presenting a grant application on May 21 to the Wake County Commissioners for their approval to apply for a Cops in School grant for all the county's middle schools, including the ones located within the city of Raleigh. He has been told by the county that it is the city's responsibility and that the county is not looking favorably upon his request. That will be a problem for the 11 schools this upcoming fall, and Mr. McNeal commented that we need to help the City of Raleigh understand that the community has to step up and support its schools.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

All items from Program Committee and Facilities Committee that were action had been moved to consent. Tom Oxholm made a motion, seconded by Beverley Clark, to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tom Oxholm reported that the Finance Committee met on April 24th at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room. At this meeting, the group finished answering staff questions and concluded discussions concerning the Arthur Andersen study. They made seven recommendations on a number of different issues, and these recommendations will be brought to the Board for approval at the May 29th Board meeting.

The May 17th Finance Committee meeting would not be taking place, and the group would not have another meeting scheduled unless staff recommended issues for discussion.

CONSENT ITEMS

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve all the consent items. It was seconded by Susan Parry, and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 2, 2001 Program Committee
April 18, 2001 Budget Work Session
April 23, 2001 Board Meeting
April 24, 2001 Finance Committee

PERSONNEL

1. Recommendations for Employment

Professional List #15, 2000-2001; Other Professional List #15, 2000-2001; Support List #15, 2000-2001. Fiscal implications will include the appropriate salary and benefit costs.

2. Requests for Leave

Francine Piscitelli and *Geraldine Webb-Harris* requested leave for one-year to serve as a member of the state assistance teams that will be working with designated, low-performing schools mandated for assistance by the State Board of Education.

Janet Bailey, Phillip Bailey, George Coccarelli, Deborah Cain, Cheryl Muncie, Elizabeth McInerney and *Joyce Walker* requested extension of professional leave to teach at Magellan Charter School.

Karen Louise Holding-Jordan, Diana Call and *Donna Thmpson* requested Educational Leave.

FINANCE

1. Elimination of Annuity Vendors

To eliminate annuity vendors deemed substandard or inactive per the recommendation of BOD Investment Consulting Group, Inc. Included in this group will be any vendors refusing to honor or sign Hold Harmless agreements protecting Wake County Public School System

2. Budget Amendments and Transfers 2000-2001

To report changes in the budget resolution for the month of March.

3. Implementation service agreement: Hickman Associates, Inc. for Phase II of Oracle Project

This is a new contract to hire Hickman Associates, Inc. to implement Phase II requirements of Oracle HR and Payroll applications. Oracle Phase II requirements include custom interfaces, reports and processes that Finance, Budget, Payroll and HR must have available after we go live in Oracle. Many of these tasks are year-end related and can only be accomplished with data on the current Oracle production system. Therefore, timing is critical.

4. Change Order 3: Alliance of Professionals and Consultants, Inc.

On June 26, 2000, the Board approved a contract with Alliance of Professionals and Consultants, Inc. to provide outsourcing services such as technical DBA, applications DBA, programming and development. Estimated funding approved at that time would carry us through March 31, 2001. Beginning in early February, additional funding needs have been estimated and change orders have been submitted to and approved by the Board. Change order 1 for \$250,000 was approved by the Board on February 12, 2001. Change order 2 for \$250,000 was approved by the Board on March 19, 2001. The current change order will fulfill our production support costs for financial applications through June 30, 2001.

5. Change Order 4: Hickman Associates, Inc.

On February 28, 2000, the Board approved a contract with Hickman Associates, Inc. to provide maintenance and support of the HR, Payroll, Finance and Accounting software applications. This included support of "Legacy System Data." On June 26, 2000, the Board approved a change order to retain these services through June 30, 2001. There have been two other change orders that totaled less than \$100,000. Costs to carry us through June 30, 2001 have been estimated. The current change order will fulfill our obligations.

6. Change Order 5: Teleconsultants, Inc.

In August 2000, we brought before the Board a contract with TeleConsultants, Inc. for consulting services. We estimated the initial amount needed to carry us through January 2001. As anticipated, additional funding was necessary to continue pre-production work in the development of internal technical documents, programs and procedures relative to Oracle in the areas of payroll, financial applications, budget and HR. Budgetary concerns only allowed us to submit additional change orders to cover the cost of services in blocks of time. When the decision to push the "go live" date for payroll to July 1 was made, expenses to be incurred through April 30, 2001 were estimated and change order 4 was approved by the Board on March 19 for \$500,000. The current change order will fulfill our costs through June 30, 2001.

FACILITIES

1. Bids: Roof Replacement – Joyner Elementary

Bids for the roof replacement at Joyner Elementary were received on April 5, 2001. Staff and Roof Engineering, Inc. recommended award of the contract to AAR of NC, Inc., in the amount of \$278,660. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$350,000. The total project budget consists of \$350,000 from the deferred maintenance component of the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program.

2. Bids: Roof Replacement – Martin Middle

Bids for the roof replacement at Martin Middle were received on April 5, 2001. Staff and Roof Engineering, Inc. recommended award of the contract to AAR of NC, Inc., in the amount of

\$604,900. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$2,340,650. The total project budget consists of \$2,340,650 from the board approved 1996 State Bond project budget.

3. Bids: Roof Replacement – Pleasant Union Elementary

Bids for the roof replacement at Pleasant Union Elementary were received on April 19, 2001. Staff and Roof Engineering, Inc. recommended award of the contract to Jedco, Inc., in the amount of \$378,537. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$555,000. The total project budget consists of \$555,000 from the deferred maintenance component of PLAN 2000 building program.

4. Bids: HVAC Replacement – Wendell Elementary

Bids for the HVAC replacement at Wendell Elementary were received on April 3, 2001. Staff and Padia Consulting, Inc. recommended award of the single-prime construction contract to Mid-South Mechanical, Inc., in the amount of \$611,903. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$700,000. The total project budget consists of \$275,000 from the deferred maintenance component of the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program and \$425,000 from maintenance and operations' operating funds.

5. Design Consultant Agreement – East Garner Middle Addition and Renovations

Negotiations have been completed with Skinner, Lamm & Highsmith, PA, Architects for the design of the PLAN 2000 additions and renovations at East Garner Middle School. The form of agreement is the standard form approved by the board attorney. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget in PLAN 2000 is \$10,644,843. The total project budget includes proposed compensation for the design consultant of \$575,000.

6. Lease Agreement – Former Cardinal Gibbons High Property

Staff requested board approval of a one-year lease with the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh for the Cardinal Gibbons High School Property consisting of approximately 18 acres and all building improvements located off Western Boulevard near Avent Ferry Road. The site will be used during renovation of Underwood Elementary School. The lease period begins July 1, 2002 and ends June 30, 2003. Fiscal Implications - Lease cost for one year \$450,000. Funds are available from the project budget in PLAN 2000. Staff recommended board approval of the one-year lease.

7. Service Agreement – Athens Drive High

Negotiations of a service agreement have been completed with All American Moving and Storage, Inc. for the relocation and storage of the contents of Athens Drive High. This agreement covers the move from Athens Drive High to Middle Creek High this year, the move back scheduled for next year and all storage costs. The agreement includes proposed compensation on a time and material basis with a not to exceed price of \$230,700. The contract has been reviewed by the board attorney. Fiscal Implications - Funding is available from the total project budget of \$12,482,584. The total project budget includes \$6,827,930 from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program project budget, \$1,300,000 from the Code Compliance component of PLAN 2000, \$700,000 from the Environmental Compliance component of PLAN 2000, \$992,054 from the Modernization Component of PLAN 2000, \$2,400,000 from the Deferred Maintenance component of PLAN 2000, and \$262,600 from the board-approved 1996 State Bond project budget.

8. Meal Prices for 2001-2002

Child Nutrition Services recommended that student meal prices remain the same for the 2001 – 2002 school year. The meal prices in Wake County are higher than most surrounding counties but are comparable to other large school systems in North Carolina. A la carte prices will be re-evaluated based on the food bids and market prices. Fiscal Implications - Child Nutrition Services 2001 – 2002 budget will be balanced.

PROGRAM

1. Grant Proposals

Entitlement (#548): U.S. Department of Education, Title I Low Income (PRC 050) - \$5,500,000; Entitlement (#549): U.S. Department of Education, Title I Migrant (PRC 051) - \$194,000; Entitlement (#550): U.S. Department of Education, Title II Dwight D. Eisenhower Math and Science Education Act (PRC 067) - \$350,000; Entitlement (#551): U.S. Department of Education, Abstinence Education (PRC 057) - \$90,000; Entitlement (#552): U.S. Department of Education, Vocational and Technical Education Improvement Plan (PRC 017) - \$885,000; Entitlement (#553): U.S. Department of Education, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (PRC 048) - \$400,000; Entitlement (#554): U.S. Department of Education, McKinney Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (PRC 026) - \$45,000; Entitlement (#555): North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Vocational Education Program Support (PRC 014) - \$1,200,000; and Entitlement (#556): North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Vocational Education Months of Employment (PRC 013) - \$18,500,000. Fiscal implication varies by grant.

2. Contract: School Resource Officers for 2001-2002

This contract will be made with the City of Raleigh to provide school resource officers at each of the high schools located within the city. The following is a list of the schools: Broughton, Enloe, Longview/Phillips, Millbrook, Sanderson, Southeast Raleigh, and Wakefield. Funding for this contract, in the amount \$264,866 (\$37,838 x 7 schools), is available through Fund 69 for the 2001-2002 school year.

3. Contract: School Resource Officers for 2001-2002

This contract will be made with the Town of Cary to provide school resource officers at each of the high schools located within the city. The following is a list of the schools: Athens Drive High School @ Middle Creek campus, Cary High School, and Green Hope High School. Funding for this contract, in the amount \$113,514 (\$37,838 x 3 schools), is available through fund 69 for the 2001-2002 school year.

4. Renewal of Richard Milburn Contract

With this contract, WCPSS exercises our option to continue services at Richard Milburn beyond the initial length of the contract. This contract is subject to funding from state at-risk dollars (PRC 069).

5. Salaries for Before and After-School Programs

Proposed changes to the before- and after-school program salary schedule were submitted. Before- and after-school programs are self-supporting enterprise programs.

6. Academically Gifted

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requires local education agencies to submit a three-year plan for academically or intellectually gifted students. In accordance with the guidelines, the Wake County Public School System continued the present Academically Gifted Plan. This presentation provides an overview of the review process, the current plan, and the status of the program. No fiscal implications at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE

1. Community Use of Facilities Status Report and Fee Structure

Walt Sherlin presented information on the two-year study "Community Use of School Facilities." Included in the presentation were the guiding principles of the group, as well as an update on progress toward the twelve recommendations of the committee. One of the recommendations is the establishment of a new fee structure. The fee structure was presented for approval.

In discussion, Kathryn Quigg asked how staff knows if adult groups or youth groups are using the fields. Mr. Sherlin replied that the official usage records are managed by the school system; and in the case of two groups applying at the same time - the order of approval priority is Wake County schools, PTA booster clubs, non-profit education, non-profit recreation, adult recreation, for-profits, non-profit fundraisers/tournaments and for-profit income generators.

Ms. Clark asked about the "parking lot only" category. Sherlin explained that this involved substantial usage for activities such as bicycle rodeos, the Jimmy V golf tournament, and Harley Davidson-type events; and that the rates have remained in line with what has previously been charged. In the non-profit fundraiser category, Ms. Clark questioned whether Wake County students were sometimes recipients of the funds. Ms. Willcox explained that the education partnerships are looked at differently from a non-profit who is using Wake County students to raise money for their associations (i.e.: heart or cancer foundations).

Mr. O'Neal was concerned that municipalities should be charged according to usage over the years rather than a standard rate. He also didn't feel a municipality should be charged for usage of fields if they keep up maintenance/mowing, dugouts, purchase of scoreboards, lights, etc.

Mr. Sherlin commented that staff met with the Garner Town Manager and the Parks & Recreation Manager to discuss issues, and the outcome was productive. Miscommunication had been resolved and understandings were reached. The Town of Garner sent a bill to staff for softball for North and East Garner, which was paid for by central administration. Sherlin added an explanation of out-of-pocket expenses, saying that there are two prices for fields: an hourly fee if maintenance is not done; and a \$6 fee per hour if maintenance is done. That second fee is based on the average hourly cost (\$4.60) it takes internally to manage the community use of facilities program, plus 25 cents for security and \$1 nominal fee for parking. Everything else is paid out for maintenance of the fields, with costs determined on an individual basis.

Ms. Quigg commented about the differences in gyms across the county and the fact that the charges for all were the same. Sherlin said that averaging was necessary for the gyms, and the parks and recreation people are still paying well below actual costs.

Rosa Gill made a motion to approve the fee structure, seconded by Tom Oxholm. The vote carried with J.C. O'Neal and Kathryn Quigg voting No.

INFORMATION ITEMS

REDISTRICTING OF BOARD DISTRICTS

Attorney Rod Malone presented a second redistricting map as an alternative to the first proposal. Each version keeps the board members in their present district with populations within five percent of each other. Ms. Hoffman recommended a preference to the alternate map (2A) which put the western boundary of her District 7 at Interstate 40. Both redistricting proposals are based on the new 2000 census data, and available on the school system web site for review by the community. ***Exhibit A*** A Public Hearing on Redistricting will be held on Thursday, May 17th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

PROGRAM

The first three Program items were presented for information during the Program Committee meeting at 12:30 p.m.

1. Wake Technology Academy

The purpose of this item was to provide a status report on curriculum and program development for the Wake Technology Academy. The proposed program components include: targeting of juniors and seniors in Career Prep and College Tech Prep; providing technology-focused curriculum driven by industry standards; and supporting seamless entry into workforce and lifelong learning. The funding plan for this program has not been developed at this time.

2. English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

This overview of the ESL program provided background information, program description, trends, and information on funding opportunities. The ESL program began in Wake County in 1977. The program has grown from an original 300 ESL students to nearly 4,000. Currently nearly 60% of those students are native Spanish speakers. Funding included in budget.

3. The Effect of School Poverty Concentration in WCPSS

In 1999, E&R published a summary of research on the relationship between student achievement and the concentration of poverty within a school. That review indicated that schools with high concentrations of poverty were less likely to attract the most qualified teachers and that all groups of students—including below average, average, and above average students—had lower achievement in high poverty schools. The national research encompassed schools with concentrations of poverty that ranged from close to zero to well over 75%. How does this national research relate to the situation in WCPSS? Our findings: (1) Previous actions of the district have created a system of schools in which relatively few campuses have a high concentration of poverty; (2) Given the variations in WCPSS schools' performance, it is clear that many factors beyond school poverty are affecting the achievement growth in each school; (3) Analysis of EOG test scores showed that small reductions in the concentration of poverty at a school are unlikely to have a meaningful effect on student achievement growth, although the differences might be statistically significant; and (4) Larger changes in the concentration of poverty in a school would likely produce changes in student achievement growth that would be both statistically and educationally significant.

4. Bell Schedule Recommendations

Proposed bell schedule modifications open and close schools at times the transportation department can more effectively and efficiently provide bus service to students. The major advantages of bell schedule modifications include savings in operating costs, better utilization of equipment, ability to provide better service, and reduction in number of buses and drivers. While costs are certainly important, the ability to provide transportation service would be enhanced through the recommended options. Transportation staff recommended that in order to keep expenses to a minimum, improve student services, and assure maximum state funding for the 2001-2002 school year bell schedule modifications be established by transportation staff. It is important to note the impact of student assignment and growth may result in needed changes of opening and closing times from year to year. Potential savings in current expense funds with an increase in state funding due to increased efficiency.

Wyatt Currin recommended that start times be changed for 21 schools for the 2001-2002 school year. This is fewer than in past years because no new schools are opening and fewer students were reassigned. The board will review bell schedule recommendations and may adopt a plan on May 29th.

PERSONNEL

1. Notification of Administrative Transfer

Gloria Lee, assistant principal at Davis Drive Elementary School, to assistant principal at Vance Elementary School, effective date to be determined.

FACILITIES

1. High Performance Design Guidelines

*Jyoti Sharma presented information on High Performance Design Guidelines, explaining what a high performance building is; why WCPSS needs to have high performance buildings; and how the school system can achieve these guidelines through a whole system approach to continuous improvement and sustainability. There were no fiscal implications. **Exhibit B***

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:50 p.m., Judy Hoffman made a motion to go into closed session:

To consider confidential personnel file information under G.S. 115C-319;
to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the Board in order to preserve the
attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Board G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3); and
to consider confidential student information protected under the Family Rights and
Privacy Act (FERPA) and G.S. 115C-402

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

The Board reconvened into open session at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION continued

PERSONNEL

1. Recommendation for Administrative Appointment

Juliet Blackmon, applicant, to assistant principal at Davis Drive Middle School, effective date to
be determined.

Rosa Gill made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Parry. The vote was unanimous.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS 6:30 p.m.

Eighteen students were recognized as Spotlight on Students award winners.

Teccara Carmack, Carnage Middle School; Alisha Susanne Robinson, Douglass Elementary;
Kristen D. Johnson, East Garner Middle; Jordan Tayler Spiers, Fuquay-Varina Elementary;
Adam Trevor Hess, Hunter Elementary; Shiromini Jeyarajah, Leesville Elementary; Sean
Daldry, Longview High; Marquez Holmes, Longview Middle; Candice Madgie Smith, Mt.
Vernon Redirection; Nathan Adams, North Garner Middle; Alexandra Snedeker, Northwoods
Elementary; Hally Swartwood, Olive Chapel Elementary; Ashley Holland, Smith Elementary;
Divya Gopal, Southeast Raleigh High; Jenaro Hernandez, West Cary Middle; Geovanny Solera,
Willow Springs Elementary; Brandi Poole, Yates Mill Elementary; and Allan Lusk, York
Elementary.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Bill Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Marett, Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Secretary

Bill Fletcher, Chairman

