



# WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES MAY 15, 2012

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Members Present</u>	
Kevin L. Hill, Chair	Superintendent Anthony J. Tata	Andre Smith
Keith Sutton, Vice Chair	Cathy Moore	Jacqueline Ellis
Chris Malone	Cris Mulder	Stephen Gainey
John Tedesco	David Neter	Lisa Grillo
Jim Martin	Don Haydon	Marvin Connelly
Christine Kushner	Danny Barnes	Joe Desormeaux
Deborah Prickett	Lloyd Gardner	Mark Winters
Susan P. Evans	Kevin Hobbs	
Debra Goldman	Pamela Kinsey-Barker	<b><u>Board Attorney</u></b>
	Julye Mizelle	Ann Majestic

Chairman, Kevin L. Hill, called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Chair's Comments

- Chairman Hill shared that last week, the week of May 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> was Teacher Appreciation Week. On behalf of the Wake County Board of Education, Chairman Hill thanked the more than 9,000 teachers and all employees of the Wake County Public School System for the caring and hard work that is given to students every day. As a teacher and as a principal, Chairman Hill knows that it really is up to teachers and staff to provide foundations for student success. Chairman Hill requested that the Board adopt a resolution in support of teachers and Teacher Appreciation Week; which will be added as an Action Item to the Agenda.
- Chairman Hill stated that, *“it was just a few years ago that I spoke to the public who has and does attend our Board Meetings about respect and overall general decorum. I reminded everyone that our meetings are not public Board Meetings, but Board Meetings held in public; and that everyone has a responsibility to serve as a role model for our nearly 150,000 students and the public that view these meetings. I want to thank those attending our meetings for accepting that challenge and responding in a very positive way. But this evening, I would like to speak directly to my colleagues.*

*As Elected Officials, we have a higher standard to abide by since we must also serve as role models to our students and the public. Looking back at our last two Board Meetings, I personally and professionally have been embarrassed by the behavior and comments made by Board Members to each other and at times, to staff.*

*As the Chair, I want to be very clear about my expectations for Board Member decorum. Sarcastic and disparaging comments along with pointed criticisms based on pre-determined assumptions will not be acceptable. We are professionals and I expect that we will behave as such.*

*Again, I am calling on all Board Members to serve as role models for our students and citizenry and I expect that we will. Thank you.”*

### **Superintendent’s Comments**

- Superintendent Tata shared that the magnet survey has been online since May 12<sup>th</sup>. There have been 1,064 inputs on the site. Superintendent Tata shared that he appreciates parent and citizen input in addition to the feedback received from stakeholder groups. The feedback and performance data will be brought to the Board May 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and June 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- Superintendent Tata seconded Chairman Hill’s comments on Teacher Appreciation Week. It was a great week with several events occurring around the County.
- The Wake County Teacher Assistant Association Teacher Assistant of the Year banquet was held during the week of May 7<sup>th</sup>. Birgit Plemons from Vance Elementary was named Teacher Assistant of the Year.
- Superintendent Tata shared that the Teacher of the Year Banquet will be held on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Superintendent Tata shared that students are in the midst of taking State tests. He wished them all much success.
- Green Hope High School student, Kera Wagner Clemmons, was awarded a National Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholarship. She will go to Russia to study the language during the summer.
- Wake N.C. State University STEM Early College High School students placed second in North Carolina in the E-Cyber Mission Competition, a national project promoting STEM education. The students’ project involved using solar panels as alternative energy for automobiles.
- Superintendent Tata shared that he is looking forward to Open House on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 p.m. for Richland Creek Elementary School. Parents will be able to meet Dr. Tammie Sexton, principal, who opened Wakelon Elementary School. A video was shown highlighting Richland Creek.

### **Board Members’ Comments**

- Mrs. Kushner congratulated the Broughton High School Golf Team; they won the 4-A Golf State Championship. Broughton’s Golf Team has a freshman who won the individual title for the 4-A Golf Tournament. Mrs. Kushner also congratulated Broughton High School and Sanderson High School for being highly ranked in the US News and World Report for Best High Schools. Broughton was ranked third in the State and Sanderson 12<sup>th</sup> in State.
- Mrs. Evans shared that District 8 had their BAC meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>; there was great discussion regarding the upcoming changes of curriculum to the Common Core Standards. Mrs. Evans thanked Ruth Steidinger for presenting. Mrs. Evans recognized Mr. Jason Cooper, who gave the Commencement Address at North Carolina State University’s Commencement Exercise. Mr. Cooper is a graduate of Wake County Public Schools; he did a great job in addressing the student body. In particular, he spoke at length of the positive influence of his involvement in the performing arts shaping him as a person.
- Mrs. Prickett shared that she attended the graduation ceremony at Appalachian State University during the weekend of May 12<sup>th</sup> to attend her nephew’s graduation where he received his degree in Business. Mrs. Prickett congratulated Chris Malone, Debra Goldman,

and John Tedesco for their recent placements in the upcoming Primary Elections in November.

Mrs. Prickett made the following statement in reference to the budget that was recently passed on a 6 to 3 vote, “*As you recall, Ms. Goldman suggested that the final vote come only after more discussion and possibly another meeting, knowing that the Board had until May 15<sup>th</sup> to cast the final deciding vote. Here we are tonight, on May 15<sup>th</sup> with a huge billion dollar budget going to the County Commissioners with the unresolved fund balance still a key unresolved issue. Knowing that the County Commissioners hold the purse strings to millions of local dollars that support the school system, I think the Board could have made a better effort to relay possible solutions and evaluate the uses of the fund balance. There was plenty of time for more discussion and another meeting on this important topic. I find it interesting that the vote was rushed, knowing that we were in fact meeting tonight.*

*The vote was unique as well, since a 2/3 majority was needed to pass, since adjusting the fund balance policy was at the center and a major factor. My concern, which is still an issue, is that the fund balance situation has still not been resolved or thoroughly vetted. The use of the fund balance was a key component of this particular budget, since money from this fund balance was used to supplement other funding sources that were lost from areas like Federal Grants that were ending.*

*The fund balance has been a topic of contention with the County Commissioners for years with many Boards before us. My goal and hope in delaying the vote until tonight, was to work through the fund balance issues in order to strive for a win-win moving forward. Superintendent Tata and staff did a remarkable job aligning priorities and working out the plan details with clear achievable goals. I support the values that Superintendent Tata delivered with the budget and hope that the County Commissioners will realize the quality work that was involved in the process before it reached the Board.*

*A valuable opportunity was missed in order to build a better relationship with the Commissioners and truly advocate for the needs of the students and staff in the Wake County Public School System.”*

- Mr. Sutton shared that he had the opportunity to attend the Teacher Assistant’s Banquet along with Superintendent Tata. He shared that it was a great opportunity to appreciate and applaud the work that they do; they are often the “unsung heroes” in our school system.
- Mr. Tedesco shared that great things are happening in Garner; the Garner Educational Foundation has released a new website where the community, businesses, citizens, and the schools have all worked collaboratively to provide programs, resources, and scholarships for the schools. They have also announced their summer reading program. Additionally, along with Garner’s Principal of the Year, Drew Cook, Garner is proud to congratulate the Assistant Teacher of the Year, Birgit Plemons. Mr. Tedesco shared that along with the distinguished list that Mrs. Kushner mentioned with Broughton and Sanderson making US News and World Report’s “Top High Schools in the Country List,” the only other school in Wake County that made the list as Honorable Mention, was Garner High School.
- Ms. Goldman congratulated all of the teachers that were honored on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Cary Chamber “Honor a Teacher” Awards. She is looking forward to sharing the list with everyone. She is also looking forward to finding out who the Teacher of the Year will be on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Goldman congratulated the semi-finalists and finalists. Ms. Goldman thanked the Superintendent for another video clip; the visual helps to really share what is going on.

- Dr. Martin thanked Superintendent Tata for joining him at Moore Square Middle School during the week of May 7<sup>th</sup>; he had a great conversation with teachers, parents, PTA members, and the principal. Dr. Martin learned very good things about the Paideia learning environment as well as learned of some of the challenges the school is facing. Dr. Martin announced that there would be a Policy Committee meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> and they will try to begin a practice of making sure that policies being discussed are posted so that feedback can be gained ahead of the meetings as opposed to after the meeting. The Policy Committee will be reviewing the Dual Enrollment Policy.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

Chairman Hill requested to move Consent Item #16, SRO Contract for Town of Cary to the Action Agenda; Action Item #23 Transparency of Board and District Operations was moved to an Information Item. Chairman Hill added an Action Item to the Agenda, a Resolution for Teacher Appreciation Week. A new précis for Item #20, Recommendation of External Audit Contract was given to the Board, and a new précis and back up material was provided for Item # 22, Recommendation for Transportation of Pre-Assigned Students Who Lost Transportation.

There was clarification that both Item #16, and Item #17, SRO Contract for City of Raleigh were being requested to move to the Action Agenda.

Keith Sutton made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. The motion was seconded by Deborah Prickett. The Board voted 8 to 1 to approve the Amended Agenda. Debra Goldman casted the dissenting vote.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT – 6 P.M.**

*Citizens who sign up to address the board during public comment will be called on in priority order first for items on the agenda and then for items not on the agenda. Each individual speaker will be allowed three minutes for remarks. Issues or concerns involving personnel matters are not appropriate for this public comment setting. After 30 minutes of public comment, any speakers remaining will be recognized at the end of the agenda for their comments.*

- **Patty Williams** - Ms. Williams shared that the United States has the biggest most expensive prison system in the world; while we represent 5% of the world's population we incarcerate 25% of the world's inmates. Who inhabits our prison system? Namely school dropouts. At the state prison level, at least 40% of inmates lack a high school diploma or GED compared with 14% of the general adult population. Ms. Williams shared that educational programming in prison is widely seen as a way to rehabilitate prisoners. Ms. Williams shared that it costs more than \$40,000 a year to incarcerate a person in the U.S. Keeping children in school is everyone's responsibility, the better equipped we are to keep children in school the more successful we will be. Ms. Williams shared that SRO's play an important role in keeping students in school. Wake County's SRO's are seen as members of their school's community's. However, everyone needs training appropriate to the job they perform to excel in that job. Ms. Williams further stated that the school district needs to create a true SRO program that provides adequate training for all SROs in areas such as adolescent development, disabilities and mental health issues, behavior management including how to de-escalate students without using excessive or dangerous force, and how to follow positive behavior interventions and supports consistently; alternatives to suspension and court involvement including the availability and use of community-based resources. There should be clear guidelines on when SROs can use force, including the use of handcuffs, pepper

spray, and tazers. An SRO should not make arrests or court referrals for minor incidents defined as our Level 1 and some Level 2 offenses in the Student Code of Conduct. Ms. Williams shared that a well defined program will provide much needed clarity to students, parents, staff, law enforcement, court officials, and advocates. Ms. Williams requested that the Board consider approving an interim three month SRO contract; which will allow time for engaging community advocates to help craft an MOU between Wake County Public Schools and law enforcement agencies supplying SRO's.

- **Maria Reier** – Ms. Reier shared that the Choice Plan has proven itself to be too problematic for Wake County. Ms. Reier declared that the Board was not in compliance with Board Policy 6200; the policy requires that student assignment plans be based on seven factors. The first being, distance- “assignments should be made with consideration of proximity to residence.” The Choice Plan assigned each child to their current school, or for a rising 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grader, to the next level school in their feeder pattern. Was each student’s address looked up and checked for proximity to the school before making the assignment? No, an address was not necessary for the method used; the deciding factor was where they were enrolled and what feeder pattern that school is on. Some assignments were proximate, but for many children, they were not. Ms. Reier stated that if the Choice Plan was based on proximity to residence, and the Choice list represents each student’s proximate schools, how is it that 1,500 students ended up assigned to a school not on their Choice list? After two choice rounds where proximity was considered, 550 students still remain assigned to a school that is not on their Choice list. Ms. Reier reminded the Board that it is their duty to objectively review the countless problems, glitches, delays, computer errors, deceptions, violations, and inequities of the Choice Plan that have been brought to their attention. Ms. Reier requested that the Board take quick action in order to make changes in time for the 2013-14 school year.
- **Christiane Gram** – Ms. Gram shared that she represents many parents of Middle Creek Elementary School and West Lake Middle School. Ms. Gram shared that they are very upset because of the downstream consequences resulting from the School Choice Plan. In order to provide the additional bussing requirements for over 10 different schools serving their community, staff has changed the bell schedules of both schools. The bell schedules are now one and half hours apart at each end which resulted in a drop in their school attendance. The unintended consequences include, conflicts in parents work schedules, financial hardship for families needing extra day care or extra child care, and forced track changes without notice. Ms. Gram shared that during this week, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, parents were called by the administration and were forced to make decisions for track changes within five minutes. Ms. Gram stated that the plan changes were not made available to parents on a timely basis which resulted in a frantic change in making track changes and transfers. Parents that were forced in the track changes no longer have school options available.
- **Shree Chitale** – Mr. Chitale shared that the bell schedule for Middle Creek Elementary is changing by an hour and will impact his family financially. Mr. Chitale selected and continues to send his children to Middle Creek because his family loves the school. When the decision for bell schedules came, he and his family did not have the information or they would have made the decision to move to another school. Mr. Chitale inquired if the Board has looked at other options instead of impacting Middle Creek Elementary and West Lake Middle School’s bell schedules.

- **Claudia Lissowski** – Ms. Lissowski shared the grief that she and her family have experienced with the change of the bell schedule for Middle Creek Elementary School and West Lake Middle School. Ms. Lissowski shared that there will an hour and a half between the starting and ending times. Ms. Lissowski shared that she is not sure how changing the bus schedule will save money if more buses are to be expected to go through neighborhoods.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

John Tedesco made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton. The motion was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- 6. February 21, 2012 - Special Called Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- March 29, 2012 - Joint Board of Education & County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

**FINANCE**

**7. FUND BALANCE ASSIGNED FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

The Wake County Public School System manages its locally funded workers' compensation claims through a self-insurance program. The estimated workers' compensation claims for the remainder of the 2011-12 fiscal year now exceed the available budget established for the year. An additional \$255,000 is required to complete estimated workers' compensation payments for 2011-12. \$2.2 million are currently reserved in an assigned workers' compensation insurance line item in fund balance. Fiscal Implications: The appropriation of \$255,000 of fund balance assigned for workers' compensation claims will leave a remaining fund balance assigned for workers' compensation claims of \$1.95 million. Savings: N/A. Recommendation for Action: Board Approval is requested.

**8. AUDIT COMMITTEE / SELECTION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

In 2006-2007, the Board of Education established an Audit Committee to provide independent expert guidance to the Board in the selection of an external financial audit firm and to review the annual financial audit including the audit findings and recommendations. Policy 8810 establishes criteria for the selection of the Committee members and the term of service. The Board received a list of nominees for the Committee and reviewed the candidates in preparation for the selection of the members. Fiscal Implications: **None**. Savings: N/A. Recommendation for Action: Selection of new Audit Committee members by the Board of Education.

**FACILITIES**

**9. CHANGE ORDERS: CUSTODIAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

RTP Building Maintenance, Inc., Royal Janitorial, Inc. / DBA Facilico, A-K Building Maintenance, LLC, SSC Service Solutions, and Cenplex Building Services, Inc., are providing cleaning services under current contract services agreements. Funds have been encumbered for floor stripping, waxing, and carpet cleaning at school sites, using prices established in the current contracts. The lack of floor stripping, waxing, and carpet cleaning have resulted in perceived unkempt appearances, increased focus on spot cleaning, and accelerated wear to floor and carpet

surfaces. Therefore these change orders are for a one-time cleaning of the floors for all of the schools in the system. Total amount of the five change orders is \$1,842,809.12. Fiscal Implications: Funds in the amount of \$1,842,809.12 are available in the current Custodial Services operating budget. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

#### **10. BIDS: HOLLY SPRINGS HIGH MODULAR ADDITION**

Bids were received on April 18, 2012 for connecting and installing all services (power, water, sewer, data, and ADA access) and interior fit-up for an eight-classroom modular unit at Holly Springs High. The lease for the modular unit was previously approved by the Board on March 6, 2012. Staff and Ross/Deckard Architects, PA, recommend award of the single-prime contract to C. Blake Lewis, Inc., in the amount of \$199,072. Fiscal Implications: Funding for the setup of the unit is available from the total project budget of \$12,518,625, all of which is from the CIP 2006 Ninth Grade Center budget. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

#### **11. BIDS: ATHENS DRIVE HIGH MODULAR ADDITION**

Bids were received on April 19, 2012 for transporting and installing all services (power, water, sewer, data, and ADA access) and interior fit-up for an eight-classroom modular unit at Athens Drive High. This modular unit will be relocated from Wendell Middle. Staff and Ross/Deckard Architects, PA, recommend award of the single-prime contract to Beau Chene Company, LLC, in the amount of \$330,500. Fiscal Implications: Funding for the setup of the unit is available from the total project budget of \$12,518,625, all of which is from the CIP 2006 Ninth Grade Center budget. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

#### **12. DESIGN CONSULTANT WAIVER AND AGREEMENT: WAKE YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY AND WAKE YOUNG MEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY AT GOVERNOR MOREHEAD SCHOOL**

In accordance with the modified spending plan approved at the February 7, 2012 Board meeting, projects are being planned with the available savings in CIP 2006, including the Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy and the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy at the Governor Morehead School (GMS). This resolution is presented to waive the traditional designer selection process and to select Pearce Brinkley Cease & Lee Architecture, PA, for the design of this school. This request is in accordance with NCGS 143-64.32, which allows exemptions to the statutory selection process. This designer has previously done various major renovation projects for WCPSS and performed well. The specific reason for this exemption is that this designer is familiar with the NC State Construction Office, which will approve design and construction at the GMS, and part of their design team is familiar with this facility. In addition, this waiver will shorten the design time and help expedite the project. Staff recommends selection of Pearce Brinkley Cease & Lee Architecture, PA. Negotiations have been completed with Pearce Brinkley Cease & Lee Architecture, PA, for the design. The form of agreement is the standard form approved by the Board attorney. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the \$3,582,218 currently appropriated for the Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy and the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy. This includes compensation for the design consultant of \$252,000, which will be split evenly between the two projects. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

## **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

### **13. CONTRACT WITH HILLTOP HOME (COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CENTER)**

Hilltop Home, a Community Residential Center, provides special education and related services to students with special needs. The state assists with the cost of these services by providing funding for students served in community residential centers. Fiscal Implications: The State of North Carolina provides categorical monies totaling \$16,379.00 per child, per year, for children ages three (3) through twenty one (21) served in community residential centers. In addition, each year, the state provides \$50.00 per child per year for needed supplies and materials. Funding from the state in the amount of \$262, 864.00 (or approved state Community Residential rate) is to be used for these services. Savings: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board is requested.

### **14. SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AT CENTENNIAL CAMPUS MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL HOSTS A LEADERSHIP DAY WITH SCHOOL PARTNERS**

- The Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy, Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy and Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School wants to partner with Centennial Campus Magnet Middle School's Summer Leadership Institute to offer a leadership seminar on June 28, 2012 on the school's campus.
- Cost for student participants \$30 for the day.
- Scholarships available through partner donations.
- Lunch provided for the day.
- Transportation will not be provided.
- Activities include: Team building activities, guest leadership speakers, daily physical activity through leadership games and service learning experience
- Staffed by teachers from each school who will be funded through the school's income from the institute fees.

Fiscal Implications: None to WCPSS-all costs covered with camp fees. Savings: N/A.  
Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

## **TRANSFORMATION**

### **15. GRANTS**

- Entitlement (#20612): PRC 017 – US Department of Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, Career and Technical Education Program Improvement / Central Services.
- Entitlement (#20712): PRC 103 – US Department of Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, Improving Teacher Quality / Central Services.
- Entitlement (#20812): PRC 104 – US Department of Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, Language Acquisition Grant / Central Services.
- Entitlement (#20912): PRC 049 – US Department of Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, IDEA Title VI-B Preschool Handicapped / Central Services.
- Entitlement (#21012): PRC 060 – US Department of Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, IDEA Title VI-B Handicapped / Central Services.
- Competitive (#21112): Target Corporation, Target School Library Makeover Program / Individual Schools.



- Competitive (#21212): National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), NC Homeless Education Program (NCHEP), NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office (NCHSSCO), NC School District, Head Start Program,/ Central Services

Fiscal Implications: Any required cash and/or in-kind matching contributions vary by grant program. Savings: Grant funding supplements existing resources. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**18. RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

- A. Professional
- B. Support

**19. REQUEST FOR LEAVE(S)**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**BOARD**

**23. TRANSPARENCY OF BOARD AND DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

New Policy; First Reading.

Board members will discuss Ms. Goldman’s proposal introduced at the last Board meeting regarding transparency of board and district operations. The proposal has been formatted as a new board policy at the recommendation of Board Attorney, Ann Majestic. Fiscal Implications: Undetermined. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Debra Goldman presented information to the Board. Ms. Goldman shared that the importance of the policy is to bring forward true transparency in the Wake County Public School System. As staff continues to move forward in updating the website, they need more direction if the Board is going to encourage them to move forward. The purpose is to be transparent in the truest sense of the word to the public.

Keith Sutton shared that the process to bring the item forward circumvents the process of it going to the Policy Committee. Mr. Sutton shared that some of the information in the proposed policy is currently in policy and that the information would be served better by going through the Policy Committee so that the Board can properly address them. Keith Sutton made a motion to refer the item to the Policy Committee for further review. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans.

Ms. Goldman shared that she did not have a problem discussing the item in Policy Committee, if the confirmation of the Chair and the Chair of the Committee that the item be placed on the next Policy Committee agenda. Ms. Goldman shared that it is important to have the policy available for staff going forward.

Mr. Sutton shared that the agenda for the next Policy Committee meeting was already set and could not guarantee that the recommendation would be addressed at that meeting. Dr. Martin shared that the agenda was set by the Leadership and the committee was asked to work on the Dual Enrollment Policy, addressing the issues around families with professional leave, and have

been indirectly told to begin working on the grading policy. The agenda takes directives from Leadership, and at this time Dr. Martin stated that he could not guarantee that the recommendation would be on the Policy Committee agenda. Dr. Martin shared that it is critical for the Board to hear from staff.

Mr. Tedesco shared that the process was different in setting committee agendas; that the Leadership did not set the agenda, but that the staff, Chair, and Vice Chair of the committee set the agenda. Mr. Tedesco stated that the Superintendent, Chair and Vice Chair single-handedly setting committee agendas seems to usurp the process of creating a committee chair and vice chair. Mr. Sutton shared that part of the effort is to streamline the process, limit redundancy, and manage staff time spent on many of the issues. The Leadership works with the chairs of the committees and items can come from the Board Work Session as well as from Leadership.

Mrs. Prickett shared that Mr. Tedesco made a good point about the process being different. Mrs. Prickett shared that when Ms. Goldman was Chair of the Policy Committee, she was very open to entertaining items from the Board. Mrs. Prickett also saw Ms. Goldman's point of having information accessible and open to the public.

Mr. Malone shared that that he supports streamlining the process; on behalf of civility, that the two members of the Policy Committee come together and get the recommendation to the committee as soon as possible. Mr. Malone shared that Ms. Goldman is right that the recommendation is an important piece of policy and that the Board needs to address it.

Mrs. Kushner shared that the Wake County Public School System was the only school district in the state that received a "B" for transparency from the John Locke Foundation. Mrs. Kushner shared that the WCPSS is starting from a solid foundation as a transparent school system. When the Board meets at its retreat next week, Mrs. Kushner would like to talk about transparency as a Board and how the Board communicates.

Chairman Hill shared that as Chair; he will exercise his right and assign the recommendation to the Policy Committee. Chairman Hill requested that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy Committee moves the recommendation along as expeditiously as possible.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **FINANCE**

#### **20. RECOMMENDATION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACT**

Board Policy 8210 requires an annual independent financial audit of the Wake County Public School System. The audit is put to bid every three years to maintain a competitive environment. The current contract for the external financial audit has run its three-year course and the finance department bid the contract for fiscal years 2012, 2013 and 2014 this spring. Staff reviewed proposals and presented responses to the Audit Committee for final recommendation. The attached audit firm is the final recommendation of the Audit Committee. Fiscal Implications: Funds are available in the 2012-13 budget. Savings: N/A. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Mark Winters, Finance Officer, shared that last year was the conclusion of a three-year

agreement for the district's financial audit and staff released a request for proposal for external audit services on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with responses due back to the school system on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Winters shared that per Board Policy; the school system is not required to bid this service, however, staff made the decision to bid out the services to maintain a competitive environment which has been the school system's practice for many years.

Nine firms returned proposals including eight from North Carolina and one from Georgia. Staff, including Accounting, Finance, and the Chief Business Officer, reviewed the proposals and prepared a grid listing each firm's experience and credentials. The Audit Committee that the Board selected at the last Board Meeting, met Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> to review the proposals.

Staff included all the firms in the presentation to the Audit Committee and recommended three finalists for review. Staff believes that all three of the finalists have the expertise and experience to perform the audit. After review and discussion of the three finalists, the Audit Committee agreed unanimously to recommend Rives and Associates as the External Auditors for the school system.

The recommendation is for a three-year contract renewable on a one-year basis. If the Board, staff, or Audit Committee, is not satisfied with the audit, they can place the audit out for bid at any time.

Ms. Goldman questioned the size of the staff of the audit team. Mr. Winters replied that there are approximately 18 team members in the office.

Mr. Tedesco shared that he is not familiar with the group, but questioned if there were significant reasons why staff chose to move to this group from the school system's last group. Of the schools that Rives works with, Mr. Tedesco does not see any district that they have worked with to the scale and size of Wake County. Mr. Winters shared that Rives has great experience and they understand the process. Mr. Winters also shared that there will be a new set of eyes reviewing the information and it is not a bad idea to turn around auditors every so often. Mr. Winters also shared that their qualifications are the same as the other firms. Rives has not audited as large a school district as WCPSS, but have been in other school districts doing other projects than a full audit. Mr. Winters shared that Rives' staffing plan was strong enough and is giving WCPSS more partner time than the previous auditors. The cost is 23% less than the competitors.

Mr. Sutton shared that the committee felt that the firm's experience in terms of state laws, regulations, and fund codes as well as cost, continuity, and a fresh set of eyes made the firm a top candidate. Mr. Sutton shared that the committee was unanimous in the selection of the firm.

John Tedesco made a motion to accept the recommendation of the external audit contract. The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **TRANSFORMATION**

### **21. WAKE YOUNG MEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Staff recommends the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy be assigned to the modular campus adjacent to East Millbrook Middle School. Fiscal Implications: N/A. Savings:

N/A. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

Ann Dishong shared that the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy would house 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2012-13 school year at approximately 150 students. The Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy would be the only academy on the campus.

John Tedesco made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to house the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy on the modular campus adjacent to East Millbrook Middle School. The motion was seconded by Chris Malone. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **BOARD**

### **22. RECOMMENDATION FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PRE-ASSIGNED STUDENTS WHO LOST TRANSPORTATION**

Board members will discuss Dr. Martin's motion regarding pre-assigned students who lost transportation in the choice selection student assignment plan. Fiscal Implications: Undetermined. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

James Overman, Student Assignment Task Force Member, shared a copy of verbiage that was crafted to address the issue of transportation for the students who lost transportation. Mr. Overman read the following, "WCPSS shall provide transportation, when it can be provided with adjustments to existing routes, to all fifth and eighth grade students currently receiving district transportation who are pre-assigned without transportation for the 2012-13 school year OR offer a student a seat in one of the schools on his/her proximity choice list with transportation."

Mrs. Kushner shared her concern of this issue not reaching the students who were transfer students at an elementary school without transportation (which was the rule that was before) and placed on a feeder pattern to a school that they may not have transportation. Under the previous transfer policy, students did not feed anywhere. Mrs. Kushner shared that she would think that parent's expectation would be that the transfer would be terminal with that elementary or middle school. Mrs. Kushner has a concern that those students are assigned to a school without transportation and are not receiving it.

Ms. Goldman offered the suggestion of the wording rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students rather than stating all 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students which may eliminate any confusion.

Dr. Martin stated that he shared Mrs. Kushner's concern and made a motion to strike "when it can be provided" and then offered the following, "WCPSS shall provide transportation, making every effort to accommodate such with existing routes to all fifth and eighth graders..." and instead of stating, "OR offer that student a seat in one of the schools on his/her proximity choice list with transportation", that it reads "OR offer that student a seat in one of the schools on his/her regional choice schools with transportation."

Mr. Tedesco shared that he could support staff's recommendation as it was read by Mr. Overman, although he disagrees with making significant changes to it that would mandate and tie staff's hands.

Ms. Goldman shared that she agreed with Mr. Tedesco and that she feels that language that was shared is usurping the Policy Committee and the entire discussion had on policy earlier. Ms.

Goldman shared that she has great difficulty with this coming forward in the form of a motion and sees no reason that the Board can't discuss it and agree that this is a good way to go forward.

Mrs. Evans shared that it is extremely important to give very clear directions to the staff about this situation, she is not sure that this motion as it is written does that. She tends to agree with Dr. Martin that what's worded is not significantly different from what's in practice currently. Mrs. Evans thinks that families are looking to the Board to give them some certainty with the transition of the new plan; with a lot of people caught in the middle looking for a definitive answer. Mrs. Evans shared that the Board needs to specifically say that the county is going to provide transportation for all students who have been pre-assigned to a school, if we are not able to seat them at a school on their choice list. Mrs. Evans shared that she finds it unacceptable that the school district would pre-define a student's assignment and then say that we may not give you transportation. Mrs. Evans still supports specific language that states that the district will provide transportation to all rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders to their pre-assigned school.

Mrs. Prickett shared that the Board should be supporting families and does not feel that a motion or policy for something like this is necessary; it feels like the Board is micro-managing staff.

Mr. Malone shared that he agrees with his colleagues that this item did not have to be voted on, but to give staff proper direction. Chris Malone made a substitute motion to accept staff's recommendation, with Ms. Goldman's changes of adding rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> students instead of 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The motion was seconded by Debra Goldman.

Mrs. Kushner offered a friendly amendment, to strike the words, "currently receiving district transportation" so that it reads that this will affect all rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are pre-assigned without transportation for the 2012-13 school year. Mrs. Kushner read the entire statement to include her friendly amendment as follows, "WCPSS shall provide transportation when it can be provided with adjustments to existing routes to all rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are pre-assigned without transportation for the 2012-13 school year OR offer that student a seat in one of the schools on his/her proximity choice list with transportation."

The Board Recessed at 7:13 p.m. to allow for staff discussion. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:39 p.m.

Mr. Overman shared that based on the request that Mrs. Kushner made, staff was able to do a quick analysis and determined that it would add additional students. Currently, the situation involves 470 students; the revision in the wording would impact 1,039 students.

Mr. Malone shared that under those circumstances, he cannot accept the friendly amendment.

Mrs. Kushner reiterated that if an assignment has been made for student to a school, and the student does not have transportation, and that parent has no option or way of getting the student to school, how can the Board allow that assignment to hold? It is not acceptable.

Susan Pullium, Student Assignment Task Force Member, shared that the 470 students are students that today are attending one of their base or calendar application schools with transportation; because of the feeder pattern assignment, ended up assigned to a school that's no longer on their choice list. When staff looked at striking the language "currently receiving district transportation", the Board expanded the list to include any current 5<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who is attending a school without transportation by parent request.

Laura Evans, Senior Director of Student Assignment shared that staff started out addressing the 470 students who today, have transportation, but are pre-assigned without. Staff would like to provide transportation on an existing route or try to get them a seat in their proximity schools. The conversation switched to talking about students who didn't have transportation and have been pre-assigned without transportation. Ms. Evans shared that there will be students who are on a transfer today, that will have changes in circumstances that they are going to put in for a transfer request and ask to go to a school in their proximity list because they need bus transportation. Ms. Evans shared that if the Board separates the two groups, and keep the 470 as discussed; staff will reach out to those parents personally; any other students who need a school on their proximity list, staff should work with them because there is no other way for them to get to school.

Superintendent Tata shared that in terms of transportation, staff is taking costs into consideration in moving forward; however where necessary, staff will make the accommodations so that every child in the 470 list is taken care of. As staff moves forward, the students will either be placed on an existing route in their choice list or if there is some delta remaining that doesn't work there will be something that staff will do that may incur a cost. The transportation cost for the plan are 5 -25 additional buses.

Mr. Sutton made the following substitute motion, "WCPSS shall make every effort to provide transportation when it can, to all rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders who have been pre-assigned OR provide that student a seat in one of the schools on his/her proximity choice list. This option shall remain in effect for the duration of the student's current grade span."

Ms. Goldman shared that she had concern with the last sentence, "that this shall stay in effect until the end of the grade span." Ms. Goldman feels as though that is obligating something going forward; if there are other changes to the plan, then the Board has locked that in.

Mr. Overman shared that the only question that staff has is, there was not verbiage in terms of without transportation. Mr. Overman shared that in terms of the overall concept, staff is close and can do the concept, however, there are questions regarding "every effort" and working those issues out so that it can be as specific and clear as possible.

Chris Malone re-stated the following motion to call the question, "WCPSS shall provide transportation when it can be provided with adjustment to existing routes to all rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students currently receiving district transportation who are pre-assigned without transportation for the 2012-13 school year OR offer the student a seat in one of the schools on his/her proximity choice list with transportation to call the question. The Board voted 7 to 2 to call the question and vote. Christine Kushner and Susan P. Evans casted the dissenting votes. The motion passed to call the question. The Board then voted on Chris Malone's motion with Debra Goldman, John Tedesco, Keith Sutton, Kevin L. Hill, Chris Malone, and Deborah

Prickett voting “yes” and Jim Martin, Christine Kushner, and Susan P. Evans voting “no”. The motion passed on a 6 to 3 vote.

**16. SRO CONTRACT FOR TOWN OF CARY**

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:

Cary High School	Middle Creek High School
Green Hope High School	Panther Creek High School

Fiscal Implications: Funding for this contract, in the amount of \$151,352.00 (\$37,838.00 per school), is available through At-Risk fund 69 for the 2012-13 school year. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

Russ Smith, Senior Director of Security, shared that the contract was brought before the Board at the May 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. Staff was asked to review other contracts that other agencies used in order for the district to model. Mr. Smith did review a document that was supplied as a potential model for WCPSS, which came from the Clayton County Georgia School District.

Mr. Smith shared that the particular document that was provided was not a contract but was a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement, which is similar to the one currently in place with the nine agencies that supply SROs for the district’s schools. Mr. Smith shared that he was pleased when he reviewed the document. It was very comprehensive and had a lot in common with what is already in place in the district; however, there were differences.

The Clayton County Georgia Memorandum of Understanding was an agreement between the school system and one agency that provided all of the SROs for all of their middle and high schools. The financial arrangement was also included; where the school district funded 100% of the middle school SROs and the high school SROs as opposed to what WCPSS currently funds.

Mr. Smith shared that currently, the Town of Cary provides 4 SROs in WCPSS high schools at the cost of \$352,778 for the four officers, with WCPSS paying \$151,352. In the middle schools which are not covered in the current contract, the Town of Cary provides SROs for 6 middle schools at the cost of \$491,638 in which WCPSS pays zero percent of the cost for the officers.

Mr. Smith requested approval of the contract as written, but to review the current Memorandum of Understanding.

Debra Goldman made a motion to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by John Tedesco.

Mr. Smith shared that there are several items he would like added to the Memorandum of Understanding including the Annual SRO Summit, the need for the school system to obtain data from the law enforcement agencies in reference to the use of force, as well as for the school system to maintain and collect data in reference to juvenile petitions and referrals to law enforcement.

Mrs. Prickett shared that in the school system; students are treated as minors, but if something happens to them at a school, they are treated as adults in court. Mrs. Prickett shared that the

information surrounding this topic should be considered as a Legislative Agenda item.

Dr. Martin shared that he wanted to encourage staff to work with the community as they move forward with a new Memorandum of Understanding; specific issues with use of force and being referred too early to the justice system carried out by SROs.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the contract.

#### **17. SRO CONTRACT FOR CITY OF RALEIGH**

This contract will be made with the City of Raleigh to provide school resource officers at each of the following high schools:

Athens Drive High School	Millbrook High School
Broughton High School	Sanderson High School
Enloe High School	Southeast Raleigh High School
Longview/Phillips High School	Wakefield High School
Leesville High School	

Fiscal Implications: Funding for this contract, in the amount of \$340,542.00 (\$37,838.00 per school), is available through At-Risk fund 69 for the 2012-2013 school year.

Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

Debra Goldman made a motion to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Deborah Prickett. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **BOARD**

#### **24. TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK RESOLUTION**

Chairman Hill read the following resolution,

**WHEREAS**, teachers make public schools exceptional by working tirelessly to serve our children and the community with the utmost professionalism; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers work to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge, dreams, and new possibilities for the future; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators and mentors; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers continue to seek methods to ensure all students graduate on time prepared for the future; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers influence us long after our school days are only memories;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wake County Public School System and the Wake County Board of Education wish to honor and thank teachers for their commitment and dedication to ensuring that all children receive a quality education.



John Tedesco made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

John Tedesco made a motion to go into Closed Session at 8:28 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) and 115C-319 and to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the Board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3). The motion was seconded by Deborah Prickett. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **ACTION ITEMS CONT'D**

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **24. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)**

John Tedesco made a motion to approve the following Administrative Appointment(s):

- (1). Kelly Aman, Assistant Principal at Millbrook High School to Principal at West Millbrook Middle School effective 6/11/12.
- (2). Larae Butcher, Applicant to Assistant Principal at Longview School effective 7/1/12.
- (3). Julie Cutler, 2011-2012 Terminating Assistant Principal at Davis Drive Elementary School to Assistant Principal at Davis Drive Elementary School effective 8/1/12.
- (4). Wendel Evans, Senior Administrator in Student Due Process to Assistant Principal at Rolesville Middle School effective 6/1/12.
- (5). Heather Johnson, Instructional Resource Teacher at West Lake Elementary School to Assistant Principal at Oak Grove Elementary School effective 5/22/12.
- (6). Richard Pruette, 2011-2012 Terminating Assistant Principal at East Cary Middle School to Assistant Principal at East Cary Middle School effective 7/1/12.
- (7). Tierre Ramsey, Applicant to Assistant Principal at Durant Road Middle School effective 5/21/12.
- (8). Erin Swanson, Assistant Principal Intern at Combs Elementary School to Interim Assistant Principal at Combs Elementary School effective 5/16/12.

The motion was seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:42 p.m. on a motion by Debra Goldman. The motion was seconded by Chris Malone. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Closed Session at 8:44 p.m. on a motion by John Tedesco. The motion was seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before the Board, Debra Goldman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Malone. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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Anthony J. Tata, Superintendent, WCPSS

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Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary