



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 20, 2014**

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

Chairwoman Kushner called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Chair’s Comments**

Chairwoman Kushner shared comments related to attending Lake Myra Elementary School’s Leadership Day, attending the Teacher of Year Celebration during the week of May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Cary Chamber of Commerce recognizing teachers in Western Wake County in an event last week, and the Teacher Assistant of the Year event being held last week.

**Superintendent’s Comments**

Dr. Merrill shared comments related to May 30<sup>th</sup> being the Strategic Plan kick-off date, the free event will be held at Memorial Auditorium from 6:30-8:30 p.m. featuring David Houle; the Letterland event held at Pullen Park on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>- the event was the result of WCPSS Literacy staff working with elementary schools, Wake Up and Read, and Raleigh Parks and Recreation, the event was a huge success; the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of the Magnet Schools of America will be held in Raleigh in April 2015; Jeffreys Grove Elementary School being highlighted for its Spanish Immersion Program on May 13<sup>th</sup> through six English and Spanish language media outlets and was shared statewide and in South Carolina.

**Board Members’ Comments**

Board members shared comments related to congratulating the magnet schools for being recognized; attending and sharing comments at Garner’s Education Awards ceremony that honored teachers, teacher assistants, retirees, and administrators; the District 2 Board Advisory Council Meeting that occurred on May 13<sup>th</sup>; thanking the Cary Chamber for organizing the event that recognizes teachers in the Western Wake County area; attending Lake Myra’s inaugural Leadership Day; recognizing all teachers that were nominated for Wake County Teacher of the Year; recognizing the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education Ruling; attending the Teacher Assistant of the Year event in Cary; attending a meeting at Millbrook High school regarding the Exchange Program with the Beijing Royal School in Beijing, China - four juniors will spend their year in Beijing and Millbrook will have students from Beijing; budget constraints and budget

requests, presenting awards to Park Scholarship recipients; the numerous students who have received full scholarships to colleges and universities in and out of state; speaking at the celebration for Combs Elementary School receiving the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Distinguished Merit Award from Magnet Schools of America, attending the awards ceremony at Leesville Road High School; and visiting the Letterland event at Pullen Park.

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

Chairwoman Kushner stated that item #27, Recommendation for Contract Renewals will be an Action Item instead of an Information Item after Closed Session

Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher. Bill Fletcher made a motion to amend the Meeting Agenda so that the Board would be able to vote on version #9 of the 2015-2016 Instructional Calendars – Traditional, Multi-Track, Year-Round, Modified in Item #22. The motion was accepted by Kevin L. Hill and seconded by Susan P. Evans. The Board voted unanimously to approve the amended Agenda.

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

- Barry Schwartz
- Mevan Jayasooriya
- Rabbi Lucy Dinner
- Qasima Wideman
- Bryan Perlmutter
- Luyang Liang
- Sanyu Gichie
- Monserrat Alvarez
- Ajamu Dillahunt

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

#### **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

#### **6. BOARD COMMENDATION FOR SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED BY MAGNET SCHOOLS OF AMERICA AS “SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION” OR “SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE”**

Dr. Beth Cochran, Senior Director for Magnet & Curriculum Enhancement Programs presented the schools to the Board for recognition. The following schools were recognized as 2014 National Magnet Schools of Distinction;

- Bugg Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary School
- Douglas Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary School
- East Garner Magnet Middle School, IBO World School
- Garner Magnet High School, IBO World School
- Ligon Gifted & Talented/Academically & Intellectually Gifted Basics Magnet Middle School
- Martin Gifted and Talented Magnet Middle School
- Smith Magnet Elementary School, IBO World School
- Millbrook Magnet High School, IBO Word School
- Underwood Gifted and Talented Magnet Elementary School
- Wendell Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary School
- Enloe Gifted and Talented Magnet High School, IBO World School

- Wiley International Studies Magnet Elementary School

The following schools were recognized at 2014 National Magnet Schools of Excellence;

- Centennial Campus University Connections and Leadership Magnet Middle School
- Conn Active Learning and Technology Magnet Elementary School
- Carnage Gifted and Talented/Academically & Intellectually gifted Basics Magnet Middle School
- Farmington Woods Magnet Elementary School, IBO World School
- Fuller Gifted and Talented/Academically & Intellectually Gifted Basics Magnet Elementary School
- Hunter Gifted and Talented/ Academically & Intellectually Gifted Basics Magnet Elementary School
- Millbrook Magnet Elementary School, IBO World School
- Powell Gifted and Talented Magnet Elementary School
- Southeast Raleigh Leadership and Technology Magnet High School
- Washington Gifted and Talented Magnet Elementary School
- Zebulon Elementary Gifted and Talented Magnet Elementary School

Cathy Moore, Deputy Superintendent for School Performance presented the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Distinguished Merit Award to A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School. Combs is the only school to receive the award twice.

The Board recessed at 6:51 p.m. The Board returned to Open Session at 6:54 p.m.

## **BOARD**

### **7. BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRS REPORT**

- Patty Williams and Patty Dressen, District 8 Board Advisory Council Chairs presented their report to the Board. The Chairs highlighted events and discussions from their district.
- Lynn Edmonds, District 5 Board Advisory Council Chair presented the report to the Board. Ms. Edmonds highlighted events and discussions from the district.
- Larissa Moore, District 1 Board Advisory Council Chair presented the report to the Board. Ms. Moore highlighted events and discussions from the district.
- Mary Jane Swecker, District 6 Board Advisory Council Chair presented the report to the Board. Ms. Swecker highlighted events and discussions from the district.
- Julie Roseland, District 9 Board Advisory Council Chair presented the report to the Board. Ms. Roseland highlighted events and discussions from the district.
- Sheneshia Fitts, District 2 Board Advisory Council Chair shared a brief summary and highlights from their first meeting.

Chairwoman Kushner thanked the Board Advisory Council Chairs for attending and sharing their reports.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve the Consent Items. The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton and unanimously approved.

## ACTION ITEMS

### SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

#### **22. 2015-2016 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDARS – TRADITIONAL, MULTI-TRACK YEAR-ROUND, MODIFIED**

Cathy Moore, Deputy Superintendent for School Performance shared that the 2015-2016 calendars were presented at two work sessions and the Student Achievement Committee meeting for discussion. Ms. Moore requested approval of the version #9 calendar for the 2015-2016 traditional, multi-track year-round, and modified school year. Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin. The Board voted 8 to 1 to approve the calendar. Bill Fletcher casted the dissenting vote. The motion passed.

### BOARD

#### **23. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jim Martin read the resolution as follows;

**WHEREAS**, On May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren, writing for the majority of the Supreme Court of the United States stated:

*“Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him [or her] for later professional learning training, and in helping him [or her] to adjust normally to his [or her] environment. In these days it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he [or she] is denied the opportunity of an education.” And*

**Whereas**, that Court ruled that

*“Where a State has undertaken to provide an opportunity for an education in its public schools, such an opportunity is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms;”*  
And *“The ‘separate but equal’ doctrine... has no place in the field of public education;”* And

**Whereas**, Section 15 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of North Carolina enshrines that:

*“The people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right;”* And

**Whereas**, the 60 years following this landmark ruling has yielded a legacy of parallel progress and disappointment; African American student achievement has increased but achievement gaps persist, reflecting a complicated reality that extends far beyond the reach of traditional education policies for which it is difficult to integrate classrooms when the communities where children live are still significantly segregated;

#### **Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,**

The Wake County Board of Education, on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic Brown vs. Board of Education ruling, affirms the continuing vitality and application of the teachings set forth in Brown vs. Board and hereby states its commitment to building equity of

opportunity for all students.

ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

Jim Martin made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans. Mr. Sutton shared comments related to a recent study by the UCLA Civil Rights Project entitled “Brown at 60, Great Progress, A Long Retreat, And An Uncertain Future.”

Keith Sutton made a motion to add a whereas clause to the resolution that not only speaks to the level of segregation experienced by African-American students in the past, but also the increase in segregation of Latino students. The clause was read, “Whereas, according to UCLA’s Civil Rights Project, segregation is typically segregation by both race and poverty. Black and Latino students tend to be in schools with a substantial majority of poor children. A half century of research shows that many forms of unequal opportunity are linked to segregation. Further, research also finds that desegregated education has substantial benefits for educational and later life outcomes for students from all backgrounds.”

Jim Martin shared that he supported the addition; Kevin L. Hill seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the language from the UCLA study that would be added to the resolution that was offered by Keith Sutton. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the revised Resolution.

## **24. WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION 2014 SHORT SESSION LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Board discussed and revised the 2014 Short Session Legislative Agenda during its work session previously in the day. Keith Sutton made a motion to approve the Proposed 2014 Short Session Legislative Proposed Agenda. The motion was seconded by Monika Johnson-Hostler and unanimously approved.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Keith Sutton made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:30 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), and to consider confidential student information protected under G.S. 115C-402 and the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill and unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:28 p.m.

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

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented the Human Resources report. Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve the Human Resources Report. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin. Bill Fletcher recused himself from the vote for personal reasons. The motion was unanimously approved.

**27. RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTRACT RENEWAL(S)**

Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented the recommendation for contract renewals. Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve the recommendations. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business coming before the Board, Kevin L. Hill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was properly seconded unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 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