



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2014**

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

Chairwoman Kushner called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair’s Comments

Chairwoman Kushner shared comments related to the Board of Commissioners Public Hearing held on June 2nd regarding the budget and the resolution that the Commissioners passed in regards to increasing teacher supplements. Chairwoman Kushner shared that the County’s budget does include the requested \$10 million for added programs. She also shared that she would like for the Board members to continue to advocate for Wake County Public School System employees to be taken care. She also shared proposals on the budget from the Governor, the Senate, and that the House would release their version of a budget proposal later in the week. Chair Kushner shared that the school system has been good stewards of taxpayer dollars and have been stretching resources and wonders if the district has been stretched to a breaking point. She asked that legislators fund real salary increases for the people who serve public school children.

Chair Kushner shared that graduations began last week, both Wake Early College of Health and Science and Southeast Raleigh High School celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2014.

Chair Kushner also recognized the kick-off of the Strategic Plan that was held on May 29th and working collaboratively with the community through the process.

Superintendent Comments

Dr. Merrill shared his appreciation of those who attended the formal kick-off of the strategic plan; focus group discussions are completed and plans are in the making for an open invitation to an online survey beginning June 9th. A large town hall meeting is being planned for early August followed by the actual writing of the plan.

Dr. Merrill shared that WCPSS will award diplomas to 9,472 students in twenty-five ceremonies running through June 12th of this year. The Class of 2014 earned \$95.6 million in scholarships and 1,730 qualified for the N.C. Scholars Program and lists more than 1,600 honor graduates among the group. Four seniors earned the Park Scholarship, one senior earned the Morehead Cain Scholarship, six seniors earned corporate sponsored National Merit Scholarships, and nine seniors earned

National Merit scholarships. A number of schools reported students who had earned military academy appointments to the Naval, Air Force, and Coast Guard Academies, and to West Pointe. Dr. Merrill congratulated all graduates and their families. Dr. Merrill made closing comments regarding the state budget.

Board Members' Comments

Board members shared comments related to congratulating the graduates of 2014, attending graduations that already occurred, sincerely thanking all teachers and front line professionals for making the graduation process possible each year, thanking teaching professionals for their work this year, teachers at Apex High School who on May 21st, petitioned for better pay for all school employees, attending the County Commissioners Public Hearing on the budget, attending a Memorial Day observance at Holly Grove Elementary on May 23rd, attending Highcroft Elementary Schools' 10th anniversary celebration on May 30th, budgets from the State and the County, attending a community forum at Martin Street Baptist Church on May 29th regarding the WCPSS SRO MOU, and thanking the staff at Rolesville High School for their work during a cheerleading competition on May 29th.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Chair Kushner added to the Agenda for Closed Session, to consider the school safety components of school improvement plans under N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(8). Chair Kushner moved items #40, Recommendation for Administrative Appointments, #41 One Year Renewable Contracts, and #42 Administrative Transfers to Action before returning to Closed Session. Susan P. Evans made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. The motion was seconded by Monika Johnson-Hostler and unanimously approved.

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

- Qasima Wideman
- Tavon Bridges
- Elena Ehrlich
- Monserrat Alvarez
- Bryan Perlmutter
- Selina Garcia
- Sanyu Gichie
- Tamara Young
- Tanasaya Futrell
- Vickie Adamson
- Fernando Martinez
- Adam Geringer

The Board recessed at 6:53 p.m. The Board returned to Open Session at 6:56 p.m.

RECOGNITION ITEM

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

6. 2014 VALEDICTORIANS

Crystal Reardon, Director of Counseling and Student Services, presented the WCPSS's 2014 Valedictorians. Twenty-seven students were recognized as their school's 2014 valedictorian. Chairwoman Kushner congratulated the valedictorians on their successful school careers.

INFORMATION ITEM

CHIEF OF STAFF

7. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Dr. Marvin Connelly Jr, Chief of Staff and Strategic Planning, shared that the district has had a collaborative School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding since July 1, 2009, with a date of expiration of June 30, 2014. The district received community feedback about the School Resource Officer Program and the components in the MOU. Staff has also collaborated with law enforcement agencies from all local jurisdictions in the development of the MOU to obtain feedback on the proposed draft. Staff will come back to the Board on June 17th to request Board approval.

Board members commended staff and counsel for what has been done with the thirteen different agencies for the collaborative MOU. Board members thanked the community for their input and that the spirit of what the Board wanted was placed into the MOU.

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

FACILITIES

39. OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT FOR SALE OF 80.802 ACRES OF SURPLUS PROPERTY: FORESTVILLE ROAD

Betty Parker, Director of Real Estate Services, shared that the Board of Education owns an 80.802 acre tract of land located at 2618 Forestville Road in Raleigh. The tract was initially acquired for location of a high school and elementary school, previously referred to as H-6. The Board declared it as surplus and ordered its sale in August 2011. At the Board's November 7, 2011 meeting, the Wake County Board of Commissioners confirmed that it had no interest in acquiring the property. After advertisement of the property for sale, the Board received and approved an offer in June of 2013 for approximately \$3.8 million which went through the upset bid process and was increased to a final contract price of approximately \$4.2 million. The contract was terminated at the end of the due diligence period. Since that time, staff has received three more offers. Terms and Conditions of an Offer to Purchase and Contract have been reached to sell to JEN North Carolina 1, LLC, at a purchase price of \$50,000 per acre for a total purchase price of \$4,040,100. Staff requested the Board's consideration and approval of the conditions and terms of the contract conditioned upon and subject to completion of the upset bid process.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Tom Benton and unanimously approved.

HUMAN RESOURCES

40. 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 incorporating the amendment that was added. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin and unanimously approved.

41. ONE YEAR RENEWABLE CONTRACTS

Susan P. Evans made a motion to approve the contracts. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill and unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEM

HUMAN RESOURCES

42. ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER(S)

No action was taken.

CLOSED SESSION

Jim Martin made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m. for the same reasons outlined before from the Work Session. The motion also notes that one item is to review the safety components of the school improvement plan. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher and unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Board, Tom Benton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Monika Johnson-Hostler and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kushner, Board Chair

James G. Merrill, Superintendent

Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary