



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 19, 2007**

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Members Present</u>	
Patti Head, Chair	Superintendent Del Burns	Julye Mizelle
Lori Millberg	Terri Cobb	David Neter
Carol Parker	Danny Barnes	Bev White
Horace Tart	Maurice Boswell	Jonibel Willis
Beverley Clark	Mike Burriss	Mark Winters
Susan Parry	Michael Evans	Marvin Connelly
Eleanor Goettee	Donna Hargens	
Ron Margiotta	Don Haydon	<u>BOARD ATTORNEY</u>
	Ann Hooker	Ann Majestic

Patti Head called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Rosa Gill was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in her family.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Patti Head turned the gavel over to Superintendent, Del Burns, to preside over the election of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Dr. Burns explained the procedure for the election of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair at the Annual Meeting.

Susan Parry made a motion to nominate Rosa Gill as Chair of the Wake County Board of Education. Ron Margiotta made a motion to close the nominations. The vote was unanimous. Ron Margiotta made a motion to elect Rosa Gill by acclamation, seconded by Susan Parry. The vote was unanimous.

Due to the absence of Rosa Gill, Superintendent Burns asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Wake County Board of Education. Eleanor Goettee made a motion to nominate Beverley Clark as Vice Chair. Superintendent Burns closed the nominations. Ron Margiotta made a motion to elect Beverley Clark by acclamation, seconded by Susan Parry. The vote was unanimous. Superintendent Burns announced that Beverley Clark was the Vice Chair and offered congratulations to Ms. Clark.

Beverley Clark made the following statement: *“It’s very strange to go from being not the vice chair, to the vice chair, to acting chair in one very quick swoop. Since we all anticipated that Ms. Gill would be here, I will completely just go based on experience with having sat on this Board for seven years. The first thing that I would like to do is, to express on behalf of all of the Board members who are here, a great deal of*

thanks to Ms. Head for having served as our chair for the last two years. She has done it with class, with vigor, and she has been a great leader. Patti, we are all very grateful for the leadership that you have provided over these last two years.”

Patti Head made the following remarks: “It has been such an honor and a privilege to be chairing the Wake County Board of Education. I am a part of a group that loves our children in Wake County and has a driving commitment and dedication to the value and the worth of public education. I am humbled by the experience of being your Board chair. I thank this Board for allowing me the opportunity to serve the Board, to serve the staff, the school system, and to serve the community for the past four years in a leadership position. Of course, two years as vice chair and two years as chair we have had a lot of challenges however; we’ve had a lot of great rewards as we have tackled them together as partners. Everything from dealing with an audit, to developing an independent audit committee, to retiring a superintendent, to hiring an outstanding superintendent.

When I was asked this week what were a couple of the highlights of being chair of the Wake County Board, I was very quick to say that it was such an honor and privilege to be able to offer on behalf of the Board of Education, the Superintendency to Del Burns. We have such respect for him; to sit beside him has been a great honor. As we celebrate his first anniversary on July 1, it has been a wild year, he has done it with such dedication and integrity and it is appreciated.

We have developed a Capital Improvement Plan together with close collaboration of eighteen months with our County Commissioners. We approved the Capital Improvement Plan; which was the foundation of going to the public with our bond in 2006. My second highlight would be the passage on November 7, 2006 of the bond. It was phenomenal that we received a nine hundred and seventy million dollar bond passed. Its to the credit of not only the school system, but the community as a whole; that they realize and recognize the importance of education and the importance of adequate facilities in order to have teaching and learning take place every day. What a wonderful experience to interact with the Friends of Wake County, the PTA, Wake NCAE, the County Commissioners, and with everyone that pulled together in order to get that bond passed.

We continue to deal together with the consequences of Wake County’s tremendous growth and making some very difficult decisions about reassignments and about year-round calendars. Again, we have dealt with funding issues, not the least of which is in operating budget that we have continued to work with. I personally thank Lindy Brown, Harold Webb, Betty Lou Ward, and Joe Bryan for standing up and standing tall to support Wake County Public School System and our needs; as they deliberated the budget yesterday, and for believing in the importance of our excellent school system and affirming that. We have to continue to be diligent in climbing that academic excellence mountain that we climb each and every day to get to the summit, because if not, it is a very slippery slope.

I want to thank the staff. We have a phenomenal staff in Wake County. The support that they give, from central services to our schools, our students, and this board, I deeply appreciate all that you have done. You make the chair’s job so much easier. When I took this office in 2005, I shared with you a little about me that I like to sit on the porch in Lake Gaston and look at the geese fly by in “V” formation. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the following bird. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if the bird flew alone. As they fly in formation, they honk from behind to encourage the bird that is in front of them and to keep up the pace. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates to the back, and takes its place in the formation; and another goose moves to the front to be the point. The time has come for me to fall back, and we have a new leader in Rosa Gill and Beverley Clark. The public

does not have any sense I don't believe of the time and dedication that you put into our jobs on the Board of Education, but I appreciate it. I am honored and privileged to have been a part of the leadership team and be working with all of you. As I take my position in the "V", as I fall back with Beverley and Rosa in that point position, I want you to know that my wings will be flapping hard, and I will continue to honk. Thank you for the privilege and honor of being your chair."

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD ATTORNEY

Patti Head made a motion to re-appoint the law firm of Tharrington Smith as the Board's legal counsel, seconded by Lori Millberg. The vote was unanimous.

SUMMARY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beverley Clark stated 'that for the public's perspective, to follow-up to what Ms. Head just said, this Board was here until midnight last night. We started at noon, meeting with individual families who wanted to appeal to go from one school to another. We really enjoy that opportunity, where we hear one on one what the family's situation is. We listen and try to honor and understand what their family needs are. Some of the requests get honored, some do not. We do spend a lot of time with the process. We finish with families at 6:30 we then, go into closed session and meet together and review each group's recommendations. It is an arduous process and we were here a long time. I thank all of the Board members for all of your time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before the Board, Patti Head made a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting, seconded by Lori Millberg. The vote was unanimous. The Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverley Clark, Vice Chair,
Wake County Board of Education

Del Burns, Superintendent, WCPSS

Melissa R. Christmas, Recording Secretary