

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OPEN MINUTES – BOARD MEETING  
July 10, 2001

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Board Members Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

Danny Barnes  
Del Burns  
Mike Burris  
Toni Patterson  
Janice Shearin

Board Attorneys Present:

Ann Majestic

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Kayhryn Watson Quigg called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Rosa Gill and the vote was unanimous.*

**CONSENT ITEM – FACILITIES**

**1. Utility Easement – Ballentine Dairy Elementary**

Carolina Power & Light Company requires a ten-foot wide utility easement at Ballentine Dairy Elementary to provide electrical service. The easement will allow for construction of an underground utility line. Fiscal implications – None. Recommendation for action – Staff requests board approval to grant a ten-foot wide utility easement to Carolina Power & Light Company to serve Ballentine Dairy Elementary.

***Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by J.C. O’Neal. The vote was unanimous.***

**INFORMATION – PERSONNEL**

**1. Recommendations for Administrative Transfers**

*Patti Clinton*, assistant principal at Carroll Middle School, to assistant principal at Durant Road Middle School, effective date to be determined.

*Denise Drawbaugh*, assistant principal at Durant Road Elementary School, to assistant principal at Lynn Road Elementary School, effective date to be determined.

## **INTERVIEW AND APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT 8 BOARD MEMBER**

Kathryn Watson Quigg explained to the audience that each candidate would have the opportunity to answer the same questions from each board member, and that each interview would last approximately 30 minutes. Those candidates waiting for their interview were asked to wait in another sitting area. The order of interviews were: Paula Lipford, Ron Margiotta, Diana Bader and Jeffrey York. Following were the questions asked of all candidates. The order of questioning changed with each interview.

**Kathryn Watson Quigg:** *We have reviewed your resume and application materials, but please take three to four minutes to tell us again why you are seeking this position.*

**Susan Parry:** *As in other large and heterogeneous school districts, children arrive at our door each year with a tremendous range of interests, needs, backgrounds and skills. What three things do we currently do in Wake County, or should we do, that have the greatest impact on our ability to provide an effective and equitable education to all of our children?*

**Beverley Clark:** *Assuming the Board selects you for the District 8 seat, what would be the next step you would take to prepare yourself to be a Wake County Board of Education member?*

**Rosa Gill:** *In light of the recent newspaper article relating to gifts of either moneys or land for consideration of a school in a certain location, what factors would/may influence you to vote in favor of accepting the gift?*

**Tom Oxholm:** *The Wake County Public School System is a big business – an annual operating budget of \$700 million (\$500 million controlled by the state and federal governments), \$12,000+ employees, and a \$550 million four-year capital spending plan. What skills or experience do you have which will enable you to understand and effectively oversee the business of the Board of Education?*

*How many hours a month do you think a Board member should devote to Board business?*

**Bill Fletcher:** *What do you see as the biggest obstacle to broad community support for additional funding and what should the school board do about it?*

**J.C. O'Neal:** *What is your position on traditional versus year-round schools? If you favor traditional schools, what is your position on making all elementary schools year-round?*

**Judy Hoffman:** *How do you feel about magnet schools? What are the three most important program issues you would like to address as a board member?*

**Kathryn Watson Quigg:** *To sum up, what makes you think you are the best candidate for this position?*

### ***Summary of candidate comments: (See resumes/application packets – Exhibits A,B,C and D for more complete details)***

Paula Lipford sought the position of District 8 board member due to her lifelong interest in education, as a teacher, parent volunteer, PTA president, liaison for District 8, vice president of the western area PTA Council, campaign coordinator of the 2000 Wake County bond referenda, and project coordinator for Wake Education Partnership. If selected, Ms. Lipford would seek to meet the school administrators and constituents of District 8, hear their concerns and begin to engage in a communication process that would begin to build more trust. She felt the biggest obstacle to generating support of funding is a lack of understanding about funding and what is involved in attaining a quality education. Lipford felt her work as a paralegal and networking with businesses concerning bond issues would prepare her for overseeing the financial business of the school system. With reference to possible gifts of money or land, she cautioned that each instance must be looked at with scrutiny and creativity concerning program needs and additional costs. She favors both traditional and year-round schools, each with its own value. Year-round schools give parents a choice and help with the over-crowding issue; but she would be concerned about forced year-round scheduling. Related to program issues, she is in favor of creative site management by principals, and more electives offered at high schools given the new graduation requirements. Some areas of greatest impact in providing an effective/equitable education for all

children include catching needs early with K-3 literacy assessment, reading resource programs and smaller class sizes in Kindergarten, all seeking to identify problems before intervention is needed. She felt an average of 20 hours per week should be devoted to board issues. She summed up her qualifications by noting her involvement with stakeholders in the community, networking and communications skills, temperament, and ongoing concern about public education.

Ron Margiotta sought out the District 8 candidacy because of an interest/obligation in performing community service, his personal interest in public education, experience as a former board member and board chair, and time he could devote to school system issues as a retiree. Areas of concern he would focus on as a board member in providing quality education for all children would be teacher retention, educating the public about busing issues, eliminating the label of “at-risk” children, and redefining public relations efforts. He would keep both traditional and year-round schedules for schools, and feels year-round schools are vital for parental choice and cost-effective use of facilities. One of the biggest obstacles to garnering community support of funding is negative reporting, and Margiotta felt that board members needed to address this and communicate better with the public and county officials. If elected, he would immediately network with the board and top administrators to get up to speed with the intricacies of the school system. He is in favor of magnet schools and believes it is important to keep diversification and integration throughout the school system. With regards to gifts of land or money, he commented that there are always strings attached and each case should be decided on an individual basis. Time spent per month on board issues would depend on the individual, but he noted that board members should not get too involved in daily operations, and must develop a trust for top administrators who would handle those tasks. He summed up that he has past experience as a school board member/president, the communications skills to reach out to the public, and the time and perseverance to follow through with issues/concerns.

Diana Bader sought the position of District 8 board member to continue her varied contributions toward building the school system in a positive direction. She has a significant understanding of the key issues, is the current PTA Council president, and serves on numerous committees such as the board advisory council, CAC, School Finance Advisory Committee, Student Assignment advisory committee, and Building Community Partnerships for Student Success. She has the experience to balance local issues with countywide concerns. Bader is in support of magnet schools and feels they are key to successfully maintaining diversity and parental choice. Land or money gifts should be examined closely for stipulations, and any gift situation should remain true to school system goals. Her skills to oversee the business aspect of the Board include and understanding of budget issues through volunteer and committee involvement, leadership skills and the openness to learn about new areas. Monthly commitment of time toward board issues would vary according to Bader, but she personally would be willing to contribute as many hours as it would take to get the job done. Areas of focus for maintaining effective and equitable education for all children would include pre-kindergarten efforts such as Smart Start and Project Enlightenment, accelerated reading programs, summer academies and more countywide involvement in tutoring by businesses and the faith community. Bader feels both traditional and year-round schools are needed. Year-round provides parental choice, more effective use of facilities and can benefit high needs children. Any mandated scheduling should involve polling the community first to investigate the reasons behind it. She commented that the biggest obstacle to gaining additional funding support from the community is public trust, and communications with the community need to improve. If selected as a board member, her first step would be to meet with fellow board members and the constituents of District 8 to learn about key issues and concerns. Gaining an understanding of how other districts interconnect and play a role in overall system goals would also be a key focus. In summary, Bader referred to her proven track record, ongoing commitment and passion for public education over several years,

her open-minded, collaborative approach toward reaching common goals, and her listening and communication skills.

*The Board took a short 10-minute recess at 7:50 and reconvened at 8:00 for the final interview.*

Jeffrey York sought out the District 8 candidacy because he will have a vested interest in the school system for the next 14 years, has always valued public education, and a commitment to public service. On the issue of traditional versus year-round schools, he commented that there is a place for both. Public choice is key and he would not be in favor of forced conversion. With regards to gifts of money or land, he noted that each gift would have to be looked at individually to weigh all the options and make sure it is a win-win return on investment for all involved. He feels that the biggest obstacle for community support of funding is public relations. Those against funding are more vocal and organized with an easier case to win. The public needs to be educated with a grass roots effort to convince the community that funds are being spent properly. The next step if elected would be to get to know the Board, administration, principals in District 8, PTA and the community, and gain an understanding of key concerns/issues. York felt that 10 to 15 hours per week was an appropriate time to devote to board issues. His professional experience as a personnel and project manager would help him in dealing with large scale financial issues of the school system. Like in his business, he would focus on retention of employees. Areas of emphasis that would have the greatest impact on equitable education of all children would involve addressing the spectrum of achievement levels from high level (such as magnet programs) to at-risk children (such as ALP programs) and attracting the right kind of quality teachers. He supports magnet schools for both specialized interests and diversity, and suggested the continued implementation of the Texas pilot program to raise student achievement at all levels. He reiterated that he is the best candidate because of his high interest level, commitment to work hard, and abilities that will mesh well with system issues. He was surprised that the Board did not ask questions pertaining to teacher retention and compensation area. He offered that the teacher compensation goal move toward a 75% target whenever possible, as a standard benchmark for retaining the best staff. He also suggested that the Board take a system-wide look at what ideas are working for best practices in teacher retention and satisfaction.

After the interviews were completed, Kathryn Watson Quigg and the Board thanked the four candidates for sharing their views and school system insights/opinions.

*Beverley Clark made a motion to recess in order to allow the Board to digest all the information presented, and come back at a future date to deliberate vote on an appointment. Rosa Gill seconded the motion. In discussion, the board attempted to schedule a meeting during the following week, but could not agree on a calendar date. Rosa Gill withdrew her second.*

*Discussion continued about how the original intention was to appoint a board member at this meeting, District 8 has been without representation for several months, and the candidates have been on hold. Other comments stressed the need to keep the entire process open to the public, while not rushing into a decision without assimilating all the information on such an important decision.*

*Rosa Gill made a motion to recess for 15 minutes to quietly review resumes and notes, and prepare to vote on an appointment. Bill Fletcher seconded the motion, and the vote carried with Tom Oxholm voting NO. The Board recessed at 8:40 p.m.*

*The Board reconvened at 8:55 p.m. and all four candidate names were placed in nomination. Board members again expressed their appreciation and hope that the three not selected would continue their valued service, thoughtful interest and positive involvement with the school system. Mr. Fletcher noted that he would be seeking someone who could tackle the learning curve and get up to speed quickly on issues. Mr. Oxholm noted that during his tenure, he has*

*tried to encourage more business experience on the board, and would continue to lean toward that profile.*

*Ms. Majestic explained that ballots would be distributed for voting, and Kathryn Watson Quigg, as chair, would not be voting. Of the remaining seven board members, a majority vote would be sought.*

*If there were three or four candidates with votes, those with the lowest number of votes would be eliminated from consideration and another vote would take place.*

*In a first vote, Jeffrey York received three votes (Susan Parry, Tom Oxholm, Rosa Gill), Diana Bader received three votes (J.C. O'Neal, Bill Fletcher, Judy Hoffman), and Ron Margiotta received one vote (Beverley Clark).*

*Mr. Margiotta's name was eliminated and a second vote took place.*

*In the second vote, Jeffrey York received four votes (Susan Parry, Tom Oxholm, Rosa Gill and Beverley Clark), and Diana Bader received three votes (J.C. O'Neal, Bill Fletcher and Judy Hoffman.)*

*The Board congratulated Mr. York and informed him that he would be sworn in to office on as the District 8 Board member on August 6<sup>th</sup> during the next Board meeting.*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

***Susan Parry made a motion to move into closed session:***

To consider confidential personnel file information under G.S. 115C-319

***Bill Fletcher seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.***

## **ACTION**

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **1. Recommendations for Administrative Appointments**

*David Ansbacher*, intern at Combs Elementary School, to assistant principal at East Millbrook Middle School, effective date to be determined.

*Tina Y. Hoots*, applicant, to 50% assistant principal and 50% SOAR coordinator, at Wake Forest Rolesville High School, effective date to be determined.

*Staci Kerr Inscore*, applicant, to assistant principal at Weatherstone Elementary School, effective date to be determined.

*Joseph Marchiando*, intern at Martin Middle School, to assistant principal at Martin Middle School, effective date to be determined.

*Troy B. Peuler*, applicant, to principal at Vandora Springs Elementary School, effective date to be determined.

*L. Roy Teel*, retiree and former employee, to interim principal at Holly Springs Elementary School, effective date to be determined.

*Dale R. Warren*, teacher at Southeast Raleigh High School, to assistant principal at Sanderson High School, effective date to be determined.

***Beverley Clark made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Kathryn Watson Quigg adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annette Marett, Recording Secretary

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Bill McNeal, Secretary

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Kathryn Watson Quigg, Chair













