

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
August 27, 2001

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

Bill McNeal, Superintendent	
Jo Baker	Cindi Jolly
Karen Banks	Ray Massey
Brenda Barker	Toni Patterson
Danny Barnes	John Ringo
Maurice Boswell	Janice Shearin
Del Burns	Stella Shelton
Mike Burriss	Walt Sherlin
Ann Hooker	Jonibel Willis
Linda Isley	

Board Attorney Present:

Ann Majestic

Kathryn Watson Quigg called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INFORMATION

Chairman’s Comments

Kathryn Watson asked the board for a show of hands if they supported expanding the year-round program. The vote was unanimous. She wanted the record to reflect the school board’s commitment to expanding the year-round schools.

Superintendent’s Report

- Bill McNeal invited Wake Education Partnership to make a special presentation. Richard Urquhart, with Investors Management Corporation, is the past chair of Wake Education Partnership. A special presentation was made to Bill Fletcher for his dedication and commitment to the school system and its children.
- School recognition (*Enloe High School*), The Envirothon Team from Enloe High School placed third in the nation at the 2001 National Canon Envirothon in Raymond, Mississippi. The team consisted of teacher/advisor Chad Ogren and Carrie Cornelius, Tyler Hannah, Leslie Morefield, John Nader and Robin Sinhababu, all students. Each student received a \$1,000 college scholarship and a medallion. The advisor received a camera and a national title plaque.

- School recognition (*Athens Drive High School and Durant Road Middle School received the Governor's Business Partnership Awards*).
- Teacher Recognition (*Millbrook High School teacher Lindy Poling, previous Wake County Teacher of the Year selected by the US Institute of Peace as one of 30 social studies teachers from across the US to participate in a summer institute in July that examined the dynamics of international conflict management in the post Cold War era.*
- Student Recognition *Kimberlyn Hickman, Wakefield High School senior, has been selected as the state's student of the year by North Carolina Students Against Drunk Drivers and named to the 16-member National SADD Student Leaders Council.*
- Undersecretary *Gene Hickok from the US Department of Education will be in our area tomorrow visiting Jeffreys Grove Elementary.*

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- *Beverley Clark requested the agenda be amended to move item #2 Program National Computer Systems, Inc, (NovaNet) to Action.*
- *Beverley Clark also asked to move Facilities Action items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to consent agenda.*
- *Tom Oxholm requested that Program action item be renamed to read "To reconsider the Year-Round Conversion of Stough Elementary and Carroll Middle School."*

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve amended agenda, seconded by Judy Hoffman. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Jane Daniel, citizen not a parent of a student at either school. She supported the board's original decision to convert Stough Elementary School and Carroll Middle School to year round.

Cindy Haynes, PTA President at Wilburn Elementary School and mother of three. She requested that the board move forward on converting Stough and Carroll to year round schools. The board should continue with the bond promise of expanding year-round schools. Her children are in the year-round program, and she asked the board to vote "yes" on conversion.

Don Stroud, father of a 6th grader and a 3rd grader. It's the board's responsibility to make sure that every child has a seat in the schools. The board should support the bond referendum and keep its promises made to the voters and the taxpayers.

Renee Shaw, children attend Jones Diary Elementary School. Serving her second year as PTA president and served on the CAC. She requested that the board keep their promise and move forward with the conversion. The board must inform the public what is the plan to expand year-round by 7 schools.

Heather Hire, PTA President at Green Elementary School. There is a need to have a year-round school ready to accommodate the children coming from Green Elementary School. The year-round program should be a choice program. The board has wasted time over the last 1 _ years. Requested the board keep its promise to expand year-round schools.

Sharon Goggin, supporter of the year-round program. She moved to Wake County because of it's year-round program and has great concern that the year-round program is in trouble. She supported the bond referendum and asked the board to keep its promised to expand the year-round program schools.

Patricia Scunlock, parent of two children that attend Wilburn and Durant Elementary. Reminded the board of its commitment to expand the year-round program. The public wants the board to continue to provide quality year-round schools like Wilburn and Durant Elementary.

Kelli Walker-Jones, parent of a 4th grader at Stough and 7th grader at Martin Middle School. She thanked the board for its decision to slow down the conversion of Sough Elementary and Carroll Middle Schools. The surveys support showed that Stough and Carroll stay on traditional calendars.

Josette Beller, parent of six (6) children. She is in favor of Carroll Middle School remaining on the traditional school calendar. She supports year-round for parents that choose it. However, she is not in favor of converting existing schools that are established. Carroll Middle School is established and works well for the teachers, staff, parents, and children.

Kenneth W. George, parent of a 5th grader at Stough Elementary. He does not support the year-round program because he feels year-round is not a “best business practice.” He believes children need an extended break before attending school for another year.

Lane Huggins, Stough Elementary School parent. The goal is for all children to succeed. Conversion by dismantling two successful traditional schools is not the solution.

John Marsland, Parent. He does not support conversion of Carroll Middle School. He believes there’s a better way to expand year-round program.

JoAnna McMillan, PTA President at Stough Elementary School. She would request the board leave Strough Elementary as a traditional school and look for another alternative to expand year-rounds.

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Susan Parry, seconded by Tom Oxholm to approve all the items on the Consent Agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous.

FACILITIES

1. Designer Selection: Design Package 01F

In accordance with the designer selection procedures adopted by the Wake County Board of Education, the pre-selection committee will present recommendations for the board to select architectural firms for the following PLAN 2000 building and campus improvements projects:

Special Optional School – New School, Apex Middle School – Addition and Renovations, East Cary Middle School – Site Improvements, and Ligon Middle School – Addition and Renovations

Fiscal Implications - Design fees will be negotiated in accordance with the designer selection procedures. Recommendation for Action - Board approval is requested.

2. Utility Easement: Carroll Middle

Bellsouth Telecommunications Inc. requests an easement area approximately 30 feet by 30 feet at Carroll Middle School to install communications equipment. The easement will be located on North Brook Drive and will be fenced on three sides. An option for 180 days is requested to allow for surveying and due diligence. Fiscal Implications - Board will receive \$4,000 for a 180-day option and for the easement, if the option is exercised. Recommendation for Action - Staff recommends board approval to grant BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. a 180-day option to acquire the easement and authorization to grant the requested easement, if the option is exercised.

FINANCE

1. Contract: Contract Security Services For 2001-2003

Board approval is requested for contracted security services for the high school parking lots, various elementary schools, alternative schools, night patrol, and the Alarm Monitoring Center. Staff recommends that the Lankford Protective Services, Inc. be awarded the contract for an hourly rate of \$14.38. The estimated value of this contract is approximately \$675,000. Lankford will provide highly trained bicycle patrol officers who will work in conjunction with the School Resource Officers and surveillance cameras in providing a safe environment for our students and staff. Fiscal Implications: Funds are available through the proceeds of parking passes sold to high school students and through budgeted contract services funds.

2. Authorization Forms

These authorization forms designate the persons authorized to sign vouchers for the payment of money on behalf of Farmington Woods Elementary and Holly Springs Elementary. Fiscal Implications: These authorization forms are required for bank records.

3. Report of Administration Approved Contracts

The attached summaries are provided as information in accordance with Board Policy 8361. The summaries list all contracts and change orders for the third and fourth fiscal quarters of 2001-2002, which were approved by the administration, having a value greater than \$50,000 and not over \$100,000. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable.

4. Service Agreement: Daugherty Consulting

Technology Services would like to contract directly with Steve Daugherty to provide project management for several initiatives, including NCWise and Data Warehousing. Hourly rate for Mr. Daugherty's services is \$110 per hour. By contracting directly with Mr. Daugherty, the hourly rate is \$30 cheaper than when his services were being provided through TeleConsultants. Mr. Daugherty has a proven track record with the school system and could be a valuable asset in preparation for the future rollout of the State mandated NCWise initiative as well as research, review, development and analysis for other projects. Fiscal Implications: Funding in the amount of \$220,000 is requested. Funding is available through the Technology Services Division current expense budget.

5. Service Agreement: Alliance Of Professionals And Consultants, Inc.

On June 26, 2000, the Board approved a contract with Alliance of Professionals and Consultants, Inc. (APC) to provide outsourcing services such as technical DBA, applications DBA, programming and development. These services were in relation to the implementation of the Oracle business applications. The current contract has been negotiated to provide continued support through the 2001-02 fiscal year utilizing contractors who are familiar with the system. By continuing services through APC, the hourly rate for each contractor provided is reduced which equates to an overall savings of \$193,425 over the course of the contract. The contract allows for renewal of up to two consecutive one-year terms provided funding is available and services are still required. Fiscal Implications: Funding in the amount of \$1,685,000 is requested. Funding is available through the Technology Services Division current expense budget.

PROGRAM

1. Grant Proposals

Continuation (#580): U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Effective Alternative Strategies: Reduce Student Suspensions and Expulsions and

Ensure Education Progress of Students Who Are Suspended or Expelled (Year 2 of 3) / Central Office (\$596,375). Second-year funding of a three-year grant program is approved by U.S. DOE. Staff recommends that the board approve the applications.

2. Assignment of New Subdivisions to Schools

Staff will present recommendations for the following subdivisions: Brier Creek Country Club (phase 7), Caddell Woods (phase 2), Falls River (phase 12), Lenox Gate Apartments, Merion (phase 1), and Rutledge Landing (phase 1). Transportation cost will increase due to travel distance. Other facilities related cost will be avoided. This is presented for Board approval.

POLICY

1. Nominations for Board Advisory Council

The following nominees have been asked to service on the BAC. Tammy Riggs, Lockhart Elementary School and Sandy Bullock, Knightdale Elementary School.

ACTION

PROGRAM

1. Year-Round Conversion of Stough Elementary School and Carroll Middle School

Tom Oxholm made a motion “to rescind the board’s action of November 14 for the designation of Stough Elementary School and Carroll Middle School to be converted to multi-track year - round schools.

Tom Oxholm stated there were some good reasons to convert Stough Elementary School and Carroll Middle School to year-round schools, but more reasons not to convert. The board has stated its support for expansion of year-rounds schools. Conversion of the two schools would displace more students than it would help, with no clear plan where these students would go without creating a bigger problem. These schools are performing very well with support from the parents. Without parental input in the selection of these schools for conversion, it is forcing year-rounds on families that have no interest. The survey data confirmed a lack of support for the conversion. “Let us as a board undo a mistake that was done and move forward as quickly as possible addressing the Durant Middle School issues and how to support the year-round needs.”

Bill Fletcher commented that staff brought the board a clear plan. This board wisely asked staff to pick the schools based on information they received and to make a recommendation to the board. Large public meetings provided input; small meetings were held over long periods of time, and input was received from the Stough/Carroll committee. Since that time, the board has received volumes of information. The survey only showed that 20% of the people were interested in year-round. Mr. Fletcher felt the process could be improved, but felt the decision was a good one. He stated for this plan to work, we must take the base assignment out.” Bill Fletcher offered a substantive motion to Mr. Oxholm’s motion “to continue the conversion of Stough Elementary and Carroll Middle schools but to remove the base assignment out of the year-round assignment plan that the staff presented.”

Judy Hoffman seconded the substantive motion and apologized to the people who had been involved with this issue for the past year. She continued stating that the board voted for the expansions of year-round education some time ago. The board stated that they did not want to make all the new schools year-round schools, but wanted to convert older schools as well. The board should remove the mandate and let people volunteer for the year-round program.

Jeff York expressed major concern regarding the base assignment issue. He asked for staff to provide explanation before moving forward on the amendment. We must hear from staff if this is a feasible option to go without a base and what the numbers are going to say.” He wanted to hear from staff before he can support this amendment.

J.C. O’Neal remarked that there is always opposition to change. Freedom to choose is important.

Beverley Clark called for the question.

Kathryn Watson-Quigg called for the question. The substantive motion would amend Tom Oxholm’s motion to read that **the board rescind only the base assignment to the Stough Elementary School and Carroll Middle School and continue conversion to multi-track year-round schools.**

The motion failed. Bill Fletcher, Judy Hoffman, and J.C. O’Neal, “for” and Susan Parry, Jeff York, Beverley Clark, Tom Oxholm, and Rosa Gill voted “against.”

Bill Fletcher asked “What will replace the conversion and the chair stated that staff should bring the board a plan on how to handle the overcrowding at Durant Road Middle School.

Susan Parry commented on the success of year-round for some families and how it helps alleviate up-front capital cost. The board has heard from many parents and has asked staff to make the necessary recommendations in support of expanding year-rounds.

Bill Fletcher felt this work had been done and done well.

Beverley Clark requested that the system measure the interest in the year-round program perhaps as a question on the November 2001 parent survey.

Rosa Gill supports the year-round school expansion. The board has a responsibility to make decisions based on what is best for all students.

Jeff York stated two issues need to be resolved if the board rescinds its prior vote. What happens to handle overcrowding at Durant Road Middle schools for next year, and what is the plan for expansion of year-round schools by 2004 to comply with the board’s promise.

Amendment: (Tom Oxholm/Jeff York)

Jeff York made a motion to amend Tom Oxholm’s motion **to rescind the November 14, 2000, decision made by the board to convert Stough Elementary School and Carroll Middle School to year-round and to instruct the staff to return to the board on September 4, 2001, with a plan on how to accommodate the overcrowding at Durant Road Middle School.**

The motion carried with Judy Hoffman, Bill Fletcher, and JC O’Neal voting “no”.

Susan Parry made a motion **to have staff take a longer-term look at how expansion of the year-round program can be undertaken. A recommendation to the board should include: community opinion, realistic benefits to the system, and analysis of the effect of the recommendation on other schools.**

This motion was seconded by Tom Oxholm. The motion carried. Tom Oxholm, Beverley Clark, Susan Parry, Rosa Gill voting "yes". Judy Hoffman, Bill Fletcher, J.C. O'Neal, and Jeff York voting "no". The tie was broken by the "yes" vote of the board chair Kathryn Watson Quigg.

2. National Computer Systems, Inc. (NovaNet)

NCS will provide 251 ports (connections) for the NovaNet educational software for all area high schools and all training and staff development packages, including technical and educational support and consultation. Note: The first full year of implementation of the program resulted in overall gains for students in all subject areas where it was used, with an average increase of (1) letter grade. Total cost of the contract shall not exceed \$237,195, \$183,300 of which shall be paid from Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant funds and \$53,865 of which shall be paid from At Risk local funds. This is the third and concluding year for SS/HS funding of this project. Staff recommends that this contract be approved. This renewal of this contract at our high school is use for at risk students that are failing. Service last year 1500 students used the NovaNet lab. This is the last year of the grant.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Beverley Clark. The vote was unanimous.

POLICY

1. Wake Technical Board of Trustees (appointments for consideration)

Judy Hoffman made a motion to reappoint Ms Lide Anderson for another 4 year term on the Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees. Motion seconded by Susan Parry and the vote was unanimous. Her term expires June 30, 2005. Tom Oxholm made a motion to appoint Mr. Jim Talton to complete the unexpired term of the Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees members of Paul Maultsby. Mr. Talton's term will expired June 30, 2003. This motion was seconded by Beverley Clark. The vote was carried with J.C. O'Neal voting "no."

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ed Ham, parent of a 4th grader at Morrisville Elementary School. Addressed the issue of air fresheners in the classroom and his concern about air quality and toxicity. Staff will review this issue.

INFORMATION ITEMS

PROGRAM

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Susan Harrison gave an overview of bills passed by the General Assembly and also discussed the proposed policy and funding initiatives in the budget bill. (Exhibit A)

2. Board Advisory Councils – Topics for Study 2001-2002

The structure and purpose of Board Advisory Councils was revised by the Board of Education on June 11, 2001. Policy 1800.1 states "A Board Advisory Council will research, review/offer recommendations on critical issues prioritized at the Board's annual planning retreat; will offer feedback solicited by the Board on longer term issues."

A list of topics were presented to the board at the August 13, 2001, Board meeting. The topics are: (1) ***Student Assignment Process and Communications, School Safety, Technology & Learning, Dress Code, Beyond 2003.*** The board also suggested each council should discuss issues that are of concern in their district.

CLOSED SESSION

Susan Parry made a motion to move into closed session at 8:30 p.m. to consider confidential personnel file information under G.S. 115C-319.

It was seconded by Beverley Clark and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Kathryn Watson Quigg adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwanda K. Farrow
Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Superintendent, WCPSS

Kathryn Watson Quigg, Chair

