

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
September 18, 2001

Board Members Present:

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

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 5:00 p.m. The Cary High School Color Guard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INFORMATION

Chairman's Comments

Kathryn Watson Quigg thanked Cary High School for allowing the Board to meet on its campus. Cary High School was the first public high school in North Carolina. The board chair asked for a moment of silence to remember the many people who lost their lives, their families, and their children on September 11. Mrs. Quigg clarified that everyone will get a chance to voice their concerns during the public hearing either before or after the main agenda.

Superintendent's Report

- ❑ The Superintendent thanked staff for their support in helping our students deal with last week's tragedy. The systems will initiate a fundraiser called "Penny for Patriotism and Pride." It will involve our students across the county. These funds will be given to the "The September 11 Fund." This fundraiser will run October 1, 2001 – October 5, 2001. The system hopes to get a corporate supporter to co-sponsor this event. Children will learn the importance of giving to others.
- ❑ Longview Middle/High School received the "American Promise Grant." This grant requires community businesses, colleges, faith groups and nonprofit organizations to come together to build character and confidence in youth. Here are the 5 promises: (1) to provide ongoing relationships with caring adults, (2) to provide safe places with

structural activities during nonschool hours, (3) to foster a healthy start for the future (4) to provide marketing skill through effective education, (5) to provide opportunities to give back through community service. Longview School is one of 15-pilot sites nationwide to receive this \$10,000 grant.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- ❑ *Beverley Clark stated that the board should have a revised Precis sheet for the Consent items: Bids: Cleaning Contract. Information within the body of the contract has change; but the bottom line fiscal implications have not changed.*
- ❑ *Susan Parry requested that Consent Agenda Program Item #4 be moved to Information; giving the board members time to review these plans. Item will be voted on at the October 2, 2001, meeting.*
- ❑ *Susan Parry amended the Closed Session. Language to include two current litigations: (1) GRB and GLB vs. WCPSS; (2) MCW, by and through his next friend, MEW and MEW and MDW, each individually vs. WCPSS. G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3).*

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Emily McMillan, parent at Green Elementary School. She thanked the board for addressing the overcrowding at Durant Road Middle School. The board should (1) adhere to the bond referendum that called for 7 new schools by 2004 and the reduction of trailers as classrooms; (2) expand the year-round program; (3) make Heritage Elementary /Middle schools 4-track year-round. She was supportive of learning cottages (trailers) as a temporary solution.

Mary Catherine Cole, year-round parent, children are at Green Elementary School and Durant Road Middle School. She asked the board to support the expansion of year-round education.

Jan Ammons, year-round parent. She expressed support of learning cottages (trailers) as long as there is not a lottery. Parents want sufficient input as year-round leaders communicate goals to the public.

Angela Meyer, year-round parent at Jones Dairy and Durant Road Middle School. Parent has no concern about the trailers for the short-term, but has concerns about the curriculum. She wants Jones Dairy Elementary School to stay a year-round school.

Molly McCarl, (student) Jones Dairy Elementary. She stated that students have a right to their own opinions. They would like to be able to go to a middle school campus when they reach 6th grade.

Nell Yates, parent of 2nd grader at Jones Dairy Elementary School. She hoped board would implement plan quickly and efficiently.

Micki McCarl, parent of 3rd grader. She voiced concern for the delivery of an adequate middle school curriculum for a limited number of students in the 6th grade on the Jones Dairy Campus.

Jill Touchberry, PTA President at Durant Road Middle School. She voiced parent concerns about traffic as it relates to car-pooling and the lack of a stoplight on Durant Road near the

schools. Parents want open communication about issues effecting their school environment and the crowded situation at Durant Road Middle School.

Michelle Beverly, parent of 2 students, Durant Road Middle School and Jones Dairy Elementary School. She shared concerns related to the board's change in decision regarding conversion of Stough and Carroll.

Lellsa Moore Craigie, parent of a student at Durant Road Middle. She does not support the plan of adding more trailers to an already crowded campus at Durant Road Middle.

CONSENT ITEMS

FACILITIES

1. Bids: Cleaning Contract

The Maintenance and Operations Department recommends exercising our option to extend the cleaning contracts with Royal Janitorial Services, Inc. for Southeast Raleigh High, in the amount of \$238,902 and Davis Drive Middle, in the amount of \$128,395. Also, we recommend extensions with RTP Building Maintenance Company for Carnage Middle, in the amount of \$113,946; Centennial Campus, in the amount of \$105,270; Daniels Middle, in the amount of \$102,905; Durant Middle, in the amount of \$114,397; Enloe, in the amount of \$263,379; Fuquay Middle, in the amount of \$103,643; Garner High, in the amount of \$195,639; Green Hope High, in the amount of \$202,877; Ligon Middle, in the amount of \$126,025; Lufkin Road Middle, in the amount of \$113,084; Martin Middle, in the amount of \$115,478; Sanderson, in the amount of \$186,500; Wakefield Middle, in the amount of \$120,768; Wakefield High and West Cary Middle, in the amount of \$107,713. Fiscal Implications - Funding in the amount of \$2,338,921.00 is available in the 2001-2002 current expense budget. Recommendation for Action - Board approval to extend the cleaning contracts is requested.

FINANCE

1. Authorization Forms

These authorization forms designate the persons authorized to sign vouchers for the payment of money on behalf of Cary High School. Fiscal Implications: These authorization forms are required for bank records.

2. Annuity Vendors

On May 17, 2001, General American and Transamerica were removed as annuity vendors based on the recommendation of BOD Consulting. Additional information provided since that time has been made available to staff. As a result, reinstatement as annuity vendors is recommended. Fiscal Implications: Not Applicable.

3. Gifts To The System

Twenty-four gifts have been donated to the Wake County Public School System. The approximate value of the gifts is \$72,213.56. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable.

PROGRAM

1. Wake County Human Services Contract for 2001-2002

WCHS will provide: Two adolescent drug abuse specialists, drug abuse counseling and assessment in all schools. Five regionally based mental health clinicians who will provide mental health assessment, planning, and referral. Three coordinators to conduct training and consultation to community and school based after school programs. Total cost of the contract shall not exceed \$647,359 of which shall be paid from Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant

budget. This the third and concluding year for SS/HS funding of this project. Staff recommends that this contract be approved.

2. ReEntry Youth Development, Inc. Contract for 2001-2002

ReEntry, Inc. will provide: One Teen Court Outreach Coordinator to expand Teen Court opportunities. A full-time secretary for clerical support to the Teen Court program and Youth Summit. A .72 Summit/Youth Council Coordinator to organize a Wake County Youth Advisory Council, and plan and implement a Youth Summit on violence prevention/safe schools. Total cost of the contract shall not exceed \$115,000 of which shall be paid from Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant budget. This is the third and concluding year for SS/HS funding of this project. Staff recommends that this contract be approved.

3. School Health Advisory Council

The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), in accordance with bylaws, submitted a slate of 15 council nominations to the Superintendent for approval. Bylaws allow for ten additional nominations. Staff requests approval of final slate of nominations. Council activities. Funds available in current budget. Staff recommends request for approval of final slate of nominations.

POLICY

1. Nominations for Board Advisory Councils

The following nominees have been asked to serve on Board Advisory Councils. Linda Grubb, East Garner Middle School; Donna Bennett, West Lake Elementary; Anne Allison, Aversboro Elementary; Kathy Kemper, East Millbrook Middle; Anna Loeffler, Fox Road Elementary.

2. TOPICS FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL INPUT

Board to approve topics for Advisory Council input. At the September 4, 2001, meeting, the Board of Education approved "Dress Code" and "Beyond 2003" as topics for study by Board Advisory Councils for 2001-2002. Staff was directed to develop a written document to assist Advisory Councils. A copy of these documents was presented to Board Advisory Chairs on September 10, 2001, pending Board approval. This item is presented for Board approval.

Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve the consent items, seconded by Jeff York. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

1. PROGRAM

1. Plan for Accommodating Growth at Durant Road Year-Round Middle School

Staff presented short-term solutions to address the over-crowding at Durant Road Year-Round Middle School. Recommendations were made for long-term solutions for the northern half of the county including additional year-round seats at the middle school level. Additionally, the relocation of an existing elementary year-round program and the designation of a new year-round elementary school were discussed at the previous meeting. When fully implemented there will be savings for the initial building construction. Transportation costs will increase due to travel distance. This item is presented for Board approval.

Reporting on staff meetings.

- On Wednesday, September 12, 2001, Walt Sherlin and Dr. Ramey Beavers went to Jones Dairy Elementary School to meet with parents. About 100 parents were present at this meeting. The parents voiced their concerns about: learning cottages (trailers), traffic light, curriculum, physical education program, lunch, band electives, technology issues, and the lack of a 6th grade experience.

- ❑ On Thursday, September 13, 2001, Walt Sherlin and Dr. Ramey Beavers went to Durant Middle School. About 60 were parents present at this meeting. Parents stated that the board should have gone through with the plans to convert Stough and Carroll. They wanted the board's commitment to the expansion of year-round schools, safety issues addressed with all the trailers, a stop light for the car pool traffic, conversion of both Jones Dairy and Heritage as year-round schools, additional buses for transportation, and sufficient time to change classes.

Judy Hoffman stated concerns about issues that were not answered yet regarding this decision. This plan was put together in 1 week because the board did not agree on the previous plan that was worked one for over a year. She expressed concern over cost to initiate the new plan. She felt the new plan was not consistent with the bond referendum because it does not address the expansion of year-round schools. District 7 will not have a year-round school to attend. Ms. Hoffman will vote "no" to this plan.

The vote before the board is:

To approve the short- term solutions to address overcrowding at Durant Road Middle School which includes keeping all of Durant Road Middle School's students at that school for the 2002-2003 school year by adding learning cottages. For the 2003-2004 Jones Dairy would keep the rising 6th graders in this school. Efforts will be made to balance tracks at the northern year-round schools, first by voluntary change and then involuntary track changes as necessary. Heritage Middle School will open in 2004-2005 as the second year-round middle school in the north. Move Jones Dairy's entire campus in 2004-2005 to the Heritage campus as a year-round elementary. We will reopen Jones Dairy Elementary School as a traditional school. Motion to approve by Rosa Gill, seconded by Susan Parry. The vote passed by 5 to 3.

Affirmative votes cast by Tom Oxholm, Beverley Clark, Jeff York, Susan Parry, and Rosa Gill. Negative votes cast by Judy Hoffman, Bill Fletcher, and JC O'Neal.

2. PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION

Teresa Hyatt, President of Performing Arts Booster Club. She voiced her concerns about the inadequate facilities at Cary High. It is a daily challenge to balance the needs of the students' curriculum with the facilities limitations.

Linda Buchanon. She reported that OSHA determined it to be cheaper to demolish the auditorium at Cary High than to restore or to renovate the building.

Wendy Flickinger. She stated that the Town of Cary had expressed an interest in working with WCPSS to improve or to build a new performing arts center. Asked the board to work with the town on this project.

INFORMATION

1. School Improvement Plans for New Schools

Proposed School Improvement Plans for 2001-2003 for new schools: Green Hope Elementary, Middle Creek Elementary, Salem Elementary, Yates Mill Elementary, Centennial Campus Middle, Wakefield Middle, and Wakefield High. These Plans are available for the Board to review in the Board Conference Room. Board approval is requested.

The plans are in the board conference room for the board's review in the next two weeks. This agenda item will come back at the October 2, 2001, board meeting as an action item.

CLOSED SESSION

Susan Parry made a motion to move into closed session at 7:25 p.m. to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the board. G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) regarding two litigations titled: (1) GRB and GLB vs. WCPSS; (2) MCW, by and through his next friend, MEW and MEW and MDW, each individually vs. WCPSS.

The motion was seconded by Beverly Clark; the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Kathryn Watson Quigg adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwanda K. Farrow
Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Superintendent, WCPSS

Kathryn Watson Quigg, Chair

