



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 1, 2013**

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Members Present</u>	
Keith Sutton, Chair	James G. Merrill, Superintendent	Todd Wirt
Christine Kushner, Vice Chair	Cathy Moore	Marvin Connelly
Tom Benton	Stella Shelton	Karen Hamilton
John Tedesco	David Neter	Joe Desormeaux
Kevin L. Hill	Andre Smith	Mark Winters
Jim Martin	Rose Ann Gonzalez	Doug Thilman
Deborah Prickett	Pamela Kinsey-Barker	Edward McFarland
Susan P. Evans	Clinton Robinson	<b><u>Board Attorney Present</u></b>
Bill Fletcher	Jacqueline Ellis	Jonathan Blumberg
	Lloyd Gardner	

Chairman Sutton called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Chair’s Comments**

Chairman Sutton delivered comments related to a letter received from Ronnie Williams, the Mayor of Garner in support of the school bond referendum, a resolution from the Mayor and Town of Morrisville in support of the school bond referendum, thanking First Baptist Church and Compassionate Tabernacle of Faith Baptist Church for hosting back to school events where the Chairman and Superintendent both attended and presented information. Chairman Sutton thanked Garner High School Principal, Drew Cook and his staff for hosting a press conference last week.

**Board Members’ Comments**

Individual Board members offered comments related to thanking municipalities for their support of the school bond referendum, thanking Board Advisory Council members for attending their district meeting, thanking the Garner Chamber of Commerce for supporting the school bond referendum, thanking the Poe Center for being able to attend the Annual Meeting, having deep appreciation of the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County for bringing the Wide Open Blue Grass Festival to schools last week, recognizing Jimmy Burns for being inducted into the North Carolina Band Hall of Fame, visiting East Cary Middle School and seeing the school implement and deliver on the STEM promise, Green Hope High School embracing an anti-bullying and peer support campaign, the Knightdale Education Work Group and the process for its formation, attending the ribbon cutting for the Wake NCSU STEM Early College High School, attending the school to career awards breakfast in Raleigh, a Board Advisory Council Meeting where the Facilities staff and Friends of Wake County presented information, congratulating and recognizing Millbrook High School for having three teams competing in the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Superintendent’s Comments**

Dr. Merrill delivered comments related to the SAT and the overall scores and participation, naming the eight seniors who have been named National Merit Achievement Semifinalists, highlighting the names of the individuals who received School-to-Career Awards, schools honored for graduation rates, Partnership Elementary School’s playground receiving an award, recognizing a Family and Community Engagement employee who won the Latino Diamante Award for contributions in education and the Pride of the Community award from Univision 40.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

Christine Kushner made a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda with following change: (1) addition of Board Advisory Council Nominations to the Consent Items. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** The following persons offered public comments to the Board:

- Qasima Wideman
- Tavon Bridges
- Ramiyah Robinson
- Markyona Patrick
- Jo Linda Green
- Bridgette Burge
- Hannah Newberry
- Fernando Martinez

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### **6. DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH**

Karen Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Services presented information to the Board regarding the activities associated with Disabilities Awareness Month. Last September, the Board passed a resolution that declared the month of October as Disabilities Awareness Month for Wake County Public Schools. The development of activities has been a collaborative effort with the Special Education Services division, Academics, the Office of Early Learning, and Family and Community Engagement. This year, a Diversability website was created and is featured on the Wake County Public School System internet site and will be available throughout the school year.

The Board shared comments and thanked staff for the information and clarification.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

John Tedesco made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **18. RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW LOCATION FOR MONTESSORI MAGNET**

Cathy Moore, Deputy Superintendent for School Performance presented information to the board regarding a new location for the Montessori Magnet. Last year, during the magnet review, Poe Montessori was selected to participate in the Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant as a revised theme school. Currently, Poe is implementing their new theme of Gifted and Talented/Academically Gifted and continuing their prior theme of Montessori. Staff worked with principals to designate a location for the Montessori theme beginning with the 2014-2015 school and found that Kingswood Elementary would like to house the Montessori Program.

Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by John Tedesco. After some discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**19. BOARD POLICY 5030- ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL CALENDAR**

*Revised; First Reading.*

Todd Wirt, Assistant Superintendent for Academics shared that revisions to the policy were reviewed by the Superintendent’s Leadership Team and the Policy Committee during the month of September. The Policy Committee approved a recommendation to change the hours of instruction to 1,025, in compliance with the Calendar Law. John Tedesco made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**20. BOARD POLICY 2302/3002/4002- WEAPONS PROHIBITED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

*Revised; First Reading, Request Waiver of Second Reading*

Russ Smith, Senior Director of Security shared that the item was discussed by the Superintendent’s Leadership Team and the Policy Committee during the month of September. John Tedesco made a motion to approve the request with a waiver of the second reading. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans. The motion to request the waiver of second reading was unanimously approved. John Tedesco made a motion to approve the policy. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**CLOSED SESSION**

John Tedesco made a motion to go into Closed Session at 6:40 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.111(a)(6) and 115C-319 and to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3). The motion was seconded by Bill Fletcher. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:55 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS – CONTINUED**

**21. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)**

Doug Thilman, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented the personnel report. Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before the Board, Bill Fletcher made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Keith A. Sutton, Board Chair

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James G. Merrill, Superintendent

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Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary