

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MINUTES
October 9, 2000

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

Bill McNeal, Superintendent
Karen Banks
Jo Baker
Danny Barnes
Del Burns
Mike Burriss
Luther Cherry
Ann Hooker
Linda Isley
Ray Massey
Janice Shearin
Walt Sherlin
Jonibel Willis

Board Attorneys Present:

Ann Majestic

Bill Fletcher called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance .

INFORMATION

Comments from the Chairman

Mr. Fletcher commented on attending a special event last Saturday – the dedication of the Harriet B. Webster Staff Development Center on Atlantic Avenue. He recognized the preparation of staff for the event, and remarked that its namesake was appropriately honored.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McNeal introduced Jim Talton, co-chair of the Friends of Wake County, the executive steering committee charged with informing the community about school bond referendum issues. Mr. Talton made a brief presentation, along with Paula Lipford, Campaign Coordinator, summarizing involvement of the Friends of Wake County thus far and plans for the next four weeks. He remarked that a community more informed about Plan 2000 will translate into a community in support of the bond. Efforts to communicate information can be seen in speaking engagements, newspaper, radio and direct mail efforts, signage, bumper stickers and an in-depth website. The executive committee will continue to meet weekly and network with support volunteers in reaching out to the public. Feedback and accountability seems to be a keen interest in the community, with interest in if monies are being spent as originally planned and periodic reporting of progress. Ms. Lipford noted that the PTAs of Wake County have shown tremendous support of the school bond. Signage will be available for distribution on Wednesday, October 11 at the NCPTA Office at 3501 Glenwood Avenue.

Superintendent McNeal announced that the finance department was recently recognized with four awards for their efforts during the 1999-2000 school year. The Department of Public Instruction presented a Bronze Certificate to WCPSS for submitting payroll and general expense data error-free for 10 months during the past year. Wake County was the only urban district in North Carolina to receive recognition. The Government Finance Officers Association presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the system for the seventh consecutive year. The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBOI) presented WCPSS with its Meritorius Budget Award for excellence in the preparation and issuance of the system budget. Finally, the ASBOI presented the Wake County Board of Education the certificate of excellence in financial reporting, for the eleventh consecutive year.

Beverly Clark shared that she had the opportunity to sit on a panel interviewing Principal of the Year candidates. She expressed that the finalists – Marge Ronco, Muriel Summers, Susan Sisson, Susan Tripp and Richard Murphy -- were all outstanding, and the interview process was a highlight of her term thus far.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Under Program, Information Item #2 entitled Goals for Existing and Converted Year-Round Schools was changed to an Action item. Under Finance, a Consent item was added entitled Corrected 2000-2001 Principal Salary Schedules. A Consent item was added to Personnel entitled Approved Performance Goals for Superintendent McNeal. A Policy Discussion Item was added at the end of the agenda entitled Review of High School Board Advisory Councils. *With these revisions, Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve, seconded by Tom Oxholm. The vote was unanimous.*

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cynthia Gwynn spoke in favor of base attendance at year-round schools as a way of showing commitment to diversity and reaching Goal 2003.

Nancy Jones reiterated adding a mandatory base of low achieving children to year-round schools would balance the disparity in percentages of free-and-reduced lunches between traditional and year-round schools.

Mary Byrne echoed previous speakers noting that public education has an obligation to help all children receive the best possible education, by spreading needy children among all schools.

Phil Matthews came as a parent rather than Garner council member, defending his support of the bond, the board of education, and voluntary year-round schools. He agreed with a learning environment that is equal among all schools.

Andy Lancaster, parent of a Timer Drive student, encouraged the board to still give parents a choice when developing assignment plans.

Bonnye Hur, supported base attendance for year-round, noting separate but unequal student populations and the inequities of F&R lunch percentages among traditional and year-round schools.

Aleta McClenney, in support of assigned base populations, asked the board to stay committed to socioeconomic and academic diversity among all schools that will serve all children, and remarked that some parents opposing this plan appear to want a private education at public expense.

Pam Pelzel Ross, who has no children or school group affiliation, shared that she was appalled over a group of Timber Drive parents meeting about what to do over the enrollment of a black child. She was also concerned that Garner schools should be representative of the surrounding population.

Julie Strangler spoke in favor of establishing a base at year-round schools, eliminating extremes, and establishing goals for year-round schools that are more reflective of the student population in Wake County.

Becky Brady noted that recruiting efforts have not been successful. She suggested that the only fair option is mandatory base assignment which would also benefit low performers by offering remedial trackout intersessions.

Winnie Beach reported that Middle Creek Elementary has 40% free and reduced lunch children, and as a result, educational goals and fundraising needs are not being met.

Cathy Fortier supported diversity for all schools including year-round.

Carol Willingham noted examples of F&R lunches percentages at traditional schools within a local environment of a low percentage year-round school.

Jeff Critser, a Morrisville Elementary parent, spoke against base assignment, asking the board to consider designating more traditional schools as year-rounds.

Margaret Bell, a parent at Oak Grove, reiterated that year-rounds are unique and successful because they are voluntary and a choice is given to parents.

CONSENT ITEMS- ALL COMMITTEES

Kathryn Quigg made a motion to approve all consent items, seconded by Tom Oxholm. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes included were as follows:

Open Session – July 28, September 11, September 18, September 25

Closed Session – August 28, September 11, September 25

POLICY

1. Board Advisory Council Nominations

New nominations to Board Advisory Councils (see attached nomination forms).

FINANCE

1. Fund Balance Appropriation, 2000-2001

Fund balance appropriation for \$488,150.00 for the carryover balance from 1999-2000 for the Compensation Study funds.

2. Fund Balance Appropriation, 2000-2001

Fund balance appropriation for \$3,511.26 for the carryover balance from 1997-98 CBA grant, Schools Without Walls, at Longview School. Carryover balance will be spent this fiscal year.

3. Budget Amendments and Transfers, 2000-2001

Adjust State Public School Fund	-	\$ 1,945,394.82
Adjust Local Current Expense Fund	+	\$ 95,849.68
Adjust Federal Programs Fund	-	\$ 10,591,637.97
Adjust Capital Outlay Fund	+	\$ 3,669,936.67
Adjust Multiple Enterprise Fund	+	\$ 2,601,221.51

4. Corrected 2000-2001 Principal Salary Schedules (Exhibit A)

Corrected Principal salary schedules for 2000-2001 were attached.

FACILITIES

1. Annexation Petition: Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve Area - Cary

In 1951, the board of education received as a gift approximately 10 acres of land on Kildaire Farm Road from Marion T. Braxton Jones and his wife. The gift required that the property be used only by Apex High (located at that time on the present site of Apex Middle School) and only for vocational education purposes. If not used for this purpose, the property reverts to the grantors or their heirs. The Town of Cary requests the board file an annexation petition to conform to adjacent properties known as the Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve. Annexation will eliminate a "doughnut hole" at Hemlock Bluffs. Staff requested board approval of the annexation petition. Fiscal Implications - None. Town of Cary will waive annexation fees and provide Town services.

2. Annexation Petition: New Holly Springs Middle and Elementary Site

The Town of Holly Springs requested a voluntary annexation of approximately 35 acres of board property on Holly Springs Road where a new middle school and elementary school are proposed for construction. Annexation will allow the town to provide public utilities, police, and fire protection. Staff requested board approval to file an annexation petition. Fiscal Implications - None at this time. Upon annexation the town will provide municipal services.

3. Encroachment Agreement: Daniels Middle

A new boundary line survey of the Daniels Middle School site revealed a fence encroachment by residential property owners Joseph J. DeLuca and wife. The fence encroachment does not in any way interfere with the operation of school activities. To protect the board's property interests and to allow the fence to remain in place, an agreement has been reached that requires the property owner to remove the fence if the

property is sold or the board requires the fence to be removed in the future. Staff requested board approval of the encroachment agreement. Fiscal Implications – None.

4. Sewer Easement: Wake Forest/Rolesville High

The Town of Wake Forest requested a sewer line easement 20 feet in width across board property at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School. The easement is for an extension from an existing sewer line easement on board property, which will allow the town to replace an existing line in poor condition. The easement request contains 5,124 square feet. Staff requested board approval to grant the easement. Fiscal Implications - Board will receive \$2,305.93 in compensation.

5. Utility Easement: Forestville Road High Site – Wake Forest

Wake Electric Membership Corporation requested a utility easement for an overhead distribution line along the Forestville Road high school property line. The easement will allow for the location of power poles 32 feet from the centerline of Forestville Road and an area 15 feet on each side of the centerline of the distribution line. Fiscal Implications – None.

6. Form of Agreement for Design Consultant Services

Modifications to the form of agreement for design consultant services were recommended with the concurrence of the board's attorney. The text of the changes from the currently approved agreement for design consultant services is attached, and the full text of the 30-page document is available for inspection. Board approval was requested. Fiscal Implications – None.

7. Bids: Fuller Elementary Renovations

Formal bids were received on September 21, 2000 for the renovations at Fuller Elementary School. The work includes renovating older existing classrooms and the media center, new group toilets, technology support improvements, a new playground and other site improvements. Staff and Brown & Jones Architects, Inc. recommend award of the multi-prime general construction contract to Jacobsen Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$963,106; the plumbing contract to ABC Plumbing Company, in the amount of \$76,080; the mechanical contract to Watco Corporation, in the amount of \$482,140, and the electrical contract to Vaughan Electric Company, Inc., in the amount of \$397,169. Board approval was requested. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$2,450,588. The total project budget consists of \$2,235,588 from the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program, \$105,000 from the modernization component of the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program, and \$110,000 from the technology component of the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program.

8. Resolution to Auction Seized Vehicles

General Statutes, G.S. 20-28.5, allow local county boards of education to sell motor vehicles at public sale. Board approval of the attached resolution was requested. Fiscal Implications – Proceeds of sale.

PERSONNEL

1. Recommendations for Employment

Professional List #5, 2000-2001; Other Professional List #5, 2000-2001; Support List #5, 2000-2001. (Exhibit B)

2. Recommendations for Administrative Appointments

Laverne J. Daniels, teacher at Wake Forest Elementary School, to assistant principal at Wake Forest Elementary School, effective date to be determined and ending June 30, 2001.

H. Trent Evans, applicant, to assistant principal at Reedy Creek Elementary School, effective date November 1, 2000 and ending June 30, 2003.

Sabra K. Green, applicant, to assistant principal (55%) at Apex Elementary School, effective date to be determined and ending June 30, 2001.

Janice S. Hall, counselor at Southeast Raleigh High School, t senior director, Guidance and Social Work, effective October 10, 2000 and ending June 30, 2003.

3. Approved Performance Goals for Superintendent McNeal (Exhibit C)

PROGRAM

1. Grant Proposals

1. Continuation: (#00.315) U.S. Dept. of Education: Magnet Schools Assistance Program/Cornerstones Grant (Year 3 of 3) (\$2,750,623)
2. Continuation: (#00.517) U.S. Depts. Of Justice and Health and Human Services: Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant (Year 2 of 3) (\$2,689,889)
3. Competitive: (#00.514) North Carolina Eisenhower Program for Higher Education Professional Development: Capacity-Building Competition/Collaboration with NC State University (serving as fiscal agent) (\$125,000)
4. Competitive: (#00.519) N.C. Department of Public Instruction: Technology Literacy Challenge Grant: Community Technology Learning Centers/Wilburn Elementary (\$125,000)
5. Competitive (#00.518) Ericsson, Inc.: Community Contributions Program (\$2,500) Funding level varies by grant.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

POLICY

Action

1. Policy 5530 – Promotion and Intervention

Revised; First Reading (Waiver of Second Reading Requested)

The revisions to this policy provide clarity rather than changes in content.

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve the revised first reading, seconded by Beverley Clark, and the vote was unanimous. J.C. O’Neal made a motion to waive the second reading, seconded by Tom Oxholm, and the vote was unanimous.

2. Policy 5534 – Dual Enrollment for High School Academic Enrichment Courses

Revised; First Reading

The changes combine two dual enrollment policies into one by deleting Policy 5533 Dual Enrollment for Vocational/Technical Courses and by revising Policy 5534 Dual Enrollment for High School Academic Enrichment Courses. Revisions clarify the policy and provide additional opportunities for dual enrollment.

Susan Parry made a motion to approve the revised first reading, seconded by J.C. O’Neal. The vote was unanimous.

3. Policy 6860 – Cocurricular Activities and Athletics *Revised; First Reading*
Policy 6860.7 on Cocurricular Activities and Athletics is amended to meet new promotion requirements.

J.C. O'Neal made a motion to approve the revised first reading, seconded by Kathryn Quigg. The vote was unanimous.

FACILITIES

Information

1. Year 2001 Charter Schools

The summary sheets for Hope Elementary School and The Middle School Academy of Southeast Raleigh were attached. This was provided for information only at the time.

Fiscal Implications - Transfer of per pupil funding. **(Exhibit D)**

Mr. Jesse Dingle spoke to the Board briefly about the success stories at Hope Elementary School over the last three years.

(BREAK - 5:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.)

PROGRAM

Information

1. Designation of New Year-Round Schools

Staff recommended one elementary school and one middle school for conversion to multi-track year-round for the 2001-02 school year. Staff answered questions from the Board. This was presented for information. Funds for an early hire of certain personnel and purchase of supplies and equipment will be needed. Funds for planning intersession (remediation) program will be needed. Transportation costs for these schools will increase.

Mr. Beavers made a recommendation to the Board that Stough Elementary and Carroll Middle School be converted to multi-track year-round schools for the 2001-2002 school year. He requested that this be an Action Item at the October 23 Board meeting.

He noted that Stough and Carroll were selected due to already high percentages of low income students enrolled. Year-round accessibility would also increase, since Stough students cannot currently get busing transportation to a year-round school.

A designated base population will be set at Stough and Carroll, and the number of students required to stay will be approximately one-third of the school's current enrollment. Some students will be assigned to other schools. The remainder of the enrollment will be made up of students who apply for the year-round program. Students who are presently enrolled in Stough and Carroll will receive top priority. Parents may apply for a transfer to another school, and if the transfer is granted, parents would be responsible for transportation. Some existing year-round transportation patterns may be reconfigured.

In discussion, the Board agreed that percentages should be as high as possible the first year when initiating the base population because the numbers may drop in future years. Letters of intent will signal staff as to the initial makeup of the student population; and staff would then look at the application process and assigning base nodes.

Mr. Beavers also confirmed that his staff would make a recommendation for the conversion of an elementary, and possibly a middle school, in the East Wake area for the 2002-2003 school year.

If the Board's October 23rd vote is affirmative, staff will schedule public information sessions at Stough Elementary and Carroll Middle to educate parents on how these changes will impact them.

2. Goals for Existing and Converted Year-Round Schools

Staff presented recommendations for three-year growth goals for existing and converted year-round schools that reflect a positive change in the number of students who qualify for free/reduced price lunch. Staff discussed the various strategies that might be used in helping schools reach their goal. This was presented for Board approval.

*Basic information was handed out (**Exhibit E**) for existing and to-be-converted schools: Adams, Durant, Green, Jones Dairy, Morrisville, Oak Grove, Timber Drive, West Lake, Wilburn, Stough and Carroll. A comparison chart showed schools within the same transportation pattern, F&R lunch percentages, 20th day enrollment, number of students qualifying for F&R lunches in each school, total number of students in the area, average F&R percentage for the entire area, and the recommended three-year goals.*

The Board gave staff the authority and flexibility to utilize a variety of measures annually to assist each school reach its individual goal. These may include assigning ESL students, recruiting, reassigning existing year-round students, creating mandatory base populations, or a combination of some or all of these strategies. No current year-round students or their siblings would lose seats, but may be reassigned.

The Board requested that staff set a goal for Partnership Primary Elementary School. This school presently has a small percentage of low-income students.

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve the Goals for Existing and Converted Year-round Schools. It was seconded by Tom Oxholm, and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Gary Minter spoke about the importance of providing young students with information about the dangers of AIDS and treatments available today. He offered to work with the board in creating an open forum /conference for discussion and dissemination of information.

SUMMARY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rosa Gill will be serving in place of Wray Stephens at a student hearing on October 12, 2000. Mr. Fletcher reminded the Board that the County Commissioners luncheon will be October 18 from 12:00 to 1:30 in room 307 at Broughton High School. He also added that bond support information/materials will be available for distribution at 3501 Glenwood Avenue on Wednesday morning.

POLICY

Discussion

Review of High School Board Advisory Councils

Susan Parry asked that the Board prepare for a discussion at an upcoming meeting on the policy that governs Board Advisory Councils, and how those councils might better function in the communities they serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

Beverley Clark announced that staff is convening a contractor's group to review facility design guidelines, and offer technical feedback and input on Plan 2000. The Board will hear a report from that committee at a future meeting. Ms. Clark and Ray Massey may also recommend a separate Facilities committee meeting to consider longer-term issues to be addressed in coming months.

Kathryn Quigg announced that there are several forums regarding the bond to be held in Wake Forest/Rolesville area: October 10th at Wake Forest High School, November 2nd at a Senior Center in Wake Forest, and October 24th at Jones Dairy Elementary.

Mr. Oxholm noted that WPTF radio station has been called about scheduling upcoming interviews with Board members and central office administration.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Bill Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Marett, Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Secretary

Bill Fletcher, Chairman