

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MINUTES
October 23, 2000

Board Members Present:

Bill Fletcher, Chairman
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 3:10 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance .

INFORMATION

Comments from the Chairman

None

Superintendent's Report

Teacher Excellence Task Force Report

Michael Patterson, co-chairman of the Wake Teacher Excellence Task Force, gave the Board an executive overview, explaining that the task force was formed as a result of the concern over teacher effectiveness systemwide, and

how that may impact the success of Goal 2003. A collaborative group of over 60 teachers, business people and parents reviewed the findings from the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, and organized into action research teams. These teams are working on a comprehensive report that will be available to the public on January 30, 2001. Additional community input and consensus will then be sought, and Mr. McNeal will develop an action plan from the report findings to deliver to the public in the spring.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Under Personnel Recommendations for Employment Professional List #6, Rhonda Mitchell was deleted. With that revision, Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Parry. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

(Other Than Program Action Item #3 - Designation of New Year-Round Schools)

None

CONSENT ITEMS – ALL COMMITTEES

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve all consent items, seconded by Tom Oxholm. The vote carried with Beverley Clark voting No.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes included were as follows:

Open Session – October 9, 2000

POLICY

1. Policy 5534 – Dual Enrollment for Academic Enrichment Courses

Revised; Second 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 Academic Enrichment Courses. Revisions clarify the policy and provide additional opportunities for dual enrollment.

2. Policy 6860 – Cocurricular Activities and Athletics

Revised; Second Reading

Policy 6860.7 on Cocurricular Activities and Athletics is amended to meet new promotion requirements.

3. Board Advisory Council Nominations

New nominations to board advisory councils. (See attached nomination forms.)

4. Legislative Agenda – Year 2001

The legislative agenda for the year 2001 from the Legislative Committee was recommended for approval.

PERSONNEL

1. Recommendations for Employment

Professional List #6, 2000-2001; Other Professional List #6, 2000-2001; Support List #6, 2000-2001

2. Recommendation for Administrative Appointment

Douglas E. Hooper, senior administrator for Special Education Services, to 50% assistant principal intern at Wilburn Elementary School effective October 24, 2000, and ending June 30, 2003.

3. Recommendations for Early Contract Extensions

The following assistant principals were recommended for early extension of their contracts through June 30, 2002: Kevin Sergent, Apex High School; Robert Smith, Apex High School; Luther Thomas, Apex High School; and Michelle Windle, Apex High School.

PROGRAM

1. Grant Proposals

Competitive: (#00.520) SHOPA Foundation for Educational Excellence: Kids in Need Teacher Grants/Zebulon Middle School (\$1,000);

Competitive: (#00.521) North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance: Friends of NCAAHPERD/Zebulon Middle School (\$1,000). Funding varies by grant.

2. Lotus Academic Passport Program Agreement

Technology Services entered into an agreement with Lotus Development in June of 1999 to provide a phased-in implementation of Lotus Notes and Learning Space. Re-enrollment in the program and renewal of the software licenses is required each year. First year cost was \$38,650. The current second year cost is \$77,568. Third year cost for next year will be \$100,050. Board approval was recommended. Funding is available annually through the Technology Services Division current expense budget.

3. Wake County Human Services

Wake County Human Services will provide: 1) Through two (2) adolescent drug abuse specialists, drug abuse counseling and assessment in all schools through referrals from Community Assessment Teams and student support teams in accordance with grant guidelines, 2) Five (5) regionally based mental health clinicians who will serve as Community Assessment Team leaders and provide mental health assessment, planning, and referral, and, 3) Three (3) coordinators to conduct training and consultation to community and school based after school programs to expand their capacity and develop life skills for students. Wake County Public Schools System will pay Wake County Human Services the amount of the expenses for Grant approved activities and provide unfurnished office space for five (5) mental health clinicians. Total aggregate costs not to exceed \$647,359. Funding from Safe Schools Healthy Students Federal Grant.

4. Wake County Communities in Schools

Communities in Schools will provide:

1) 1.5 Tutor-Mentor recruiter/trainers to identify up to 300 mentors to assist students in

Wake County Schools, 2) Training for all tutor-mentors in how to help students to improve school behavior leading to academic success, 3) Ongoing support and supervision to tutor-mentors, and 4) Ongoing support to school coordinators.

Wake County Public Schools System will pay Communities in Schools of Wake County the amount of the expenses for Grant approved activities. Total costs not to exceed \$132,823. Funding from Safe Schools Healthy Students Federal Grant.

5. 2001-02 Year-Round Calendar

A Year-Round Calendar Committee met on September 25, 2000, to review input of parents and staff from each year-round school with regard to proposed 2001-02 multi-track year-round calendars. The Committee reviewed several calendar proposals and came to consensus on the attached calendar. The Committee reviewed parameters for calendar development, annual testing dates, and inclement weather make-up days and concluded that the attached calendar is most effective in meeting these needs.

A highlight of this calendar is the two days that can be used for inclement weather make-up or for professional development for staff on all four tracks (February 11, 2002 and May 27, 2002). Staff recommended that the Board adopt this multi-track year-round calendar for the 2001-2002 school year. No fiscal implications at this time.

6. Goals for Existing Year-Round Middle Schools

Staff presented recommendations for three-year growth goals for existing year-round middle 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.

No fiscal implications.

7. Charter School Applications: Hope Elementary School and the Middle School Academy of Southeast Raleigh

The applications for Hope Elementary School and The Middle School Academy of Southeast Raleigh were presented for a decision by the Wake County Board of Education. These applications will be forwarded to the State Board of Education for approval pending clarification of middle school curriculum issues. State and local funding amounts transferred to these charters based on enrollment projections for year one will be approximately \$524,374.50, and year two \$750,258.90.

FACILITIES

1. Bids: Athens Drive High Roof Replacement

Bids for the state bond improvements (roof replacement) at Athens Drive High were received on August 24, 2000. Staff and Roof Engineering, Inc., recommend award of the contract to Quality Roofers and Guttering, Inc., in the amount of \$1,183,387. A local roofing contractor raised several concerns about the bidding process and product. All of these concerns have been addressed to the contractor's satisfaction. Board approval was requested. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$1,565,913. The total project budget consists of \$1,415,529 from the board-approved state bond project budget and \$150,384 from the deferred maintenance component of the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program.

2. Bids: Cary High Roof Replacement

Bids for the state bond improvements (roof replacement) at Cary High were received on August 31, 2000. Staff and CTL Engineering, Inc., recommend award of the contract to

CFE, Inc., in the amount of \$859,950. A local roofing contractor raised several concerns about the bidding process and product. All of these concerns have been addressed to the contractor's satisfaction. Board approval was requested. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$2,750,805. The total project budget consists of \$2,613,050 from the board-approved state bond project budget and \$137,755 from the ADA component of the 1996 State Bond Program.

3. Bids: Fuquay-Varina High Athletic Facilities Improvements

Bids were received on October 12, 2000, for athletic facilities improvements at Fuquay-Varina High School. Staff and CLH Design, PA recommend award of single-prime contract to Austin Grading Company, Inc., in the amount of \$378,954.45. Board approval was requested. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the total project budget of \$1,097,494. The project consists of \$784,624 from the board-approved state bond program project budget and \$312,870 from Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program project funds.

4. Bids: Lufkin Road Athletic Fields

Bids for the construction of the athletic fields at Lufkin Road Middle were received on September 28, 2000. Staff and CLH Design PA, recommend award of the multi-prime general contract to Jacobsen Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$213,318. Board approval was requested. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the board-approved Phase IIIB total project budget of \$22,498,675.

5. Bids: Washington Elementary Additions and Renovations

At the August 14, 2000 meeting, the board pre-approved issuance of Notices of Intent to award contracts and Notices to Proceed with construction of Washington Elementary additions and renovations, provided the bids received were within budget. Bids were received on August 10, 2000. Staff and Pearce, Brinkley, Cease & Lee, PA recommend award of the general contract to MLB Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$2,653,000; plumbing contract to ABL & Associates Plumbing, LLC, in the amount of \$458,012; mechanical contract to Baker Mechanical, Inc., in the amount of \$965,400, and the electrical contract to H & L Electrical of Raleigh, Inc., in the amount of \$544,400. The total of these multi-prime bids is \$4,620,812. The lowest single-prime bid was \$4,832,600. Board approval was requested. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the board-approved total project budget of \$6,421,967. The total project budget consists of \$4,766,634 from the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program; \$795,870 from the board-approved state bond project budget; \$259,463 from the ADA component of the 1996 State Bond Program, and \$600,000 from the Phase IIIB Long-Range Building Program contingency fund.

6. Change Order No. S-02: Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle

Board approval was requested for Change Order No. S-02 for the soil excavation and removal contract at Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle for GARCO, Inc. This change order, in the amount of \$127,290, is for cost associated with removal and replacement of soils under the building footprint. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the board-approved 1996 State Bond project budget of \$15,665,274 and \$737,989 from Phase IIIB project budget. The total project budget is \$16,403,263.

7. Resolution: Long-Range Building Program Funding Reallocation

Resolution requests reallocation of funds from completed or nearly complete Phase IIIB projects to create a project and expenditure code from which to pay municipal assessments. These assessments are payable as a result of municipal contracts for road-widening projects

deferred from Phase IIIA or Phase IIIB school construction projects. Board approval was requested. Fiscal Implications - No additional appropriation of funding is necessary.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

FINANCE

Action

1. Request for Additional Positions

Based on initiatives related to Goal 2003, four additional positions were requested.

Human Resources Licensure Administrator: Responsible for administering the licensure process to insure that new teachers and administrators are paid correctly and minimize WCPSS risk regarding salary audit exceptions.

Human Resources Sr. Director for Salary Administration and Operations: Responsible for standardizing salary administration, implementing the WCPSS Compensation Study and managing non-school based operations.

Human Resources Secretary to Senior Director: Responsible for providing administrative support to the Sr. Director for Salary Administration and Operations.

Student Assignment Senior Administrator: Responsible for elementary magnet process including applications, selection, and population of elementary magnet programs to most efficiently use facilities and meet program needs.

Fiscal Implications: Funding provided from the \$117,300 increase received in the state allotment for central office personnel with the remainder from any savings in the state central office allotment and fund balance appropriation for a total of \$240,000.

Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve, seconded by J.C. O'Neal. The vote was unanimous.

FACILITIES

Information

1. Underwood Elementary – Process to Review Facility Options

Staff asked the Board's permission to return at a future time with facility options under consideration for Underwood Elementary. In a brief update, it was explained that a community meeting was being held in the school's media center that evening, facilitated by the principal and attended by Jonibel Willis, Christina Lighthall and other staff members, to talk about the process for community stakeholder input in reviewing facility options. A detailed report and recommendations will follow, as well as an updated architectural engineering review of the facility. This was presented for information only at the time.

PROGRAM

Information

1. Progress Toward the 2003 Goal

The Evaluation and Research Department presented a report analyzing End of Grade test results from the 1999-2000 school year and identifying trends impacting achievement of the 2003 Goal. In brief, findings showed that while improvements in test scores moved toward the goal, current rates of improvement are inadequate. Of particular concern is the gap in the rates of gain for students who qualify for the Free/Reduced Lunch program and other students who do not qualify for free or reduced price lunches.

Chuck Dulaney, director of evaluation and research, noted that the percentages of students scoring in Levels III and IV on EOG multiple-choice tests were higher in 2000 than any previous year. Although gains were greater in the elementary grades than in middle schools, we remain closer to the goal in grade 8 than in grade 3. The rate of improvement shown over the past two years will not achieve the 95% goal by 2003. The 95% goal is already close to being achieved for some demographic groups, but other groups need significant help in meeting the goal. Students from more affluent homes show both higher scores and greater gains on the EOG tests. Achievement of the 95% goal will require much higher rates of academic growth from groups of students who have been less successful in the past and who have fewer resources in their homes. On average, students who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program show smaller academic gains and are three years behind their non-FRL peers by middle school. (Exhibit A)

2. Class Size Reduction in Schools with Small Classrooms

Staff recommended postponing for a year consideration for reduced class size for schools with small classrooms. The pros and cons were presented for information. (Exhibit B)

3. Development of Review Process for Crowding in Individual Schools

Staff presented for information the review processes and data for studying impact of crowding in individual schools. Transportation costs will vary according to strategies used. (Exhibit C)

4. Options for Overcrowded Schools

Staff reviewed a list of options for relieving overcrowded schools. The pros and cons of several options were presented for information. Funding will vary depending on option(s) chosen. (Exhibit D)

The Board took a break at 4:40 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 5:00 p.m.

5. Magnet Schools Assistance Program – The Next Cycle

The next Magnet Schools Assistance Program proposal (magnet grant) is due on December 22, 2000. The staff is currently exploring possible concepts, programs, and strategies on which to build the next proposal. The status of the current legislation and central issues that must be addressed were delineated. A preliminary list of possible options was provided. No fiscal implications at this time. (Exhibit E)

Ms. Massengill added that a resolution will be brought to the Board during one of the next few meetings asking for funding support in case the grant is not awarded, so that the programs can be started. The U.S. Department of Education will inform WCPSS by April 30th about the awarding of the grant.

Ms. Hoffman and Mr. Oxholm noted that there were in fact fiscal implications.

Approximately \$1.5 million would need to be reserved in the budget to begin implementing the programs. If the grant is awarded, it can be freed up for other uses on the priority list.

Mr. Oxholm reminded the Board that in this year's budget, approximately \$11 million is already being spent that is not in returning funding next year. It would be a challenge to add another commitment of \$1.5 million to that total.

These programmatic changes would be designed to reach the 95% achievement goal and reduce the minority population at the five magnet schools.

Action

1. Brooks Elementary School Magnet Program

Brooks Elementary School was being presented as a new magnet school. The proposed magnet theme is an elementary museums model with an emphasis on technology.

The magnet program will be similar to the program being developed at Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle School. Brooks will be included in the Magnet Schools Assistance Program applications as a new magnet program. It was recommended that the program begin with the 2002-03 school year. Staff recommended the approval of Brooks Elementary School as a magnet school to become Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary School. No fiscal implications at this time.

In discussion, Ms. Massengill noted that four meetings have taken place to inform and involve the community, which has responded in a positive manner. With regards to budget, if the grant was not approved, the fiscal implications would be seen in the next budget cycle, for supplies, equipment and possibly one staff position.

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve Brooks Elementary as a magnet school, pending financial provisions (or subject to having the funds to do so). It was seconded by J.C. O'Neal, and the vote was unanimous.

2. Extended Day Magnet School

Extended Day Magnet Schools have been in existence since 1977. Extended Day Magnet Schools were designed to connect with the regular school day and to provide after-school care for students. Extended Day programs exist at Combs, Joyner, and Olds.

Each of the three schools have other magnet or enhancement themes: Combs Leadership and Extended Day Magnet; Joyner Language Arts/Communications and Extended Day Magnet; and Olds University Connections and Extended Day Magnet

Due to mounting costs, affordable daycare options in the community, and personnel issues, the Extended Day magnet program has not been able to meet their proposed budget. The staff recommended the elimination of the Extended Day Magnet Program at these three schools. Each of the three schools will offer private childcare onsite.

This proposal has been shared with parents and staff. Staff also recommended that the three schools remain magnet schools by emphasizing their additional theme.

Possible 2001-02 budget implications. **(Exhibit F)**

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Parry.

In discussion, the principals representing Combs, Joyner and Olds agreed that raising tuitions for extended day families was not considered a viable option and subsidizing these enterprise programs with local dollars was the only other solution beyond eliminating the programs.

Ms. Hoffman withdrew her motion and recommended that the item be tabled and brought back at the next meeting. The Board requested the following additional information: the cost savings related to withdrawing the program vs. costs associated with continuing the program; academic gains of students in extended day vs. those not in extended day; how many Level 1 and 2 students are making academic gains as a result of extended day and overlapping ALP programs; and what the best recommendation is for the application of funds (ranging from \$50,000 to \$170,000 in indirect costs) toward reaching the 2003 Goal. Staff noted that a decision needed to be made soon, due to the approaching recruiting season, and the need to make contacts and build relationships with private daycare agencies.

BREAK – 6:00 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS – 6:30 p.m.

Fifteen Wake County students were recognized as their school's recipient of the Spotlight on Students award – Mathia Rose Bailey, Aversboro Elementary; Sammy Flores, Brassfield Elementary; Kevin Schaefer, Briarcliff Elementary; Francesca M. Locklear, Bugg Elementary; Nicholus Christian, Cary High; Sade Powell, Conn Elementary; Tristan Massey, Creech Elementary; Laquitta Simmons, Daniels Middle; Jacob Metcalf, Dillard Drive Middle; Ryan Ceplecha, Durant Road Elementary; Adison Ross Daniels, Durant Road Middle; Melissa Hope Talley, Jones Dairy Elementary; Alvin Ming-Yun Tsang, J.Y. Joyner Elementary; Anton Kvit, Olds Elementary; and Tiara Washington, Washington Elementary.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROGRAM ACTION ITEM #3 – 7:00 p.m.

Designation of New Year-Round Schools

The following people spoke against designating Stough Elementary as a year-round school with mandated base attendance, stating their opinions, pointing out challenges not addressed, offering suggestions to improve the process, and asking for action to cancel all plans for mandatory assignment of any child to a year-round calendar.

Doug McMillan stated that 85% of parents surveyed at Stough did not want the conversion and more time and research was needed with such an important precedent.

Mark Beasley felt more advance communication and thorough analysis of the demand for year-round should be presented, with a proactive approach.

Kelli Walker-Jones noted research is needed for the 2/3rds of Stough students should they opt not to return, and the issue of influx at surrounding schools needs to be addressed

Ruthie Jones relayed that Stough is has a unique population of stable and transitional students. She also added that Stough has renovation needs such as air conditioning in the kitchen that could be better accomplished with a traditional schedule.

Audrey Bailey described the Stough of today and what the conversion would dismantle in the way of teacher staffing, low turnover, high EOG scores, active fundraising and personalized attention.

Prudy Frederick reminded the Board that mandated year-round schedules will greatly effect family vacations and siblings on different calendars.

Andrew Meyer voiced concern about childcare challenges for families who have not chosen a year-round calendar.

Lowanda Jones shared that the result of mandating a year-round base may result in longer bus rides for some children and expensive childcare costs.

Brent Jewell asked that data drive any decisions rather than the other way around, and that the Board be supplied with more complete information.

Rob Schofield said that while he appreciates the role of year-round, the mandatory aspect is the point in question. Being asked to accept new schedules, separate sibling schedules and altered family traditions destroys the concept of choice.

Ross Rhudy served on the Citizens Advisory Council for School Construction and Funding, and remarked that newer year-round schools are better options than transforming a successful, established school community into a mandated year-round facility. He also noted the correlation between schools and surrounding property values.

Jackie Abbott, Root Elementary PTA president and former Wake County teacher, commented on the impact this may have on the entire Wake County school system, when decisions are made that seem to be primarily cost-driven.

JoAnna McMillan reminded the Board to make decisions with the big picture in mind. She questioned whether there is concrete research on whether people choose year-round due to programs, location or scheduling.

Mark Wilson remarked that the decision about Stough and Carroll was not just about two schools, but about inclusion in the decision-making process. He asked three things for parents: cancel any plans for mandatory year-round scheduling in any Wake County school; delay the vote on converting any successful traditional school to a year-round calendar until effective research and study is complete; and include parents and teachers in the deliberations so that the best ideas will emerge.

The following people spoke against designating Carroll Middle School as a year-round school with mandated base attendance.

James Hinton, PTA president of Carroll Middle, offered survey results from Stough and Carroll parents, staff and surrounding feeder schools. Out of 1400 people polled, 80% were against mandating year-round. Choice, loss of community, and scheduling problems were primary concerns.

Lauren Beller, a 7th grader at Carroll Middle, remarked that she would like to follow the tradition of her siblings. She began a petition to convey student's opinions, and show personal examples that transcend charts and statistics.

Josette Beller, parent of Lauren Beller and five other children, expressed that her family has made, and will make, an investment of several years in Wake County schools, and would like choices, not mandated decisions.

Connie Schlimme, an 8th grade math teacher and parent at Carroll Middle, conveyed that the staff is hesitant to offer true opinions about scheduling and that moral is down. An informal survey of staff showed 75% with a preference to maintain a traditional calendar.

Susan Leonard relayed family concerns, and the fact that while two of her children are on a traditional calendar, one will be on a year-round schedule, leaving that sibling as an outsider. She noted that 11% of Wake County school children attend year-round schools, with 2.4% on a waiting list, leaving 86.6 % of Wake County families who prefer the traditional calendar.

Eddie Owens asked that the Board stay open-minded to collective voices during the public hearing, and reminded them of disruption in the areas of summer sports, vacations, conflicting sibling schedules and increased daycare costs.

Anne Sherron, PTA co-president of Douglass Elementary, noted that changing Carroll to a year-round will greatly effect and disrupt populations in surrounding schools. Sixty-three percent of parents at Douglass responded to a survey, with 221 opposing Carroll as year-round, and 58 supporting the change.

Lauren McHenry and Lee Phillips, Carroll Middle School students, shared a petition signed by over 100 students who don't want their school to be converted to year-round.

Bob Leker, voiced concerns that Carroll will not fill seats due to lack of support from existing families and the low number of year-round applicants on the waiting list. Options for daycare during three-week intersessions are not adequate. The ripple effect on Carroll feeder elementary schools may adversely affect enrollment.

The Board took a break at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 8:40 p.m.

PROGRAM

Action

3. Designation of New Year-Round Schools

Staff recommended Stough Elementary and Carroll Middle for conversion to multi-track year-round for the 2001-02 school year. Staff answered questions from the Board. This was presented for Board approval. 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. Fletcher commented that there seem to be two issues: first, the conversion of any school to a year-round calendar, with or without a mandated base; and the second issue being doing so and having a mandated base.

In discussion, Mr. Oxholm noted that the Board would not be discussing whether to consider mandating a base to year-round schools if the bond had passed last year, or if the area wasn't growing by 3,000 students per year. The other schools not impacted at this particular time also need to be considered in discussions.

Mr. O'Neal added that this was not the first time the Board has mandated a base to an existing year-round school, but that conversion was a new step. The Board has discussed trying to get away from making all new schools year-round schools, to address comments from traditional school parents that WCPSS is a two-tiered system of the "haves" and the "have-nots." He added that a delay will not change the attitudes of the audience, whether a decision came three weeks or three months from this time. It is important that the Board look at the big picture of over 98,000 children and reaching the 95% goal by 2003. The funds aren't available to hire more teachers and lower the amount of children in each class. Mandating year-round bases would help to accomplish getting the appropriate percentages of free and reduced lunch students at all schools. These Level 1 and 2 students need more time, and year-round scheduling would create that opportunity.

Ms. Clark felt the issue wasn't just a year-round vs. a traditional calendar. The issue everyone was focused on at the meeting was student achievement. The question that needs to be asked is Will the conversion of these two schools increase student achievement? She felt that in order to answer that question, other questions needed to be answered. In part this decision was raised by questions that arose from the CAC report, which did say that WCPSS should increase the number of year-round schools. Like many things in that report, it is easier to say it than it is to do it. She hoped that the demand for year-round could be quantified schools, and figure out how many more families actually want year-round. The question is not whether we can convert these schools, but should we convert them.

Ms. Hoffman noted that the Board has studied this issue for months and wanted to share some information with many of the people in the audience that are in her district and that she, as well as other Board members, directly represents. This has not been an easy decision and has been a long time coming. From a historic perspective, this (year-round) is an issue that has effected communities and entire school system for some time. It has been a great benefit in many ways to give extra seats where needed, and has been an additional choice for people to enhance their children's education and allow for needed

intercession time for students. Ms. Hoffman added that she was initially not a proponent of year-round and has come around to being supportive of the year-round schooling as a possible solution for many things. This Board has struggled over the past two years with a failed bond and a goal to meet for all children. Since the last student assignment plan and discussions in December, the Board has been discussing how to balance schools, in terms of all schools having an equal amount of students who have need for help, while still giving people as much choice as possible rather than mandates. In her district, she said there have been fewer and fewer opportunities for choice since the area is not in a year-round transportation pattern, and the schools have been competing with the Cary area which wants magnet schools. She added that the Board had set staff in motion over the past few months, directing them to convert three schools to year-round (then eliminating East Wake because of transportation). Due to the need for more seats, the Board asked staff to name the two schools that would best fit that need. The Board voted unanimously to do that and it has been publicized for months. Two weeks ago the specifics were offered, however the issue has been longer standing. She felt it is important to move forward, but the major issue of mandating year-round calendar should be revisited. She noted that the staff was not asked to work out details at this point, and were doing what was required at the time.

Mr. Fletcher said that academic research tells us that a high concentration of high needs children (40% or more) at a school suggests that it then makes it difficult for any child in that school to excel. If nine or ten year-round schools have a low concentration of F&R lunch children and the other 50 or so elementary schools have higher concentrations, and recruitment methods are difficult to year-rounds, the base discussion is another option.

Mr. Oxholm said that Wake 's operating budget is well below Charlotte-Mecklenberg, Guilford County and other similar size counties (\$500 per child per year). Despite that, WCPSS is one of the best school systems in the state and the southeast. This lack of support and funding makes the issue a difficult one to address.

Ms. Hoffman made a motion to delay voting on this item until November 14th, asking that the staff bring back further, more specific information on how to convert these two schools; and to look at different scenarios – specifically how to do it without mandating anyone, and how to do it with a mandated base.

Tom Oxholm seconded the motion.

Ms. Hoffman added that staff be allowed the time to focus and work on this report. Mr. McNeal noted that the concept of year-round means different calendars, and at some point WCPSS will need to address different calendars to remain successful, have teachers sufficiently trained, and allow children the extra sessions needed for extended learning times.

Mr. Fletcher asked that the flow of communication be coordinated through PTA presidents Hinton and Jones. The intent was for the community to focus through one source and free staff to focus on a more detailed plan.

In clarifying the questions that would be answered, Ms. Hoffman said that the motion would include several scenarios concerning mandating, as well as the issues brought up that evening during the public hearing portion: specifically, scenarios with a base and without a base, the alternate schools, feeder patterns, impact on other magnet programs and other schools within the geographic vicinity, childcare issues, how to fund childcare and intersessions costs for the low SES families, and whether there are additional operating costs to be incurred.

The vote carried with J.C. O'Neal voting NO.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Raul Hererra and *Sherry Taylor* asked the Board to review a bus stop change that has resulted in their children not being able to receive busing transportation to East Millbrook Middle -School.

SUMMARY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Parry relayed her impressions about attending a high school play that had to be presented in a courtyard due to renovations underway at the auditorium. The students and staff made the best of the situation in a positive, creative manner, and the play was very inspirational to all attending.

Ms. Hoffman recently attended a breakfast honoring 80 students at Millbrook High School for demonstrating character traits at their school. While these students may not have been recognized for grades, they were setting positive examples, which was also inspiring and uplifting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Bill Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Marett, Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Secretary

Bill Fletcher, Chairman