

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MINUTES
November 27, 2000

Board Members Present:

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

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:

Rod Malone

Bill Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance .

INFORMATION

Comments from the Chairman

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McNeal introduced Wake Technology Academy President Jim Lofton, who updated the Board and shared information on progress since his last June 26th report. He spoke about the vision of Wake Technology Academy, training of high school students, the proposed location at Centennial Campus, the present Board of Directors and a Board of Advisors. **(Exhibit A)**

Mr. McNeal also introduced and recognized Lindy Poling, a Millbrook High School social studies teacher and former Millbrook and Wake County Teacher of the Year, for spearheading the Community-in-the-Classroom program that brings the Vietnam era to life for middle school social studies students.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

The following items were moved from the Consent portion of the agenda to Action: Facilities items #4,5 and 8, Finance items # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, Policy item #1, and Program items #4, 5 and 6. With these changes, Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Susan Parry. The vote was unanimous.

(The order of presenting items was changes to the following: Program, Facilities, Finance and Policy.)

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Jeff Outlaw, from Mutual Distributing Company, asked the Board to reconsider the exclusive vending contracts, reminding the Board of possible price increases and limited drink choices over a locked-in period of time.

CONSENT ITEMS – ALL COMMITTEES

Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve all consent items, seconded by Susan Parry. The vote carried unanimously.

FACILITIES

1. Design Consultant Agreement – Athens Drive High Renovations

Negotiations have been completed with Boney PLLC for the design of Athens Drive High School renovations. The form of agreement is the standard form approved by the board attorneys. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget is \$10,482,584 which includes proposed compensation for the design consultants of \$678,300. The total project budget consists of \$10,219,984 from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program project budget, and \$262,600 from the board-approved 1996 State Bond project budget. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the design consultant agreement was recommended.

2. Design Consultant Agreement – Farmington Woods Elementary Addition and Renovations

Negotiations have been completed with Davis Kane Architects, PA for the design of Farmington Woods Elementary addition and renovations. The form of agreement is the standard form approved by the board attorneys. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget is \$8,903,977 which includes proposed compensation for the design consultants of \$571,500. The total project budget consists of \$8,392,886 from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program project budget, \$176,328 from the board-approved 1996 State Bond project budget, and \$334,763 from the modernization component of PLAN 2000 School Building Program. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the design consultant agreement was recommended.

3. Design Consultant Agreement – Joyner Elementary Addition and Renovations

Negotiations have been completed with Skinner, Lamm & Highsmith, PA Architects for the design of Joyner Elementary addition and renovations. The form of agreement is the standard form approved by the board attorneys. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget is

\$8,792,608 which includes proposed compensation for the design consultants of \$490,000. The total project budget consists of \$8,629,863 from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program project budget, and \$162,745 from the board-approved 1996 State Bond project budget. Recommendation for Action - Board approval of the design consultant agreement was recommended.

(Items #4 and #5 were moved to Facilities Action)

6. Access Easement – Nextel Communications – East Garner Middle

Nextel Communications requests an access easement within a twenty-foot easement previously granted to the Town of Garner to serve a water tank located adjacent to East Garner Middle School. Nextel Communications will install equipment on the Town of Garner water tank. Fiscal Implications - Board receives a one-time payment of \$20,000 for the easement. Recommendation for Action - Board approval was requested.

7. Utility Easement – CP&L Energy Services – East Garner Middle School

Carolina Power and Light requests a utility easement within a twenty-foot access easement previously granted to the Town of Garner for a water tank adjacent to East Garner Middle School. The utility easement will allow CP&L to provide service to Nextel Communications for equipment located on the Town of Garner water tank. Fiscal Implications - None. Recommendation for Action - Board approval was requested.

(Item #8 was moved to Facilities Action)

FINANCE

(Items #1 through 7 were moved to Finance Action)

8. Novell Inc. - Site License Agreement

The Wake County Public School System operates the entire network under a renewable School License Agreement with Novell, Inc. The cost for the current fiscal year is \$188,000 and is in our budget. This is one of our basic needs to provide network access, email, and business operations. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available through the Technology Services Division current expense budget.

POLICY

(Item #1 was moved to Policy Action)

2. Board Advisory Council Nominations

New nominations to Board Advisory Councils

PROGRAM

1. Grant Proposals

Competitive (#526) BellSouth Foundation: Power to Learn (\$250,000)

Funding as noted above.

Approve application for Competitive (#526) BellSouth Foundation: Power to Learn (\$250,000).

2. Enloe High School Field Trip to Costa Rica

Students participating will be representative of grades 9-12.

Approximately 28 students will participate and 4 chaperones.

Students will depart from Raleigh on Saturday, April 7, and return on Sunday, April 15, 2001 or depart on Monday, June 4, and return on Tuesday, June 12. No school will be missed, as the first date is Spring Break and the second date is Summer Break. It is necessary for two

trips to accommodate as many students as possible. As the number of students increase, the likelihood of viewing animals decreases.

Purpose of the field trip is to explore various ecosystems, work with staff at Biological Field Station tagging sea turtles, and interact with high school students that maintain tropical preserve. Ecology is the main component of the biological Sciences.

Cost per student will be approximately \$1,350. The total cost will be approximately \$37,800. Funding will be provided by student assessment, sponsorship, and various fundraising events.

3. Broughton High School Field Trip to Nassau, Bahamas

Students participating will be representative of grades 9-12.

Approximately 77 students will participate and 8 chaperones.

Students will depart from Raleigh on Thursday, March 15, and return on Sunday, March 18, 2001. No school will be missed, as these are teacher workdays.

Purpose of the field trip is for Carolina Spirit and Capital Touch to perform.

This is a performance opportunity for these students on a semi-professional level in a different venue from normal school performances. It is an opportunity to learn how performing groups travel.

Cost per student will be approximately \$520. The total cost will be approximately \$40,040.

Funding will be provided by various fund raising events and scholarships.

(Items #4, 5 and 6 were moved to Program Action)

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

PROGRAM

Action

1. 2001-2002 Traditional Instructional Calendar

Student's first day of school is August 13, 2001, and the last day of school is May 29, 2002.

A waiver of Board Policy 5030.0 was requested for students to begin school on August 13, 2001. The second quarter ends December 20, 2001, which allows students to take exams before Winter Break. Because Christmas falls on a Tuesday, the calendar has 11 holidays instead of the usual 10 holidays. Spring Break is the week of March 25, 2002. If school days are missed for inclement weather, the order of make-up days will be September 28, 2001, October 19, 2001, February 8, 2002, March 15, 2002, and April 26, 2002. No fiscal implications.

In discussion, it was noted that staff attempts to end the first semester before the winter break with as close to 90 days as possible. While Board Policy has been waived in the past, it is not necessary to change Policy 5030.0 because in three years the calendar will cycle into place again. With reference to grouping teacher workdays, staff has recommended distributing workdays throughout the school year to provide grading/report card preparation time at the end of each quarter.

J.C. O'Neal made a motion to waive Board Policy 5030.0 and approve the 2001-2002 traditional school calendar. It was seconded by Kathryn Quigg, and the vote carried with Beverley Clark voting No.

2. Magnet Schools Assistance Program Board Resolution

The 2001-2004 magnet grant proposal is under development.

School programs for which funding is sought must match federal regulations that govern the Magnet Schools Assistance Program. Start-up and initial costs for program expansion and

conversion will be shared. Plans include the following magnet schools: Moore Square, Brooks, Millbrook Elementary, Joyner and Powell. Fiscal implications: Start-up and initial costs for program designation/conversion/expansion. Staff recommended that the Board adopt the resolution supporting the Magnet Schools Assistance Program proposal.

In discussion, Caroline Massengill explained that the Resolution shows the readers of the Grant that the school system does have a strong commitment and support from the Board to expand magnet programs. The budget implications to implement the magnet programs at the five schools over the next three years - without the grant - were also included. (Exhibit B – Budget Implications Absent Magnet Grant Award 2001-2002)

The Board had previously voted in support of implementing these magnet programs subject to funding. The grant request will be between \$9 and \$12 million. If the magnet programs move forward without the grant, projected costs will range from \$688,000 to 782,300 each of the three years, or about 20 to 25% of what the Grant reward might be on an annual basis. It was noted that families will be applying in February for these magnet programs, and if the Grant is not approved on April 30th, the commitment to follow through should remain, although it can technically be revisited during the budget process. Presently, approximately \$11 million is being spent from the budget on 30 magnet programs. Continued commitment translates to continued funding of magnet dollars to not only reach Goal 2003 but maintain a creative programming edge for the school system.

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Parry. The motion carried with Tom Oxholm voting No.

3. Extended Day

A change in the Extended Day Magnet Program was discussed. Data was shared related to students in the program. Principals were available to share information about parent information sessions. No fiscal implications at this time

Staff recommended the following: the Extended Day magnet theme be eliminated at Combs, Joyner and Olds; Combs, Joyner, and Olds remain magnet schools with their previously approved theme; each school will provide an after-school program based on the needs of families in their school.

In discussion, the Board was reminded that extended day was initiated as an enterprise, self-supporting endeavor, which is no longer economically possible. Staff also reported that research showed Level I and 2 EOG scores were not impacted as a result of the extended day program. Ms. Gill commented that the magnet staff and student assignment staff need to work together so that families are not impacted unnecessarily, and people are given as much lead time as possible to adjust.

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve, seconded by Beverley Clark. The vote carried with Rosa Gill voting No.

4. 2001-2002 Modified Calendar

The modified instructional calendar combines features of the traditional and year-round calendars. First semester is similar to Track 4 of the year-round calendar and second semester is similar to Track 1. The calendar provides a summer break of approximately seven weeks. Holidays for students match typical holidays of the traditional calendar.

Staff recommended that the Board adopt this calendar for the 2001-2002 school year for Southeast Raleigh High School, Centennial Campus Middle School and Partnership Elementary.

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

5. 2001-2002 Carver Elementary Calendar

Student's first day of school is July 23, 2001 and the last day of school is May 24, 2002.

A waiver of Board Policy 5030.0 was requested for students to begin school on July 23, 2001. The second quarter ends December 14, 2001, which allows students to take exams before Winter Break. Spring Break is the week of March 25, 2002.

If school days are missed for inclement weather, the order of make-up days will be September 26, 2001, September 27, 2001, September 28, 2001, March 20, 2002, March 21, 2002, March 22, 2002, May 28, 2002, and May 29, 2002. No fiscal implications.

Judy Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Quigg, to waive Board Policy 5030.0 for Carver students to begin school on July 23. The vote was unanimous.

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve the 2001-2002 Carver Elementary calendar, seconded by J.C. O'Neal. The vote was unanimous.

6. ABC Accountability Components for Alternative Schools

Alternative and special schools are included in the 2000-2001 ABCs under a special policy adopted by the North Carolina Board of Education. The evaluation of alternative schools will be based on three state mandated achievement-based components and three local options. Options suggested by the state include attendance, suspension dropout rates, graduation rates, reduction in incidents of violence, customer satisfaction, transition to a regular program, improvement in GPA, and promotion rates. Schools will be evaluated on all six components. Schools achieving at least five of the six components will be determined to have made exemplary gain, at least three of the six will be expected gain, at least two of the six will be no recognition, and one or none of the six will be low performing. As part of their school improvement plans for 2000-2001, the alternative schools identified three local options that reflect their school's mission. The local options selected by the schools have been approved by the school improvement teams and must be approved by the local school board. ABC incentive funds will be received from the state for the alternative schools with the exception of Bridges. If the program meets the criterion for ABC funds, at-risk funds will be required. Staff requested board approval of the three local options presented by each alternative school.

Judy Hoffman made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous

PROGRAM

Information

1. Impact of Exemption from Proposed Reassignment

Dr. Beavers presented information to the Board showing the impact of allowing designated grades to remain at the present school rather than moving to the proposed school. This discussion included the impact of proposed reassignment from traditional schools to traditional schools, traditional schools to year-round schools, and year-round schools to year-round schools. Failure to require reassigned students to move would affect the utilization of building capacity at certain schools. This was presented for information only.

(Exhibit C)

In the past, certain grades were exempted during student assignment time. When the proposed changes in school assignment regarding year round programs were recently presented to the Board (11/14/2000), they included moving students from all grades. The staff recommended an addendum to the original proposed plan - that rising 5th and 8th graders be allowed to stay where they are, without transportation. However, if their calendar is being changed (i.e.: Stough and Carroll), 5th and 8th graders could request a transfer back to their school, which would be granted with transportation. The Board gave a favorable response in support of moving forward with the addendum to the original proposed plan.

FACILITIES

Action

4. Design Consultant Agreement – Phillips High Addition and Renovations

Negotiations have been completed with The Freelon Group, Inc. for the design of Phillips High addition and renovations. The form of agreement is the standard form approved by the board attorneys. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget is \$6,531,161 that includes proposed compensation for the design consultants of \$350,953. The total project budget consists of \$6,384,305 from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program project budget, and \$146,856 from the board-approved 1996 State Bond project budget. Board approval of the design consultant agreement was recommended.

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

5. Schematic Design – Phillips High Addition and Renovations

Schematic Design documents for Phillips High School PLAN 2000 capital improvement project, designed by Freelon Group Architects, were presented. Staff offered that there had been overwhelming community support for demolishing the present building and replacing it with new construction. Fiscal Implications - Project is within budget at this stage of design. Board approval of the schematic design was recommended.

Beverley Clark made a motion to approve the schematic design for the two-story replacement building, seconded by Tom Oxholm. The vote was unanimous.

8. Construction Continuation Agreement – Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle

The general construction contract with J. W. Grand, Inc. was terminated on June 26, 2000 after the discovery of petroleum contaminated soils. On November 15, 2000 the board approved resuming construction for the Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle following notification that the site has been remediated and declared safe for school construction. Staff recommends that the contract with J. W. Grand, Inc. be reactivated and that construction on the project resume November 28, 2000 in accordance with the attached agreement. The substantial completion date for the project is May 15, 2002. Fiscal Implications - Funds are available from the board-approved 1996 State Bond project budget of \$15,665,274 and \$737,989 from the Phase IIIB project budget. An additional \$595,000 from state bond savings is needed. The total project budget is \$16,998,263. Board approval of the agreement with J. W. Grand was recommended.

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

POLICY

Action

1. Policy 8363 – Exclusive Vending Contracts *New; Second Reading*

New policy addressing exclusive vending contracts. Fiscal implications: 2000-2001 budget includes \$1 million from exclusive vending revenue.

J.C. O’Neal made a motion to approve the second reading of Policy 8363, seconded by Tom Oxholm. The vote carried with Susan Parry and Kathryn Quigg voting No.

FINANCE

(Due to time constraints, Items #1 through 4 will be brought back at the December 4 Board meeting. Those include: 1) Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, 2) Letter from McGladrey & Pullen Regarding the Annual Audit, 3) Letter on Internal Control Structure, and 4) Response to Letter on Internal Control Structure

Action

5. Proposals for Exclusive Vending Contracts

In accordance with board policy 8363 paragraph 2, the superintendent requested approval to solicit proposals for exclusive beverage vending contracts. Fiscal Implications: 2000-2001 budget includes \$1 million from exclusive beverage vending contracts.

In discussion, the Board inquired about side by side vendor competition (or subleasing) to generate more sales. Dr. Burns reported that the proposal did not prevent this, and that small and large businesses could work together on providing products. In addressing potential price increases, Dr. Burns explained that the Board would have a controlling measure when reviewing bids concerning the vended prices, commission the school would receive, the cost that CNS would pay for their wholesale products, and the upfront money.

Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve, seconded by J.C. O’Neal. The vote carried with Susan Parry and Kathryn Quigg voting No.

6. Fund Balance Appropriation – Apex Elementary

To appropriate fund balance necessary to continue special projects funded in the previous year through contributed funds. Fiscal Implications: Appropriate fund balance in the amount of \$35,000. *Mr. Massey explained that a donor previously had given the Board of Education property in the Apex area, that the Board surplused and sold. The proceeds from the sale of that surplus property (about \$570,000) are to be used, according to the donor’s request, exclusively for Apex Elementary for capital outlay purposes. A covered area on campus and bleachers are being requested by the school at this time. Mr. Massey noted that improvement plans for Apex will be reviewed to ensure that these new purchases will not be effected or undone during renovations.*

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

7. IBM Lease Agreement - Mainframe Upgrade

During the last fiscal year, WCPSS was experiencing significant disruptions in finance and daily problems with the email system due to mainframe problems. We were exceeding the capacity of this mainframe and were faced with purchasing a new one or upgrading the present one. The current lease was to expire in August so it was decided to upgrade and extend the lease. The total cost of this lease is \$587,076. Payments are broken down as follows: Year one - \$281,796, year two - \$152,640, and year three - \$152,640. A Resolution

was approved by the Wake County Board of Commissioners on November 6, 2000. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available through the Technology Services Division current expense budget.

Since some items are presented independently, and others are recurring expenses from a preapproved budget, the Board noted that a general overview and future projections would be helpful whenever possible. Brenda Barker will come back to the Board in January with a broad overview of the department's current status, changing capabilities, dependability on service contractors, and projected technology needs.

Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote carried with Judy Hoffman abstaining.

POLICY

Information

1. Review of the Purpose and Role of Board Advisory Councils

The Board requested a review and assessment of the purpose and role of Board Advisory Councils to determine their effectiveness and direct impact on achieving Goal 2003.

(Due to time constraints, this information item was moved to the December 4th Board meeting.)

CLOSED SESSION – 5:50 p.m.

Kathryn Quigg made a motion to go into closed session:

To consider confidential student information protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and G.S. 115C-402

To establish or instruct the Board's staff or negotiating the position to be taken by or on behalf of the Board in negotiation of (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property, option, exchange, or lease; (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5).

The motion was seconded by Tom Oxholm, and the vote was unanimous.

The Board reconvened into open session at 6:00 p.m.

Judy Hoffman made a motion to amend the agenda to include two Facilities action items. It was seconded by J.C. O'Neal and the vote was unanimous.

FACILITIES

Action

1. Offer to Purchase and Contract

G&F Properties, LLC has agreed to sell approximately 169 acres of land located on Horton, Forestville and Old Knight Roads, Knightdale, NC to the Wake County Board of Education for a new high school, future elementary school and community park to be jointly planned and developed by the Board of Education, Wake County and the Town of Knightdale. The purchase price is \$15,000 per acre. Fiscal implications – Total estimated purchase price \$2,535,000, Town of Knightdale contributes \$830,650, Wake County contributes \$200,000,

and estimated contribution from the Board is \$1,504,350. Board approval of the Offer to Purchase and Contract was requested.

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

2. Funding Resolution – New Knightdale High School Site

Staff requested Board approval of a funding resolution to the Wake County Commissioners to purchase approximately 169 acres on Horton, Forestville and Old Knight Roads, Knightdale, NC. The estimated purchase price of \$2,535,000 will include a contribution of \$830,650 by the Town of Knightdale and \$200,000 by Wake County. Fiscal implications – Net estimated land cost to Board \$1,504,350. Board approval of the funding resolution was requested.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS- 6:50 p.m.

Sixteen students were recognized as Spotlight on Students award winners.

Aaron William Dropkin, Athens Drive High School; Stephanie Perkinson, East Wake High School; Christina Lee, Farmington Woods Elementary School; Joshua Easton, Holly Springs Elementary School; Dalia Coria, Knightdale Elementary School; Albany Prince, Lincoln Heights Elementary School; Steven L. Snelling, Lockhart Elementary School; Jessica Lynn Zagarella, Lufkin Road Middle School; Kristen Ashleigh Carter, Lynn Road Elementary School; Joshua Curran, Millbrook Elementary School; Fernando Cruz, Reedy Creek Elementary School; Amanda Smedley, West Lake Elementary School; Carole Anne Edwards, West Lake Middle School; Jackson Fischler, Wildwood Forest Elementary School; Sandrine Uwera, Wiley Elementary School; and Logan Winder Liles, Zebulon Middle School.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

SUMMARY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Bill Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Maret, Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Secretary

Bill Fletcher, Chairman

