



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES- REVISED**

December 1, 2009

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Members Present</u>	
Kevin L. Hill, Chair	Superintendent Del Burns	Don Haydon
Horace Tart, Vice Chair	Terri Cobb	David Holdzkom
Eleanor Goettee	Danny Barnes	Ann Hooker
Patti Head	Kathy Chontos	Julye Mizelle
Anne McLaurin	Marvin Connelly	Cathy Moore
Ron Margiotta	Joe Desormeaux	David Neter
Lori Millberg	Chuck Dulaney	Andre Smith
Carolyn Morrison	Michael Evans	Mark Winters
Keith Sutton	Stephen Gainey	
	Lloyd Gardner	<b><u>Board Attorney Present</u></b>
	Donna Hargens	Ann Majestic

Chair Kevin L. Hill called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Swearing-In Ceremony**

Chair Kevin L. Hill recognized the following special guests who were in attendance, The Honorable I. Beverly Lake, Jr., The Honorable Fred G. Morrison, The Honorable Joe R. John, Sr., Pastor Warren Harvey, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Mayor Keith Weatherly, Mayor Frank Eagles, State Superintendent Dr. June Atkinson, State House Representative Marilyn Avila, Chairman of the Wake GOP Mr. Claude Pope, Councilman Don Frantz, Sheriff Donnie Harrison, and Mr. Dick Ellis.

**Invocation**

The invocation was given by Pastor Warren Harvey, the Pastor of Ambassador Presbyterian Church in Apex, N.C.

**Swearing In Ceremonies**

Mr. Hill introduced the Honorable I. Beverly Lake, Jr. who performed the Swearing In Ceremony for Debra Goldman. Prior to law school, Justice Lake was a military Intelligence Staff Officer in the United States Army from 1956-1958. Justice Lake earned his law degree from the Wake Forest University School of Law in 1960 and became a partner in a privately held law firm in September of that year. Justice Lake represented Wake, Harnett, and Lee Counties in the North Carolina Senate for two terms from 1976 through 1980. In 1979, the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research ranked him among the ten most effective members of the North Carolina Senate. Justice Lake was the Republican Party's nominee for governor in 1980 and served as the state's lead delegate to the Republican National Convention that year. Justice Lake has served as Assistant and Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Justice, as Legislative Liaison for Governor Jim Martin and as a Special

Superior Court Judge. Justice Lake was appointed by the governor to the N.C. Supreme Court in 1992, elected to a full term on the Court in 1994 and elected Chief Justice in 2000.

Participating in the ceremony of Debra Goldman was her mother, Sorra Cohn. Mrs. Goldman made the following comments following the Swearing In; *“I stand here before you so thankful to my family, for their love and support. Thankful for the people who have helped me and shared their insight with me and their stories. Thank you to the voters who chose to have me represent their views on the school board. Thank you to Justice Lake for doing me the honor of administering my Oath of Office. This is truly an honor and yet I am humbled by the awesome responsibility that now rests on my shoulders. The weight of 140,000 students, the weight of their parents, and of their families, the weight of every teacher, and every taxpayer is now resting right here. I was elected to do a job and I will go forward, steadfast on a path to achieve the best level of education possible for every child in Wake County. I will listen, I will drill down on issues, and I will make the best decisions that I possibly can. I will do all that I can to represent the views of the people that have chosen to elect me. I’ve worked so hard to get to this point, so that I can begin to work even harder. Thank you for entrusting me with this position, I am so proud to serve.”* Mrs. Goldman shared a poem by Cleo V. Suit to end her comments.

Mr. Hill introduced the Honorable Fred G. Morrison, Jr. who performed the Swearing In Ceremony for Chris Malone and John Tedesco. Judge Morrison graduated cum laude, from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1963. Judge Morrison has served as an Administrative Law Judge in the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings from 1986 until the present. Among his many accomplishments, Judge Morrison has served as Legal Counsel to the Governor from 1969 until 1974. In 1973, Judge Morrison was recognized as one of “Five Outstanding Young Men of North Carolina” by the North Carolina Jaycees. Judge Morrison served as the Board Attorney for Thomasville City Board of Education from 1965 until 1969. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and Past Chair of its Administrative Law Section. Judge Morrison is married to Dr. Carolyn Morrison, member of the Wake County Board of Education.

Participating in the ceremony of Chris Malone is his brother, Paul Malone. Mr. Malone made the following comments following the Swearing In; *“I want to take a moment to thank my family, all of my friends, and my supporters for coming out tonight. This race would have been a lot more difficult for me, if I did not have all of your support, so thank you very much. I also want to thank all of the volunteers, I deeply appreciate your outstanding effort; nothing would have been possible without you. There are people who are sitting here that shaped up my campaign, got it going, and made everything possible for me. For those that came out to vote for us, let me state how much I appreciate your faith. I want you to know we heard your calls for reform, you carry today, thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, this was an amazing experience which has left me humbled, but it’s just the beginning. With your support I will strive to the best of my ability to see that the promises I made become reality. The next four years are going to be what they say, is interesting times. Thank you very much.”*

Mr. Hill introduced the Honorable Joe R. John, Sr. who performed the Swearing In Ceremony for Deborah Prickett. Judge Joe R. John, Sr. currently serves as an Appellate Court Judge in the N.C. Court of Appeals and has served in this position since 1992. Among his many appointments and accomplishments, Judge John was appointed as a Resident Superior Court Judge to the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District by Governor James B. Hunt in 1984. Prior to that appointment, he was appointed as the Chief District Court Judge for the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District by North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Branch in 1984.

Judge John was elected to a four-year term as District Court Judge in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in 1980. In addition he was appointed as a District Court Judge in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District by Governor James B. Hunt to fill the unexpired term for the Honorable B. Gordon Gentry in 1980. Judge John is currently a member of the N.C. Judicial Conference. He is a member of the N.C. Bar Association, the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar Association, the Wake County Bar Association, the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Bar Association, the Greensboro Bar Association, and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Participating in the ceremony of Deborah Prickett is her son, Grayson Prickett. Mrs. Prickett made the following comments following the Swearing In; *"I thank my family who is here today. They have been so supportive and wonderful. My father who is here today, raised us the right way. He always made sure he voted in every election and he is quite a citizen and role model for my sister and I. I would like to thank all of the Wake Schools Community Alliance. This group of parents is from a grassroots effort in Wake County, this group helped to make so much of this possible. On top of that, this was a non-partisan race, but as you know, it became fairly political. I want to thank Claude Pope and the Republican Party for stepping up to the plate. They endorsed me and have helped so much in this campaign. They are totally for families and children in this county. I want to say a big thank you to Claude Pope. The Taxpayers Association is with us here today, we're starting out on the right foot, three people have paid for our reception; Joe Cuilla, Sarah Redpath, and Kristin Stocking. In addition, I work with somebody who is very special, Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson, the State Superintendent. Dr. Atkinson is important to this whole process because she has set the framework for all of the schools in the state of North Carolina along with our State Board of Education. Thank you very much for all that you do, I honor you very much.*

*I stood in this building as a brand new teacher, I stood in this building as a seasoned teacher, and I stood in this building as a counselor, and I have stood in this building as a parent. Now, I am standing in this building as a Board member. I just want to thank the citizens and the community of Wake County for having someone like me, who started as a teacher, to have this opportunity, to serve you and be committed to the public. Thank you."*

The Honorable Fred G. Morrison performed the Swearing In Ceremony for John Tedesco. Participating in the Ceremony of John Tedesco is Pastor Abel Grande. Mr. Tedesco made the following comments following the Swearing In; *"For those of you who know me a little bit, you know that I'm not one for the more formal remarks. In this journey of my life, I know I would not be anywhere, including where I'm standing today, was it not for the grace and mercy of my Savior, Jesus Christ and what he's done for me and my life and who He's made me and the man he's shaping me in to. With grace and mercy, I too, have thought long and hard about the weight of such a system, we have a lot of children here at stake. I understand from my own life that as a child, who experienced a lot of challenges and tragedies that education is the key to upward social mobility.*

Mr. Tedesco shared scripture from 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, Chapter 4 to end his comments.

### **Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members**

Mr. Hill welcomed the new Board Members to the Wake County Board of Education. Mr. Hill shared that the Board members are joining the Board that oversees the 18<sup>th</sup> largest school system in the country. Mr. Hill stated further that the new Board members were joining a school system that is held in very high esteem nationally, both for the successes and accomplishments of students and staff, as well as, the many policies and practices that have helped provide opportunities for success to all students. Mr. Hill challenged the new Board

members to help the Board of Education find ways to weave new ideas with current practices, pushing the Wake County Public School System and our students to even greater successes. Mr. Hill welcomed the new members of the Wake County Board of Education.

The Board recessed the meeting until 4:36 p.m.

### **Chair's Comments**

- Mr. Hill congratulated the new Board members and welcomed them to the Wake County Public School System's Board of Education.
- Mr. Hill thanked Kramden Institute for the recent computers that were donated to students at Athens Drive High School. The Kramden Institute is a non-profit organization in Durham that is dedicated to empowering the hardworking economically disadvantaged students. Their goal is to bridge the digital divide and to advance the academic achievements of students.
- The Magnet Fair was held on Saturday, November 7, 2009. Mr. Hill thanked the Board members who attended, the principals, and staff members for their extra work in preparing for the event.
- Mr. Hill reminded Board members that they should visit the WCPSS website for the many concerts and performances occurring within the schools.
- Mr. Hill announced that the second Board of Education Meeting in December, December 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting would be cancelled.
- The December Spotlight on Students was cancelled today because of the many activities that occurred. Mr. Hill announced that there would be two Spotlight on Student recognitions in the month of January.

### **Superintendent's Comments**

- Twelve WCPSS students performed as members of the North Carolina All-State Honors Orchestra on November 8, 2009. The event was held in the Stevens Center for the Performing Arts in Winston-Salem as part of the North Carolina Music Educators Association Conference. Dr. Burns congratulated the students.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Bobby Guthrie became the first individual in the country to be identified by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as a Level 1 Accredited Interscholastic Coach. By completing the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course as well as the NFHS First Aid for Coaching (or its equivalent) and additional coursework in coaching, he was the first to qualify. Dr. Burns congratulated Mr. Guthrie.
- The Wake County Public School System has recently had numerous employees receiving national recognitions and serving in prominent positions in national organizations and committees.
- On November 19<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>, a 2-day Leadership Conference was held at Combs Elementary. As a part of the conference, Dr. Burns, Trish Willoughby, Dr. Sam Houston, and others discussed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership Skills. The event had over 170 participants from all over the nation. The conference was co-sponsored by Stephen Covey and Lego. Mr. Covey used the opportunity to present the components of his new book, "*The Leader In Me.*" The book features much of the

work that Muriel Summers and her staff have done with leadership development at Combs.

- On November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Lightner Youth Leadership Reception/Banquet was held at the North Raleigh Hilton. Dr. Burns shared that Board members, Ketih Sutton and Horace Tart were in attendance. Dr. Burns shared that the banquet was extremely well supported with over 600 people in attendance.
- Dr. Burns shared that the two vital student behaviors that are the focus in our schools are attending school and learning the standard course of study. Many of the schools are focusing on attendance in creative ways. Dr. Burns shared a program started at Zebulon Elementary by Algie Williams, a parent liaison, and Sharyn McCalla, the school's counselor; "Tardy Busters". Dr. Burns went on to share that weekly competitions between classes in each grade level have been successful in developing a sense of ownership among the staff and students.
- Dr. Burns offered congratulations to each of the new Board members on behalf of the staff of the Wake County Public School System and welcomed their service on the Wake County Board of Education.

#### **Board Member Comments**

- Dr. McLaurin welcomed the new Board members and looks forward to working together. Dr. McLaurin also reminded families that if children are sick, they need to remain at home.
- Mr. Sutton welcomed and congratulated each of the new Board members to the table and looks forward to working together.
- Dr. Morrison welcomed the new Board members and thanked them for their service.

#### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Mr. Hill asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Chris Malone made a motion to nominate Debra Goldman as Vice Chair of the Wake County Board of Education. Kevin Hill made a motion to elect Debra Goldman Vice Chair of the Wake County Board of Education by acclamation. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **SIGNING OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

Each of the Board Members signed 4 copies of the Code of Ethics.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

Mr. Hill requested that Consent Agenda item #9, CONTRACT WITH TE21 FOR ACADEMY OF READING LICENSES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING, be moved to the Action Agenda, and that the Board Advisory Council Nominations be pulled from the Agenda and be reviewed again in January.

Mr. Margiotta requested that the Approval of Meeting Minutes be placed on the Action Agenda.

Mr. Margiotta made a motion to add the following items to the Agenda as immediate action items, to be considered immediately after adoption of the agenda in the priority listed, with public comment period to follow immediately thereafter:

- 1). Election of new Chair of the Wake County School Board,

- 2). Resolution to appoint interim special legal counsel,
- 3). Change in Student Assignment Policy,
- 4). Resolution to ensure parental choice regarding year-round schools,
- 5). Resolution to end all expenditures on the H-6 site and to seek an alternative site,
- 6). A resolution to save costs and expenses,
- 7). A resolution to end early release Wednesdays,
- 8). Scheduling of regular meeting for 12-15-09

The motion was seconded by Debra Goldman.

Chris Malone made a motion to call for an organization meeting of the Wake County Board of Education to elect a new chair. The motion was seconded by John Tedesco. The Board voted 5 to 3 with Deborah Prickett, Chris Malone, Debra Goldman, Ron Margiotta, and John Tedesco voting “yes”, and Carolyn Morrison, Keith Sutton, and Anne McLaurin voting “no”. The motion passed.

Mr. Sutton made a motion to rescind the vote to add the item to the Agenda, seconded by Anne McLaurin. The Board voted 3 to 5 with Keith Sutton, Carolyn Morrison, and Anne McLaurin voting “yes”, and Deborah Prickett, Chris Malone, Debra Goldman, Ron Margiotta, and John Tedesco voting “no”. The motion failed.

Mr. Hill turned the gavel over to Superintendent Del Burns to preside over the election of the Board Chair. Dr. Burns explained the procedure for the election of the Board Chair at the Annual Meeting.

Debra Goldman made a motion to nominate Ron Margiotta as Chair of the Wake County Board of Education, seconded by Chris Malone. John Tedesco made a motion to elect Ron Margiotta as Chair of the Wake County Board of Education by acclamation, seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion was unanimously approved.

John Tedesco made a motion to add 7 additional items to the agenda with each item being addressed and discussed individually. The motion was seconded by Debra Goldman. Mr. Tedesco read each of the 7 additional items’ title. The Board voted 4 to 4 with Deborah Prickett, Chris Malone, Debra Goldman, and John Tedesco voting “yes”, and Carolyn Morrison, Keith Sutton, Kevin L. Hill, and Anne McLaurin voting “no”. Mr. Margiotta broke the tie by voting “yes”. The motion was approved on a 5 to 4 vote.

John Tedesco made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda, seconded by Deborah Prickett. The motion was approved.

Mr. Margiotta requested a break at 5:18 p.m. to prepare for Public Comment

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:34 p.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – 5:30 P.M.**

*Citizens who signed up to address the board during public comment will be called on in priority order first for items on the agenda and then for items not on the agenda. Each individual speaker will be allowed three minutes for remarks. Issues or concerns involving personnel matters are not appropriate for this public comment setting. After 30 minutes of public comment, any speakers remaining will be recognized at the end of the agenda for their comments.*

- **Jennifer Lanane (Welcome)** – Ms. Lanane welcomed the new Board members on behalf of the Wake NCAE members. Ms. Lanane requested that the Board help the NCAE Members trust them.
- **Rhonda Curtright (Citizen)** – Welcomed the Board members and respectfully requested that they make changes which benefit Wake County as a whole and to support decisions based on the realization that every change made has a direct consequence on another.
- **Diana Bader (Citizen)** – Ms. Bader shared that each member of the Board of Education is an integral part of the school system. Ms. Bader requested that each Board member do what is right and ethical for each student in the Wake County Public School System.
- **Sun Hazel (Citizen)** – Ms. Hazel requested that the Board look to see that the system is not broken and to not rush to make so many changes.
- **Charlotte Turpin (Citizen)** – Ms. Turpin congratulated the new Board members. Ms. Turpin asked that the Board members do what is right for every child in Wake County schools.
- **Jocelyn Wilson (Student)** – Ms. Wilson spoke regarding the magnet program and diversity at her school. Ms. Wilson shared the experiences she has had with students from all diversity levels and requested that the Board not dismantle the diversity at their school.
- **Zora Felton (Teacher)** – Ms. Felton shared her support of the PLT's with Board members and the positive change she has seen with a county embracing the PLT's. Ms. Felton requested that the Board give PLT's and early release Wednesdays a chance to be successful.
- **Yvonne Anderson (Teacher)** – Ms. Anderson addressed the Board in support of PLT's and early release Wednesdays. Ms. Anderson shared that when teachers collaborate, student achievement rises. Requested that the Board look for the benefits that all students receive when all teachers have time to plan and collaborate.
- **LaShon Ormond (Citizen)** – Ms. Ormond shared that she hoped that her goals and the Board's goals would be similar, to educate 140,000 students. Strongly urged the new Board members to consider the tasks before them. Ms. Ormond requested that the Board members speak for the students and parents that can not speak for themselves and to do what is right in the eyes of the entire community.
- **Joanne Crooks (Citizen)** – Ms. Crooks spoke in support of the Wednesday PLT's. Ms. Crooks explained the PLT time for Geometry students at Cary High School and how invaluable it has been for the collaboration among colleagues.
- **Kelly Roberts (Citizen)** – Ms. Roberts thanked the Board for their valued work in this past and difficult year. Ms. Roberts lends her voice and hope in support of the Board's work going forward in the next pivotal and important year. Ms. Robert's

urged the Board to proceed in 2010 with integrity, intentionality, with evidence-based thoughtful and reflective decision making.

- **Cindy Hoyt (Citizen)** – Ms. Hoyt shared that she is a proponent for the year-round system. Ms. Hoyt voiced her support in keeping Leesville Middle School year-round and to maintain the positive force that PLT's have had in the system.
- **Christine Kushner (Citizen)** – Ms. Kushner sent her best wishes to the Board as they do very important work on behalf of the 140,000 children in Wake County. Ms. Kushner asked the Board to listen to parents. Ms. Kushner requested that the Board take time to consider all the changes that can be made to the school system to make it even stronger than it is today.
- **Coletia Evans (Citizen)** – Ms. Evans shared that the magnet program has done something wonderful for Wake County. Ms. Evans sincerely hopes that all Board members take all students into consideration and to listen to the parents.
- **Marcia Timmel (Teacher)** – Ms. Timmel shared her thoughts and support regarding PLT's. Ms. Timmel requested that the Resolution not be to end PLT's but to find a more family-friendly time as teachers need the time to collaborate and plan.
- **Dhruv Jain (Student)** – Mr. Jain shared how Enloe High School is the perfect example of the success of the magnet program. Mr. Jain spoke about the varieties of classes, the specialized teachers and experiences. Mr. Jain expressed his opinions of how the magnet program embraces diversity.
- **Vickie Adamsen (Parent)** – Ms. Adamsen urged the Board to have a direction before they dismantle the diversity policy and to not rush into any decisions.
- **Mary Kelley (Parent)** – Ms. Kelley shared her experience with the Board of what happens when we do not protect all schools from inequities and her support of the diversity policy.
- **Anne Sherron (Parent)** – Ms. Sherron shared documentation of PLT's at Sanderson High School and keeping the PLT program. Ms. Sherron shared with Board members that student assignment is a delicate process. Ms. Sherron requested that the Board slow down and make educated and informed decisions.
- **Zach Goldman (student)** – Mr. Goldman shared that as a student, he does not see the benefit from the early release Wednesdays, many children go home to be alone. Mr. Goldman requested that the early release Wednesdays be removed or moved to another time during the day. Mr. Goldman also requested that Blue Diamond be removed from the overall educational program of WCPSS.
- **Paul Trogdan (Teacher)** – Mr. Trogdon shared his support of PLT's with the Board. He shared the collaborative planning sets the agenda for what teachers will do to help students achieve academic success.
- **Elizabeth Whisenant (Teacher)** – Ms. Whisenant shared her support of PLT Wednesdays and the collaborative time to enhance children's education. Ms. Whisenant encouraged Board members to go to the WCPSS website and listen to a PLT in action.

Anne McLaurin withdrew her request to move Consent Agenda item #9, CONTRACT WITH TE21 FOR ACADEMY OF READING LICENSES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING, to the Action Agenda.



## **CLOSED SESSION**

Keith Sutton made a motion to go into Closed Session at 6:37 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115 C-319, and to consider confidential student information protected under G.S. 115C-402 and the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g. The motion was seconded by Chris Malone. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:35 p.m.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

Kevin L. Hill made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Anne McLaurin. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **FINANCE**

### **7. GIFTS TO THE SYSTEM**

Two hundred and two gifts have been donated to the Wake County Public School System. The approximate value of the gifts is \$50,966.00. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: No action is required.

## **FACILITIES**

### **8. TERMINATION OF SUBLEASE AGREEMENT: ALL THINGS ENTERPRISES, INC. (WAKE FOREST-ROLESVILLE HIGH)**

On March 31, 2009, the Board entered into a Sublease Agreement with Moll, Inc., for temporary classroom space for the CTE Collision Repair Technology classes provided for Wake Forest-Rolesville High School students. The Sublease Agreement was assigned to All Things Enterprises, Inc., effective May 14, 2009. After initial use of the space for classroom equipment storage, material terms and conditions of the Sublease have not been met rendering the space unusable as originally intended as classroom space. Staff has located acceptable alternate space on the Heritage High School campus in which to hold the classes, while the campus is being utilized as a swing space for Wake Forest-Rolesville High School. Staff recommends that the Board terminate the Sublease Agreement effective November 1, 2009, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Termination of Sublease Agreement attached. Fiscal implications: Anticipated lease costs of \$30,000 are reduced to \$10,000, representing a savings of \$20,000 of project funds. Recommendation for action: Board approval is requested.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

### **9. CONTRACT WITH TE21 FOR ACADEMY OF READING LICENSES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING**

Academy of Reading (AOR), which is based on neuroscience research, provides a rich set of web-based tools for intensive training in reading foundations, assessment, ongoing progress monitoring and response to intervention environments. This intervention resource builds strong roots in the five areas outlined by the National Reading Panel: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. AOR licenses would be purchased for 12 middle schools, which would expand the resource to 100% of the middle schools. TE21 would provide training, job-embedded professional development, coaching, teacher sharing sessions, and implementation support for

Academy of Reading in 49 secondary schools and Academy of Math in six schools. These resources serve students with foundational issues in reading or math. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available in the Disadvantaged Student Support Funding budget in the amount of \$650,000 to pay the cost of these services. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

#### **10. LIGON MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP TO COSTA RICA**

- Participants will be Ligon Spanish Students, grades 6-8 and their families.
- Approximately 15 students will participate with two school staff chaperones.
- Students will depart from RDU on Monday, June 14, 2010 and return on Tuesday, June 22, 2010. No school days will be missed as this is during summer vacation.
- The students will utilize their Spanish speaking skills with native and non-native persons to develop cultural awareness via interaction and touring.
- A tour guide from Costa Rica will accompany the group during the entire trip and students must be escorted by an adult chaperone at all times.

Fiscal Implications: The cost per student is \$2249.00. This trip is enrichment only and not a required trip. Families will assist with funding. Fund raisers will be held as necessary to enable all students an opportunity to participate in this activity. Recommendation for Action: This item is recommended for consent.

#### **11. GRANT PROPOSALS**

- Competitive (#004910): National Endowment for the Humanities, We the People Bookshelf Grants / Individual Schools.
- Competitive (#005010): Muzak Heart and Soul Foundation, Music Matters Music Education Grant / Individual Schools.
- Competitive (#005110): North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Auxiliary Grant / Individual Schools.
- Collaborative (#005210): National Science Foundation, Discovery Research K-12 Grants / Central Services.

Fiscal Implications: Any required cash and/or in-kind matching contributions vary by grant program. Recommendation for Action: Staff is requesting Board approval.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **12. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT**

- A. Professional
- B. Support

#### **ACTION ITEMS CONT'D**

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **13. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)**

Carolyn Morrison made a motion to approve the following Administrative Appointments:

- (1). Lisa Brown, Assistant Principal at Leesville Road Elementary School to Principal at Green Year-Round Elementary School effective January 1, 2010.
- (2). Sue King, Retiree to Interim Principal at Creech Road Elementary School effective January 1, 2010 through January 31, 2010.

- (3). Tiffany Rich, Teacher at Brier Creek Elementary School to Assistant Principal at North Ridge Elementary School effective January 4, 2010.
- (4). Cynthia Seder, Converted Assistant Principal at Salem Elementary School to Permanent Assistant Principal at Salem Elementary School effective December 2, 2009.

The motion was seconded by Anne McLaurin. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **14. RESOLUTION TO APPOINT INTERIM SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL**

John Tedesco made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) spent in excess of \$1.2 million in legal fees and more than \$600,000 in liability insurance premiums during the 2008-09 academic year;

WHEREAS, the Board believes a thorough review of existing legal processes, procedures, and expenditures is in the best interest of the citizens and taxpayers of Wake County;

WHEREAS, the Board believes a thorough review of existing legal processes, procedures, and expenditures is in the best interest of the citizens and taxpayers of Wake County;

WHEREAS, Thomas A. Farr, a partner with the law firm of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak, & Stewart, P.C. (“Ogletree Deakins”) and his firm have the experience and ability to conduct such an independent review and to provide recommendations to the Board;

WHEREAS, the Board also desires to retain Ogletree Deakins, through Mr. Farr, to provide the Board with general advice and counseling on litigation, policy, and personnel matters that arise during the period of their appointment as interim special legal counsel;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE THAT:

1. The law firm of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak, and Stewart, P.C., through Thomas A. Farr, be appointed and retained as interim special legal counsel and shall perform a review of all legal expenditures on legal services, processes, and procedures, and prepare a report for the Board of Education on or before the Board’s 2010 annual meeting-providing recommendations regarding the provision of legal services to the Board and the WCPSS.
2. Ogletree Deakins, through Mr. Farr, shall be retained to provide legal advice and counsel to the Board on such litigation, policy, and personnel matters as requested by the Chair of the Board between the date of this resolution and the Board’s annual meeting. The WCPSS will continue its relationship with Tharrington Smith, however, the Chair will have the option to refer to the special counsel for additional advice and guidance.

3. The Chair is authorized to negotiate an acceptable method of compensation with Ogletree Deakins and to make a report to the Board no later than the first meeting in January 2010.
4. The Superintendent and all law firms currently retained by the Board or handling matters on behalf of the Board or the WCPSS shall cooperate with Mr. Farr and Ogletree Deakins and provide all requested information needed to perform the review of legal services described herein.

Adopted this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2009.

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Chair, Wake County Board of Education

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Del Burns, Superintendent  
Wake County Public School System

The motion was seconded by Chris Malone. After lengthy discussion, clarification which was added to the resolution, and questions, the Board voted 4 to 4 with Deborah Prickett, Chris Malone, Debra Goldman, and John Tedesco voting “yes”, and Carolyn Morrison, Keith Sutton, Kevin L. Hill, and Anne McLaurin voting “no.” Mr. Margiotta voted to break the tie by voting “yes”. The vote was 5 to 4. The motion passed. See Attachment #1 for the Amended Resolution to appoint Interim Special Legal Counsel.

## 15. CHANGE IN STUDENT ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Debra Goldman made a motion to amend Policy 6200 as a first reading.

The Board of Education’s goals for the student assignment process include:

- Achieving academic success for all children
- Creating stable school environments (families, classmates, and peers)
- Protecting the ability to offer quality programs in every school
- Promoting neighborhood schools with proximity to home consideration
- Collaborating with the community (all parties/stakeholders)
- Providing choice in calendar and programs
- ~~Creating and maintaining a diverse student body~~
- Alleviating overcrowding
- Filling seats efficiently
- ~~Achieving academic success for all children~~
- Providing a logical progression between elementary, middle, and high school
- Creating good teaching conditions (~~the social, emotional, and physical environment~~)
- Retaining good teachers
- Ensuring academic consistency across the System over time
- Building a sense of community and connection (i.e. neighborhoods, parent involvement)
- Fairness

Maintaining diverse stable student populations that consider proximity to home in each Wake County school is critical important to ensuring academic success for all students. Assignment policies will recognize the impact of student assignment on students, families, and communities and the costs involved. The promotion of neighborhood schools will increase stability, encourage parental involvement, support and strengthen the community and place emphasis on the education of every student. This supported by research. The school system will also consider other factors that impact communities, families and costs.

Each student enrolled in the Wake County Public School System shall be assigned to the school of his or her grade level serving the attendance area in which that student's parents or court-appointed custodian is domiciled and the student resides. Exceptions will be made as necessary to limit enrollment of a school due to overcrowding or for special programmatic reasons such as the need for special education services or alternative school programs. Each student will have the option of applying for admission to one of the magnet educational programs offered in designated schools or to a school which operates on a different calendar than the assigned school.

All of the following factors, not in priority order, will be used in the development of the annual student assignment plan. While absolute balance of each factor across all schools is not achievable, comparability between neighboring schools in regard to each factor is the desired outcome of the student assignment process.

Student assignment plans will be based on the following factors:

#### **A. ~~Populations of Students With Higher Needs~~**

The student assignment plan will create balance across schools in the distribution of students who:

1. ~~are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches in the child nutrition program;~~
2. ~~perform below grade level on End-of-Grade tests;~~
3. ~~are identified as being Limited English Proficient (LEP)~~
4. ~~require services from Special Education programs.~~

Whenever any of the following targets are exceeded, the Board directs the Superintendent to review the reasons for exceeding the target, study trends across several years, and recommend ways in which the student assignment plan could help achieve the targets:

1. ~~Less than 25% of students at any school, averaged across a two year period, will score below grade level on the Reading End-of-Grade test.~~
2. ~~Less than 40% of students at any school will qualify for free or reduced price lunches.~~

- **Choice**

Students may apply for a school other than their base assignment. This includes calendar options and magnet programs. Enrollment may be limited to avoid overcrowding.

- Facility Utilization**  
~~The student assignment plan will seek optimal utilization of each school's long range capacity and, whenever possible, reduce utilization of mobile or modular classrooms that cause a school to operate at more than the approved long range capacity.~~  
 Student assignment will seek optimal utilization of each school's capacity.
- Alignment With The Magnet Schools Program**  
 The student assignment plan will include a review of the extent to which the system wide objectives of the Magnet Program are being achieved.
- Grade Structure**  
 The student assignment plan will adhere to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 grade organization whenever possible with consideration ~~for moving groups of students together across levels~~ given to logical feeder patterns within communities.
- Stability Of Assignment**  
~~Nodes will remain assigned to the schools at each level (Elementary, Middle, High) for at least three years before being considered for reassignment, whenever possible.~~ Students will remain assigned to a school at each level (Elementary, Middle, & High) unless a new school is opened, overcrowding is a factor or a request for transfer is requested.
- Distance**  
~~Proximity of nodes to assigned schools will be considered, and no student should travel more than the maximum time established by Board Policy 7125.~~  
 Assignments will be based on proximity to residence. No student should travel more than the maximum time established by Board Policy 7125.

Keith Sutton made a motion to refer the policy to the Policy Committee to be vetted, through Committee of the Whole, and back to the Board. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Morrison. The Board voted 4 to 4 with Carolyn Morrison, Keith Sutton, Kevin L. Hill, and Anne McLaurin voting "yes", and Chris Malone, Deborah Prickett, Debra Goldman and John Tedesco voting "no". Mr. Margiotta vote "no", and broke the tie 4 to 5, the motion failed to pass.

John Tedesco made a motion to take a 5 minute recess, the motion was seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:16 p.m.

Debra Goldman made a motion to reconsider the last action and to vote again on Keith Sutton's motion to refer the Changes in Student Assignment Policy 6200 to the Policy Committee to be vetted, moved through the Committee of the Whole, and back to the floor at a Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by John Tedesco. The motion was unanimously approved.

Keith Sutton made a motion to move Student Assignment Policy 6200 to the Policy Committee to be fully vetted and then sent to Committee of the Whole, to then follow normal procedure. The motion was seconded by Debra Goldman. The motion was unanimously approved.

See attachment #2 to show Student Assignment Policy was sent to Policy Committee.

## **16. RESOLUTION TO ENSURE PARENTAL CHOICE REGARDING YEAR ROUND SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Education believes that neighborhood and voluntary school assignments are in the best interest of students, families, and teachers, as well as the citizens and taxpayers of Wake County;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to permit voluntary year-round assignments to continue while ending mandatory year-round assignments beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT:

1. Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) staff is directed to immediately cease the directive of opening all new schools on a year-round calendar and stop work on any conversions of remaining schools to mandatory year-round.
2. WCPSS staff is directed to end mandatory assignment to year-round schools effective the 2010-2011 academic year;
3. The Superintendent shall perform a review of the following items, and, within 90 days of the passage of this resolution, report back to the Board regarding the following:
  - a. Utilization of all current year-round calendar schools, including trace distribution, changes in enrollments since 2006 and the breakdown of students who attend year-round calendar schools as a result of “base school” assignment or by calendar application process.
  - b. The results of a survey of all parents to identify areas of the county in which to locate year-round schools based on local demand.
  - c. Identify geographic locations within Wake County currently not served by year-round calendar schools.
  - d. Based upon the information collected in items a, b, and c, and with further direction from the Board, identify current year-round calendar schools to be converted back to traditional calendar schools based on the survey results.

Deborah Prickett made a motion to approve, seconded by John Tedesco. Keith Sutton made a motion to amend the motion by removing #1 and #2 from the resolution. The motion was seconded by Chris Malone. The motion was unanimously approved.

Debra Goldman made a motion to include the wording, “*all parents of actively enrolled Wake County students.*” in section 3b. The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton. The motion was unanimously approved.

After lengthy discussion, clarification, and modification of the resolution, Debra Goldman made an amendment to the motion to reverse C and D, add to the current C, “*based upon the information collected above, and with further direction from the Board, identify*” The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton. **The motion was unanimously approved to accept the resolution with the amendments.** See attachment #3 for the amended

Resolution on Parental Choice Regarding Year-Round Schools.

**17. RESOLUTION TO END ALL EXPENDITURES ON THE H-6 SITE AND TO SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE SITE**

WHEREAS, the site known as H-6 has had significant escalation in costs;

WHEREAS, the H-6 site has had significant opposition from local residents and communities;

WHEREAS, acceptable alternative sites are available;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT:

1. All work and expenditures on H-6 site are to stop immediately upon passage of this resolution.
2. The Superintendent and WCPSS staff are directed to work with affected county and municipal officials to identify alternative sites, including sites outside assignment circles, without delay.
3. The Superintendent and WCPSS staff are directed to develop recommendations for how to accommodate students, if new site is not ready in a timely manner.
4. The Superintendent and WCPSS staff are to work with affected county and municipal governments to dispose of the site in an expeditious manner and return proceeds to the school building budget.
5. The Superintendent is to provide a report to the Board at its next regular meeting that includes a complete listing of ALL expenditures and costs associated with H-6 and recommendations for proceeding on alternative site.

Chris Malone made a motion to approve, seconded by John Tedesco. After lengthy discussion, Anne McLaurin requested to add the following wording to #4, "*Provided that the Board of Education find an alternative site.*" Board members clarified information and the process that Wake County Staff and School System staff have been collaborating on regarding the H-6 site. Debra Goldman made an amendment to #4 to include the wording, "*if an alternative site is identified.*" The motion was seconded by Anne McLaurin. **The motion was unanimously approved to accept the resolution with the amendment.** See attachment #4 for the amended Resolution to End All Expenditures on the H-6 Site and to Seek an Alternative Site.

**18. RESOLUTION TO SAVE COSTS AND EXPENSES**

WHEREAS, maximum resources must be directed towards the classroom and student;

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Education is concerned about the need to save costs and expenses during these challenging economic times;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT:



1. The Superintendent will implement an immediate hiring freeze as well as a hiring freeze for the 2010-2011 school year for all non-teaching personnel except for critical employees as approved by the Board. Savings from this policy will be maintained in the fund balance and will not be spent unless authorized by the Board.
2. By the first meeting in January the Superintendent is to report by line item and budget code, on a spreadsheet, all cuts being recommended as part of the Superintendent's ongoing budget reduction process. In addition, the Superintendent will identify on a spreadsheet all positions in the Wake County Public School System vacant as of December 1, 2009 by position identification, budget code, and salary.
3. Any contract previously authorized by the Board that has not been issued or signed as of the date of this resolution must be re-approved by the Board.

Adopted this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2009

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Chair, Wake County Board of Education

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Del Burns, Superintendent  
Wake County Public School System

Debra Goldman made a motion to approve, seconded by Chris Malone. After lengthy discussion and clarification of information, Keith Sutton requested the Board to limit the hiring freeze to Central Services. The Superintendent clarified the process of managing the hiring in Central Services as he assumed the responsibility and accountability. The Superintendent shared that staff can provide in Board Materials, designated information regarding Central Services-based employees along with certified and non-certified employees. Keith Sutton suggested that Board members set a parameter regarding positions that become vacant for a length of time going forward from December 1st.

Superintendent Burns clarified for the Board that he requested the Chief Officers to review their expenditures and to submit to him expenditures that total approximately \$21 million to account for additional costs that are clearly anticipated and decreased revenues that are already in the state budget. The Superintendent reviewed his timeline with the Board which included; the recommendations from the Chief Officers (to be submitted to the Superintendent sometime during the month of January), and at the first Board Meeting in March, the Superintendent will present his recommendation of the 2010-2011 budget to the Board and will provide an update to the Board in February of where the Superintendent is in the process.

Keith Sutton made amended the motion to remove the first sentence in Item #2 and follow the Superintendent's suggested timeline and present information to the Board at the 1<sup>st</sup> March Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill.

The resolution was amended to include the following points,  
Item #1, *“The Superintendent will implement an immediate hiring freeze as well as a hiring freeze for the 2010-2011 school year for all Central Services personnel except for critical employees as identified by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall inform the Board when he*

*recommends filling a critical position in Central Services.”*

Item #2 to say, “No later than the first meeting in February, the Superintendent shall update the Board on the on-going budget reduction process. At the first meeting in March, the Superintendent is to report by line item and budget code, on a spreadsheet, all cuts being recommended as part of the Superintendent’s ongoing budget reduction process. In addition, the Superintendent will identify on a spreadsheet all positions in the Wake County Public School System vacant as of December 1, 2009 by position identification, budget code, salary, benefits, and length of vacancy.

Item #3 to say “Any contract previously authorized under Policy 8361 by the Board that has not been issued or signed as of the date of this resolution must be re-approved by the Board.”

Ms. Goldman withdrew her original motion and made a motion that the resolution be adopted with the changes that were discussed. The motion was seconded by Deborah Prickett. The motion was unanimously approved.

See attachment #5 for the amended Resolution to Save Costs and Expenses

**19. RESOLUTION TO END EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS AT THE END OF THE SPRING SEMESTER OF THE 2009-10 ACADEMIC YEAR AND TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TEAMS**

WHEREAS, staff planning and collaboration time is important but should not cause an undue burden on students or families;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT:

1. The Superintendent is directed to end Early Release Wednesdays at all schools effective the end of the 2009-10 school year. The Superintendent is directed to adjust the end of the school day on Wednesday to reflect normal dismissal time as on other school days. No other adjustments are to be made to the school day or calendar.
2. The Board directs the Superintendent to study the effectiveness of Professional Learning Team (PLT) time and if deemed useful, report back with a plan for implementation by the end of the 2009-2010 academic year, to accommodate PLT time in a way that does not burden families or reduce student contact time.

Adopted this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2009

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Chair, Wake County Board of Education

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Del Burns, Superintendent  
Wake County Public School System

John Tedesco made a motion to approve, seconded by Chris Malone. After lengthy discussion and clarification of the standard weekly early release, the Board voted 4 to 4

with Chris Malone, Deborah Prickett, Debra Goldman, and John Tedesco voting “yes”, and Carolyn Morrison, Keith Sutton, Kevin L. Hill, and Anne McLaurin voting “no”. Mr. Margiotta broke the tie 5 to 4 by voting “yes”. The motion passed. See attachment #6 for the clarified Resolution to End Early Release Wednesdays at the End of the Spring Semester of the 2009-10 Academic Year and to Conduct a Study of the Effectiveness of Professional Learning Teams.

## **20.SCHEDULING OF REGULAR MEETING FOR 12-15-09**

John Tedesco made a motion to reinstitute the December 15, 2009 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Debra Goldman. After brief discussion, the Board voted 4 to 4 with Chris Malone, Deborah Prickett, Debra Goldman, and John Tedesco voting “yes”, and Carolyn Morrison, Keith Sutton, Kevin L. Hill, and Anne McLaurin voting “no”. Mr. Margiotta broke the tie 5 to 4 by voting “yes”. The motion passed.

## **21.APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

November 17, 2009 - Closed Session Meeting Minutes

Keith Sutton made a motion that the new Board members be excused from voting in light of the fact that they were not present and sitting on the Board during the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Anne McLaurin. The motion was unanimously approved.

Keith Sutton made a motion to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2009. The motion was seconded by Kevin L. Hill. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before the Board, Keith Sutton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Anne McLaurin. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ronald A. Margiotta, Chair, Wake County Board of Education      Del Burns, Superintendent, WCPSS

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Melissa R. Christmas, Recording Secretary