

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPEN MINUTES –BOARD MEETING

December 16, 2003

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present	
<i>Susan Parry, Chair</i>	<i>Superintendent McNeal</i>	Janice Shearin
<i>Patti Head, Vice Chair</i>	Jo Baker	Julye Mizelle
Rosa Gill	Del Burns	Bev White
Beverley Clark	Karen Banks	
Bill Fletcher	Danny Barnes	
Carol Parker	Mike Burriss	
Amy White	Luther Cherry	
Ron Margiotta	Cindi Jolly	
Kathryn Watson Quigg	Michael Evans	
	Donald Haydon	<u>Board Attorney Present</u>
	Linda Isley	<i>Ann Majestic</i>
	Toni Patterson	
	Maurice Boswell	

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

INFORMATION

Chairman's Comments

Looking over the past year, Susan Parry reported that...

- *93% of the students in Wake County are working at grade level.*
- *73% of the schools surpassed the high growth target that was set by the state in 2002; that is up from 56%.*
- *49 schools were named "Schools of Excellence."*
- *37 schools were named "Schools of Distinction."*
- *We currently have no low-performing schools in Wake County.*
- *Passed \$450 million Bond Referendum for the construction of facilities.*

Several Board members attended the Mayors' Association dinner at the Capital City Club.

Superintendent's Report

- *Superintendent McNeal reported that 550 applicants attended the job fair.*
- *Johnny Gatlin, Wake Teacher of the Year, was selected as one of two finalists in our region for State Teacher of the Year. Mr. Gatlin is one of the 16 finalists for the state recognition.*
- *Bobby Guthrie was named the NC Athletic Director of the Year by the NC Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.*
- *Wake County has been reported as having the most National Board Certified Teacher (660) of any district in North Carolina.*
- *32 WCPSS teachers were awarded \$56,500 in Food for Thought grants from Wake Education Partnership.*
- *Mr. McNeal reminded the board of the principal's breakfast at Golden Coral on Wednesday, December 17, 2003.*
- *The Administration Building and other central offices will be closed for the holidays from Saturday, December 20, through Sunday, December 28. Offices will reopen Monday through Wednesday, December 29-31 and close again on Thursday, January 1, through Sunday, January 4, 2004.*

RECOGNITIONS

Four schools were recognized for outstanding architectural design. American School and University magazine recognized four Wake County Public School System buildings for outstanding design. Middle Creek High School, designed by Cherry Huffman Architects, received a 2003 Educational Interiors Showcase award in recognition of the commons area as an Outstanding Building Feature. In November 2003 issue, the magazine recognized three Wake County Public Schools for Outstanding Educational Design: Combs Elementary School, designed by Skinner, Lamm & Highsmith, PA; Reedy Creek Middle School, designed by Cherry Huffman Architects; and Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle School, designed by Little Diversified Architectural Consulting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Bill Fletcher made a motion to add to the Action Agenda Policy 5121-Encouraging Healthy Choices.

Beverley Clark made motion to pull from the Action Agenda Facilities-Schematic Design: Cary High School Addition and Renovations.

Ron Margiotta made a motion to pull from the Consent Agenda Program Item # 2, Driver Education Contract 2004-2005 and Item # 3, Poe Montessori Magnet Pre-Kindergarten Fee Increase and move them to the Action Agenda.

Amy White made a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING

Charlotte Turpin-President NCAE. *Asking that the board keep in mind that the district serves 109,000 students is responsible for its decision-making and its impact on the children. Asked that the board continue to be there for all children.*

John Converse- parent/former county commissioner. *Please restore the AUM curriculum to the original state and federal standard.*

Edith Struick- Former teacher. *Please revisit the AUM curriculum and place it on the next board agenda for January 6, 2004.*

Susan S. Harrison- Parent. *Asked that the board stand for what is right and truly healthy for the children of Wake County.*

Pam Hofer-Parent. *Please put back in the high schools the original Abstinence Until Marriage curriculum.*

Jere Royall-Parent. *Please return to the original Abstinence Until Marriage curriculum.*

Jim Black-Parent. *Requested that the renovations to the 3rd grade building at Lacy Elementary be done in one renovation project.*

Cindy Lockbaum-Parent/PTA. *Requested that the renovation to the 3rd grade building at Lacy Elementary be done in one renovation project.*

CONSENT ITEMS

Bill Fetcher made a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda, seconded Amy White. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 5, 2003 – Open Meeting

August 19, 2003 – Open Meeting

September 2, 2003 – Open Meeting

September 26, 2003 – Open Meeting

FACILITIES

1. JOINT USE AGREEMENT AT ZEBULON MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH THE BOYS CLUB OF WAKE COUNTY, INC. d/b/a BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS FOR THE USE OF THE MOBILE UNIT NOW OWNED BY THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The Boys and Girls Clubs may operate their program in the mobile unit after school is dismissed and when school is not in session, including weekends, holidays, staff vacation days, and during school breaks. At this time, the mobile unit is not needed by the school system and may be used by the Boys and Girls Clubs during school hours only for administrative purposes. Term is for ten years. The Boys and Girls Clubs shall be responsible for all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the mobile unit. Board approval is requested.

2. BIDS: CARY HIGH-ROOF REPLACEMENT

Bids for the partial roof replacement at Cary High were received on November 20, 2003. Staff and Stafford Consulting Engineers recommend award of the single-prime contract to Owens Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$379,877. Funding is available from the total project budget of \$480,000 of which \$345,000 is from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program, \$50,000 is from PLAN 2000 Deferred Maintenance, and \$85,000 is from IIIB Deferred Maintenance. Board approval is requested.

3. CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS: PANTHER CREEK HIGH (H4)

Staff will present the construction documents designed by Boney, PLLC for the construction of Panther Creek High (H4), which is a reuse of the Knightdale High prototype. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$40,735,373, of which \$1,546,945 is from the PLAN 2000 start up funds, \$66,500 is from PLAN 2000 Modernization, \$4,900,000 is from Phase IIIB School Building Program, \$14,359,539 is from PLAN 2000 School Building Program, and \$19,862,389 is from the PLAN 2004 School Building Program. Board approval is requested.

FINANCE

1. RENEWAL OF PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE: OWNED OR LEASED REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY

The Wake County Public School System has maintained Property Insurance Coverage through participation in the statewide pool administered by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for 16 years. Based on current total insured values of \$1,756,857,687 (12% increase) with deductibles of \$5,000/\$2,000 (Fire, Lightning, Extended Coverage, & All Other Perils / Theft & Vandalism), the annual premium quoted is \$620,983 (15.9% increase). Funds are currently available in the Risk Management Budget for 2003-2004.

2. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION APPROVED CONTRACTS *(Exhibit A)*

The attached summaries are provided as information in accordance with Board Policy 8361. The summaries list all change orders, and contracts having a value greater than \$50,000 and not over \$100,000 for November 2003. Not applicable.

PROGRAM

1. GRANT PROPOSAL

Competitive (#830): NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Grant Program / Central Office, Transportation. Any required cash and/or in-kind matching contributions vary by grant program. Board approval is requested.

ACTION ITEMS

POLICY

1. POLICY 5121-ENCOURAGING HEALTHY CHOICES *(First Reading)*

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve a new policy on first reading, Policy #5121-Encouraging Healthy Choices. Motion seconded by Amy White.

Bill Fletcher gave some general information about the new policy. He stated that the new policy is extracted from the state statute and that it would provide guidance to the school district about teaching abstinence from sexual activities as well as abstinence from drug use. He made some minor changes to the wording of the statute and each reference to STD has been changed to read more clearly as disease transmitted through sexual activities.

Chair Susan Parry gave some background information on this policy. She stated that this policy did not originate from any board committee or staff member. Two board members presented this policy and some of the board was unaware of its development. Ms. Parry gave each board member a moment to state his or her position...

Kathryn Watson Quigg - She carefully reviewed the new policy that Mr. Fletcher and Ms. Head crafted and understands that they think this policy is in the best interest of all children of Wake County. Although their intentions are positive, she believes that this policy will have a negative impact on the children of Wake County and is not in the best interest of all people. As elected officials, board members are chosen to represent not only the vocal minority but also the silent majority. Last year the Board voted for an Abstinence Only curriculum, which follows the standard course of study for our healthful living classes. On a block schedule this amounts to 5 days of classes. Parents have the right to remove their children from these classes without penalty to the child if they wish to be the ones who teach sex education to their children. The board also voted last year to allow an elective class, which had a more comprehensive sex education curriculum for those parents and students who wanted a more thorough discussion of sex education. There are many people who wanted more comprehensive sex education taught in the schools and felt that their knowledge was not complete enough to give their children the information needed to successfully meet the challenges they would face as they grew older. Ms. Quigg believes the decision made last year honored both sets of parents as well as those who wanted absolutely no sex education in the schools. If this new policy passes, she believes the board turns away from anyone who is different or who happens not to believe exactly as they do. She asked that the board do the honorable thing and represent all people, not just a few."

Beverley Clark: She stated that all board members support Abstinence Until Marriage and that the best choice for every child is to abstain from sex, drugs, and alcohol. As a board, there is a responsibility to education our children with the facts. Changing this policy does nothing but limit the choices of parents and the knowledge available to students. Good information delivered in a

respectful way helps students to make good choices. Sex education is something that some families want to do on their own and that is a choice respected by WCPSS; but with 109,000 students, the board has a responsibility to give students factual non-political information. Remaining abstinent is the best choice, but it's not the only choice that many students will be faced with. As a board, Ms. Clark feels the district should offer a curriculum that offers choice as to the amount of information families may elect for their children. Providing additional choice is good for families. She asked the board to move forward in a way that is factual, informative, and encourages students to make right choices.

Patti Head- *The expectation of this policy is that the AUM is the standard for grades 7-12 based on NC General Statutes. She feels that passing this policy is an added benefit for parental involvement and that people will continue to disagree on how this should be taught.* She believes that board members who vote for this policy change are doing the right thing for our students to give them the foundation they need to make right choices. Families may obtain additional information from health organizations to gain more knowledge. She feels this is the foundation of what is needed to be taught in our schools.

Rosa Gill- She asked why it was necessary for the board to redefine the state statutes. She asked if the entire excerpt from the statute was included in the policy and why was the statute language modified.

Kathryn Watson Quigg- She asked if the new policy would eliminate the elective voted on last year. And if so, families would not have a opportunity to choose this elective for their children. Bill Fletcher replied that the new policy, in effect, would eliminate the elective.

Ann Majestic, Attorney- She was asked if there were any legal concerns with the new policy. She had concern about some of the language, but felt it could be modified.

Amy White- She felt putting this policy in place would put everyone on the same page. Standards would be set and any interaction with students, teachers, coaches, and/or guidance counselors would adhere to the new policy.

Rosa Gill- She asked if the same objective could be accomplished by using the language in the policy as guidelines for teaching the course and not a policy. Bill Fletcher replied, No. He feels it is important for this to be in policy.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to call for the question on the first reading, seconded Patti Head. The motion did not carry as a call for the question requires a 2/3 vote to pass.

Susan Parry passed the gavel to the Vice Chair, Patti Head, so that she could make a statement.

Susan Parry- She stated that she strongly disagreed with the policy. She feels the district needs to teach and educate our children how to make healthy choices. She feels that putting this policy in place is the wrong approach. Staff and the Board spent a great deal of time last year discussing this issue in great detail. The curriculum that the staff presented to the board was created with the input of parents, teachers, students, community members, and health professionals. Their work was endorsed by the board. It was done as the result of a lengthy study process. If the will of the board is to vote on this motion, in the future the board does not need to spend months of time researching issues. She feels reluctant to degrade the process by which the board made its decision. It is disrespectful to the community to vote to eliminate this policy when much time was spent researching the issue.

Carol Parker- In response to board comments, she stated that the board had heard from parents at this board meeting that they were disappointed at what came out of last year's decision. She supports passing this new policy 5121.

Ron Margiotta- He stated it has been mentioned by board members that it seems to be religious beliefs driving this policy and also political approaches. In his vote, he will vote for what is in the best interest of the students and the community.

Kathryn Watson Quigg- She voiced concern that if the policy passes, parents will not have an option for a more comprehensive curriculum. She supports the AUM curriculum and the Healthful Living classes that were voted on last year. It allowed opportunities for parents to choose the elective course. Voting on this policy takes away the parents' right to choose this course. It is not forced on any parent or student to take this class; it is an elective class. Parents must give their child permission to take this course. At a meeting at the NCSBA, a survey was done throughout the state of North Carolina and the results showed that 91% of the people wanted a comprehensive sex education curriculum in the schools. When passing this policy last year, all needs and views were considered and the board came up with the best compromise for all.

No more comments being offered, the board chair reiterated the motion on the table to adopt first reading of Policy 5121-Encouraging Healthy Choices, and she read the policy statement verbatim. The vote was 5 to 3 with Bill Fletcher, Patti Head, Amy White, Carol Parker and Ron Margiotta voting "yes" and Kathryn Watson Quigg, Beverley Clark and Rosa Gill voting "no."

PROGRAM

1. DRIVER EDUCATION CONTRACT 2004-2005 (Exhibit B)

Statutory authority G.S. 20-881, 115C-216 and Title 16 of the N.C. Administrative Code provide enabling authority to contract for Driver Education Program Services. The Request For Proposal (RFP) solicits proposals that must meet the specifications and conditions of the RFP. The Board of Education must ultimately approve the contract with the successful vendor. North Carolina Driving School and Jordan Driving School requested RFPs and turned in proposals. Recommend awarding contract for Driver Education Program Services to Jordan Driving School, Inc. Total projected contract cost is \$2,080,000.00 based on 10,000 students. The N.C. Department of Transportation Allocation will fund all costs of the program for Driver Education. No local funds will be used to support this program. This is presented to Wake County Public School System's Board of Education to approve the contract for Driver Education with Jordan Driving School for the period of July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

2. POE MONTESSORI MAGNET PRE-KINDERGARTEN FEE INCREASE

The fee (\$4,400 per year) for the pre-kindergarten program at Poe has been in place since 2002-03. Increases in salaries, costs, and daycare licensure justify the need for a fee increase. Costs are comparable with other preschool programs. Parents have been surveyed. Costs have been analyzed. The fee increase would balance the 2004-05 pre-kindergarten budget. Staff recommends a fee increase of \$600 at Poe totaling \$5,000 per year.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Amy White. The vote was unanimous.

FACILITIES

1. SCHEMATIC DESIGN: WILEY ELEMENTARY-LIFE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Staff will present the schematic design documents prepared by Gürel Architecture, Inc. for the construction of Wiley Elementary life safety improvements. Funding is available from the total

project budget of \$730,000, of which \$425,000 is from deferred maintenance component of PLAN 2000, and \$305,000 is from the modernization component of PLAN 2000. Board approval is requested.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Patti Head. The vote was unanimous.

2. SCHEMATIC DESIGN: MILLBROOK HIGH ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS

Staff will present the schematic design documents prepared by Cherry Huffman Architects, P.A. for the construction of Millbrook High addition and renovations. Funding is available from the total project budget of \$27,581,846, of which \$1,321,955 is from PLAN 2000 start up funds, and \$26,259,891 is from the PLAN 2004 School Building Program. Board approval is requested.

Carol Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

CLOSED SESSION

Bill Fletcher made a motion to go into closed session at 5:55 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 115C-319. Motion was seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Recommendation for Administrative Appointment

Rosa Gill made a motion to approve Douglas E. Hooper, assistant principal at Morrisville Elementary School, to principal at Adams Elementary School, seconded by Patti Head. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Susan Parry adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwanda K. Farrow, Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Superintendent, WCPSS

Susan Parry, Chair