

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
December 18, 2001

Board Members Present:

Kathryn Watson Quigg, Chair
 Susan Parry, Vice Chair
 Beverley Clark
 Bill Fletcher
 Rosa Gill

Patti Head
 Amy Bannister White
 Tom Oxholm
 Jeff York

Staff Members Present:

Bill McNeal, Superintendent
 Jo Baker
 Karen Banks
 Brenda Barker
 Danny Barnes
 Maurice Boswell
 Del Burns
 Mike Burriss
 Ann Hooker
 Linda Isley

Cindi Jolly
 Ray Massey
 Toni Patterson
 John Ringo
 Janice Shearin
 Stella Shelton
 Walt Sherlin
 Jonibel Willis

Board Attorney Present:

Ann Majestic

Kathryn Watson Quigg called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The Durant Road Elementary School Color Guard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INFORMATION

Chairman's Comments

- *We will begin having schools come to the board meeting to led the Pledge of Allegiance or sing a patriotic song. Each board member will have an opportunity to pick one school.*
- *Jones Dairy Elementary School will be studying how the Board of Education conducts it business different from the Town Council.*
- *Ms. Quigg attended the Durant Road Middle and Pleasant Union "School of Excellence" Programs.*
- *She also attended the band and choir program at Zebulon Elementary School and the Student Council Induction program at Wendell Elementary School.*
- *Facilities Work Plan Session will be held on Thursday, January 10, 2002, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Location to be determined.*

Superintendent's Report

- *The unveiling of the student assignment plan will be presented to the board in January 2002.*
- *Our challenge everyday is to make sure that every school is a "good school."*
- *We recognize the concerns of adjusting to a new school. We share parents desire for stability and incorporated it in our plan.*
- *We are accountable for providing each child with a safe, learning environment.*
- *We must fill three new schools.*
- *We must relieve overcrowding in our schools.*

- *Our focus is to “leave no child behind.” We must reach our 2003 Goal and focus on our goals Beyond 2003.*
- *NCSBA awarded two of our board members who filled the requirements for completing 30 or more training hours. Susan Parry, received the Certificate of Merit and Bill Fletcher, The Award of Distinction.*

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- ***Susan Parry** made a motion to amend the meeting agenda to include a closed session to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the board pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(3) regarding pending claim “Y.C-S versus Wake County Public School System.”*
- ***Susan Parry** also made a motion to add the November 19,2001- Program Committee-minutes.*
- ***Beverley Clark** asked to remove item number 4 on the consent agenda, Design Phase Change No.1: Cedar Forks Elementary (E4).*
- ***Kathryn Watson Quigg** made a motion to move Action Item #3–Facilities “Request to Honor Retired Coach and Teacher at Wake Forest-Rolesville High” to Action Item #1.*

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- ***Brenda S. Corbin** would like for the board to write a clear policy, which prohibits the public sharing of children’s grades in Wake County classrooms in any form.*
- ***Susan Parry** gave a thank you to Process Energy for sponsoring Wake County’s 5th graders to see the production of the “Nutcracker” by the Carolina Ballet.*

CONSENT ITEMS

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Susan Parry. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 4, 2001 – Program Committee
 September 18, 2001 – Program Committee
 October 16, 2001 – Program Committee
 November 19, 2001 – Program Committee

FACILITIES

Bids: Salem Middle

Bids for Salem Middle were received on December 4, 2001. Staff and Cherry Huffman Architects, PA recommend award of a single-prime contract to Blair Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$13,956,500 (base bid plus alternates 1,2,3,4, and 6). The lowest responsive multi-prime bid was \$13,965,100. Board approval is requested. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget is \$21,093,376, which is funded from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program project budget. Alternate #1, in the amount of \$23,500, will be funded by Wake County Parks & Recreation

Construction Documents: East Garner Middle Addition

Staff presented construction documents prepared by Skinner, Lamm & Highsmith, PA Architects for the board-approved PLAN 2000 project at East Garner Middle. The project includes demolition of Building 4 (gymnasium/boiler building) and Building 5 (classroom building) and

construction of a new gymnasium, auditorium, and classroom addition. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget of \$10,644,843 is from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program project budget.

The soccer field is a part of the improvement plan after a meeting with the Garner Town Council per Christina Lighthall.

Change Order No. 13 - Reedy Creek Middle

Board approval is requested for Change Order No. 13 to the contract with O'Connor and Taylor of the Carolinas, Inc. for PLAN 2000 Reedy Creek Middle. This cost is associated with the earthen dam and modified wetland areas required by the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality. This change order is in the amount of \$344,640. Fiscal Implications - Funding is available from the total project budget of \$21,152,754, of which \$700,000 is from the state bond program and \$20,452,754 from PLAN 2000.

Design Phase Change Order No. 1: Cedar Forks Elementary (E4)

Board approval is requested for Design Phase Change Order No. 1 to the design consultant, Small Kane Architects, PA for PLAN 2000 Cedar Forks Elementary (E4). This design phase change order, in the amount of \$158,980, is to incorporate the park components for the Town of Morrisville. Fiscal Implications - The cost of these changes will be reimbursed by the Town of Morrisville. The total project budget of \$10,821,535, consists of \$10,662,555 from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program and \$158,980 from the Town of Morrisville.

Resolution: Long-Range Building Program Funding Reallocation

Resolution requests reallocation of funds from complete or nearly complete Phase IIIB projects to Museums Magnet Middle and Washington Elementary. Resolution also requests reallocation of project savings from two PLAN 2000 projects, program contingency, environmental compliance, modernization and deferred maintenance funds to Broughton High and Powell Elementary. Total reallocation amount is \$6,051,338. Fiscal Implications - No additional appropriation of funding is necessary.

Amendment to Option for Purchase and Sale of Real Estate – Middle Creek Project

The purchase and development of property for the new Middle Creek High School and Elementary School included a requirement of Optimist Farm Ventures to provide 5.477 acres of land to construct 40 to 50 multifamily housing units adjacent to school facilities. The board of education received an option to acquire the 5.477 acre tract if Optimist Farm Ventures failed to start construction of the units within three years from April 27, 1999. Due to current economic conditions, Optimist Farm Ventures has requested a six month extension of the construction schedule to October 27, 2002. Fiscal Implications - Not applicable at this time.

Recommendation for Action - Staff requests board approval of an amendment to an Option for Purchase and Sale Contract with Optimist Farm Ventures dated April 27, 1999, extending the construction schedule to October 27, 2002 with all other terms and conditions remaining as originally agreed.

FINANCE

Authorization Forms

These authorization forms designate the persons authorized to sign vouchers for the payment of money on behalf of Farmington Woods Elementary. Fiscal Implications: These authorization forms are required for bank records.

Master Agreement: Bellsouth Business Services

This is a new contract with BellSouth to provide Internet access. Demand for Internet access has increased dramatically over the last year. In addition, we are currently utilizing a single source solution for Internet access through ITS and are vulnerable to any service interruptions downstream. To address these issues, we intend to add an additional circuit provided by Bellsouth. Contract is for a 36-month term. Monthly recurring charge for services will be \$3,340.00. Installation charge is being waived. Fiscal Implications: Total amount of contract for 36-month term is \$120,240. Total amount needed for 2001-02 fiscal year will be paid from the current expense budget and will not exceed \$20,040. Funding for monthly recurring charges in future fiscal years will be identified and planned for through contracted services in the Technology Services current expense budget.

Service Agreement: Dwight Snow

Technology Services will enter into an agreement with Mr. Snow to provide maintenance and support of WCPSS AIX/UNIX operating systems and other related utilities associated with production systems and procedures. Contract term will be through June 30, 2002. Hourly rate will be \$115. Fiscal Implications: Total amount of contract is not to exceed \$125,000. Funding for contracted services was identified and planned for in the 2001-02 fiscal year. Funding is available in the Technology Services current expense budget.

PROGRAM

Grant Proposals

Competitive (#612): North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and North Carolina Department of Public Instruction / Central Office. Fiscal implications vary by grant. *Approved with the understanding that Wake County Public School will not allocate \$420,000 from the current budget for "More at Four" pre-kindergarten grant program.*

HUMAN RESOURCES

Recommendation for Administrative Appointments

- *Marvin Caldwell, applicant, to assistant principal at Athens Drive High School.*
- *Colin W. Lowry, teacher at Ligon Middle School, to assistant principal at Dillard Drive Middle School.*

Recommendations for Administrative Transfers

- *Martha B. Ramsey, assistant principal at Garner High School, to assistant principal at Middle Creek High School.*
- *Margaret E. Ronco, principal at Lincoln Heights Elementary School, to principal at Ballentine Elementary School.*

Recommendations for Request for Leave

- *Eleanor Goette, Cary High School*
- *Joyce Lovelace, Durant Road Middle School*
- *Susan Zarate, Smith Elementary School*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS

Audit Committee

- *Doug Kinney finalized the audit of the purchasing cards, bookkeepers, and major department audits. Because of the confidentiality of the issues, this committee is not open to the public.*

Finance Committee

- *Tom Oxholm reported the discussion on moving to in-house legal council versus outside legal counsel.*
- *The committee will invite Ann Majestic, Board Attorney to speak to the finance committee in the near future.*
- *Discussion continues on the financial implication of small schools.*
- *Next meeting is January 15, 2002, at 3:30 p.m.*

Program

- *The expanded plausibility of use of use of the modified calendar.*
- *Review of grandfathering or guarantee transfer policy.*
- *Discussion of set-up fees for new schools.*

Human Resources

- *Discussion of teacher retention/teacher turnover rates.*
- *Human Resources Committee will bring the board a proposal for Employees' Recognition at the next board meeting.*
- *A new topic for discussion "Overall Quality Teacher's Report" was initiated.*

Community Relations

- *Continued discussion on better ways of communicating with the community.*

ACTION ITEMS

PROGRAM

Wake Technology Academy

An overview of the proposed program for the Wake Technology Academy was presented at the Wake County Board of Education meeting on December 4, 2001. A request was made that the Board approve a resolution supporting the concepts of the academy. Per resolution, the funding for the Wake Technology Academy capital and operating needs will not come from Wake County Public School Systems funds, unless provided by the County Commissioners as an additional appropriation and not cause a reduction in current or future county appropriations dedicated to reach and sustain 95% of our students at grade level. Recommendation for Action: The Board of Education approves the attached resolution of support of the concept of the Wake Technology Academy. **(Exhibit A)**

Tom Oxholm made a motion to approve the resolution as drafted, seconded by Beverley Clark. The vote was unanimous.

- *Kathryn Watson Quigg stated that all of WCPSS resources are aligned to reaching our 95% goal. Our current budget will not allow us to reach Goal 2003. Our first obligation is to get our students to grade level. This requires us to retain and recruit the best teachers, to training our teachers, and administrators, and to reduce class size. 14,000-15,000 students are still below grade level.*

FACILITIES

Request to Honor Retired Coach and Teacher at Wake Forest-Rolesville High

The Wake Forest-Rolesville High School Athletic Booster Club, in cooperation with the school's administrative staff, has requested that the board of education name the main gymnasium on that campus (constructed in 1989) in honor of *Larry Lindsey*, retired teacher and basketball coach. Coach Lindsey was a successful teacher and coach at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School for 23 years. Approval of this request requires the waiver of Board Policy 2571. Fiscal Implications –

None. Recommendation for Action - Board approval is requested to name the Wake Forest-Rolesville High main gymnasium in honor of Larry Lindsey.

Wavier of Board Policy 2571

Amy White made a motion to wave Board Policy 2571, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Beverley Clark. The vote was unanimous.

Kathryn Watson Quigg turn the meeting over to Susan Parry, Vice Chair, because she was feeling under the weather.

Schematic Design: Powell Elementary

Staff presented schematic design documents prepared by PADIA Consulting, Inc. for Powell Elementary. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget of \$3,811,338 is from reallocations within the PLAN 2000 School Building Program. Recommendation for Action - Board approval is requested.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Jeff York. The vote was unanimous.

Schematic Design: Stough Elementary Renovation

Staff presented the schematic design documents prepared by Brown & Jones Architects, Inc. for Stough Elementary classroom wing renovation. Fiscal Implications - The total project budget of \$1,728,405 is from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program.

Amy White made a motion to approve, seconded by Patti Head. The vote was unanimous.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Employee Excellence Award

The Employee Excellence Award will be an opportunity to recognize employees throughout the Wake County Public School System covering all support and administrative positions. A memo will go out to all employees informing them of the process and inviting them to participate. A committee will be formed to judge the nominees. The committee will be representatives of all areas. Up to ten individuals will be recognized at the board meeting opposite Spotlight on Students beginning in February. All employees recognized at the board meeting will receive the Excellence plaque. One of the employees recognized each month will be chosen as "Employee of the Month" and will receive a write up in the News and Observer and local weekly papers. We will promote the Excellence Award on the intranet and send postings to the schools and central offices.

Bill Fletcher made a motion to approve, seconded by Jeff York. The vote was unanimous.

CLOSED SESSION

Bill Fletcher made a motion to go into closed session to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the board pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(3) regarding pending claim "Y.C-S versus Wake County Public School System."

INFORMATION

PROGRAM

1. Effectiveness of ALP 2000-01

ALP was expanded from grades 3-8 to K-12 in 2000-01. ALP represents the major locally funded initiative to provide additional assistance to low achieving students. The program is also one of the strategies intended to help the system reach the goal of having 95% of students at or

above grade level by 2003. A summary of trends is attached. Results are generally positive, although some areas for improvement exist. The budget for ALP in 2000-01 was \$13,747,092. Given the size of the budget, results in this report can help inform future budget decisions. **(Exhibit B)**

2. Progress Towards the Goal

"By 2003, 95% of students tested will be at or above grade level as measured by NC EOG testing at grades 3 and 8." Analysis of EOG test results for 2000-2001 shows that: Scores on all four tests targeted by the 2003 Goal were higher than ever before. Current rates of improvement are still inadequate to reach the goal. Groups that have the highest percentage of students scoring below grade level (students from low-income families, African-American and Hispanic students) have made the largest gains since 1998. ALP interventions appear to be benefiting all demographic groups. The strongest predictor of low achievement is income, as measured by eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch. Approximately 46% of the students who participated in the school lunch program scored in Levels I or II. Both local and state funds have been reallocated towards reaching the Goal. Also, some additional local dollars were sought and appropriated towards the Goal, but the funds received were less than requested. The ALP evaluation report will elaborate on the funds and how they were used. **(Exhibit C)**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Susan Parry adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwanda K. Farrow, Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Superintendent, WCPSS

Kathryn Watson Quigg, Chair