



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 20, 2011**

| <u>Board Members Present</u> | <u>Staff Members Present</u>   |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Kevin L. Hill, Chair         | Superintendent Anthony J. Tata | Andre Smith                          |
| Keith Sutton, Vice Chair     | Cathy Moore                    | Jacqueline Ellis                     |
| Chris Malone                 | Judy Peppler                   | Sylvia Wilkins                       |
| John Tedesco                 | Cris Mulder                    | Stephen Gainey                       |
| Jim Martin                   | David Neter                    | Lisa Grillo                          |
| Christine Kushner            | Danny Barnes                   | Marvin Connelly                      |
| Deborah Prickett             | Lloyd Gardner                  | Joe Desormeaux                       |
| Susan P. Evans               | Kevin Hobbs                    | Mark Winters                         |
| Debra Goldman                | Pamela Kinsey-Barker           | <b><u>Board Attorney Present</u></b> |
|                              | Julye Mizelle                  | Ann Majestic                         |

Chairman, Kevin L. Hill, called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Chair's Comments**

- Chairman Hill thanked Ms. Kelley Walker and her Civics and Economics Class at Millbrook High School for the opportunity to visit with them on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Hill shared information about School Boards and School Board governance at the State and Local level.
- Chairman Hill also thanked Superintendent Tata and Dr. Jim Huge for organizing the Superintendent's Retreat that was held December 10<sup>th</sup>. All Board members participated along with members of the Superintendent's Leadership Team. As a result of the retreat, Chairman Hill and Vice Chair, Keith Sutton, met with Superintendent Tata and agreed to recommend putting a committee structure in place; so that dates could be added to the calendar in case any committee action is needed. The recommendation will be brought to the Board on January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board has scheduled a single item Work Session on Student Assignment for January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. The opportunity will provide Board members and staff a chance for extended discussion and new Board members to get up to speed on questions they might have.
- On behalf of the Wake County Board of Education, Chairman Hill thanked everyone in the Wake County Public School System family for their continued hard work, everyday for the students. His wish is that everyone has a safe, restful, and very happy holiday season and great start to the New Year.

**Superintendent's Comments**

- Superintendent Tata thanked the Board for a productive retreat on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Office of Special Education Services is surveying parents of students with disabilities to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our Special Education Services; assessing the responsiveness and support of schools, and identifying key areas of focus for the office's strategic plan. The survey has been publicized at the parent/student assignment information

sessions, on the website, providing hard copies to schools, and sharing it with the community agencies of the Special Education Advisory Council. To date, we have received 962 completed surveys. The survey will be online at the Special Education Services Department website through January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Mr. Tata extended his support to Middle Creek High School's Rashawn King, one of twelve finalists for Parade Magazine's "Rudy Award", which honors a football player who has overcome adversity to show true commitment to the game. After being diagnosed with Leukemia in June 2010, Rashawn vowed to recover and return to his football team. When he returned, during chemotherapy, Middle Creek High went 10-4 and advanced to the third round of the state playoffs. Mr. Tata shared that people may vote for Rashawn by going to [www.highschoolrudyawards.com](http://www.highschoolrudyawards.com).
- Mr. Tata congratulated Enloe High School's Quiz Bowl Team, which earned second place out of 560 teams from around the world at the fall 2011 Knowledge Master Open on December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- East Wake High School recently won the 2011 Chevy Cell Phones for Soldiers competition, collecting and donating 238 cell phones for American troops overseas. Universal Chevrolet of Wendell sponsored the program and will have the contributed phones refurbished for the troops.
- Mr. Tata shared that the magnet selection period ended on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 p.m. It appears that the selection period was successful. Mr. Tata thanked the Student Assignment Team and all of the magnet schools for their excellent work during the application period.
- Mr. Tata extended holiday wishes to the 165 schools, 18,000 employees, and 147,000 students.

### **Board Member Comments**

- Mrs. Prickett thanked the Superintendent for having a breakfast that was well attended for the Leadership Team and the Board of Education.
- Dr. Martin shared that he had a great meeting at Swift Creek Elementary prior to attending the Board Meeting. He also congratulated and thanked the student body at Enloe High School for their successful Charity Ball. The ball raised \$21,562 for One in Nine, an agency that raises funds and helps needy women dealing with breast cancer. Dr. Martin suggested that in the future, the Board extend the Public Comment time back to three minutes, as a gesture of good listening; which would be consistent with Board Policy 1326 and the Board of County Commissioners.
- Mr. Sutton shared the following statement regarding student assignment, "*Student Assignment has been a focus in Wake County for more than 20 years. With a desire to increase stability in both student assignment and the quality of our schools, this Board is committed to creating an effective and sustainable student assignment plan that will serve the entire community well into the future.*

*We have been listening and have heard many voices; some who want this plan to go forward unaltered, and some who want this plan delayed or even shelved. Both sides have merit. Members of this Board believe we have an obligation to find a solution somewhere between these opposing opinions. To accomplish this, this Board will work with our excellent staff to move forward and not backward. We all acknowledge and appreciate the work that's already been done by staff and the Superintendent, but there is still much left to be done.*

*In a recent request from our Chair, all nine members of this Board were asked to provide or indicate any information or data that would help with our discussion in our upcoming work session on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a needed work session devoted to student assignment and as a Board of nine; we need information in order to make informed decisions for the future of this plan. We have to consider specific anticipated costs, analyze capacity, under-utilization of seats, understand potential and unintended consequences, as well as the community's understanding of the complexities of this plan; regarding feeder patterns, proximity priorities, and preserving the cohesiveness of neighborhoods. We have to address the on-going monitoring of this plan; the bench marks and rubrics that need to be in place so that student assignment is fair and equitable to families across the county. We have to structure control choices so that our system does not create additional high-need schools. We have to work to do expanded outreach to parents so that all families are able to make informed decisions for their children. That is a foundation of a true choice plan.*

*We've heard many sides of the assignment argument for decades, for any plan to work, we as Board must work together so that our community has a better way of assigning students. All the while our eyes must stay fixed on academic success for all students; that must come above all other goals. That is our responsibility to the students, the parents, the teachers, and to all in this community. Thank you."*

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

Chairman Hill shared that staff requested to pull Action Item #10, Contract Renewal with Blue Diamond Information Solutions, LLC. Chairman Hill added an item to Closed Session; to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the Board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3), a Special Education Appeal Case K. M. vs. Wake County Board of Education.

Ms. Goldman requested that in the future, if staff is requesting a change in the agenda, that telephone calls are made to Board members to make them aware prior to the Board meeting.

Debra Goldman made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. The motion was seconded by Keith Sutton. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT – 6 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 two 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.*

- **Tom Rhodes** – Mr. Rhodes shared that he doesn't personally believe that the proposed Controlled Choice Plan will work. Mr. Rhodes asked the Board to commit the resources to ensure the equitable choices are available to all; that all families participate equally and that access to high performing schools are the first priority, especially for those who are among the least among us.
- **Gerri Miller** – Ms. Miller shared her thoughts regarding charter school students and the new student assignment plan. Ms. Miller shared that charter school students are considered "unassigned" and have no priority, no older siblings, or a school within a mile and a half of their home. Ms. Miller shared that she has been unable to receive a definitive answer of which high school is closer to her home. Because her daughter is re-entering the system, she may have to attend a different school other than the school her neighbors will attend. Ms. Miller shared that if transparency is key, it is important that all the information; including distances from schools is available to the community now, so that choices can be made on

what to do. Ms. Miller urged the Board to consider the fairness or the lack of fairness of the plan for those who attend charter or private schools and are new to the system.

- **Alicia Smith** – Ms. Smith shared her thoughts regarding the Board implementing the current plan where Carpenter Elementary will be split apart. Ms. Smith shared that her neighborhood is being assigned to multiple feeder systems. Ms. Smith shared that by dividing her neighborhood into multiple feeder patterns, stability has been removed from their families. Ms. Smith shared that the Board has given her family no choice within the current feeder option, as there is no proximate middle school near Carpenter.
- **Travis Getz** – Mr. Getz shared his thoughts regarding Carpenter Elementary being given a proximate feeder middle school. Mr. Getz shared that East Cary is the 7<sup>th</sup> closest middle school to their neighborhood. Mr. Getz shared that the new assignment plan mentions “proximity” 41 times and is supposed to move towards neighborhood schools. Mr. Getz shared the assignment plan does not give Carpenter a proximate feeder. Mr. Getz requested that the Board change Carpenter Elementary’s feeder school to something closer.
- **Gail Marold** – Ms. Marold shared her thoughts regarding the new choice assignment plan now designating East Cary Middle School as Carpenter Elementary’s feeder school. Ms. Marold shared that this feeder does not provide choice or proximity. Ms. Marold requested that the Board and staff work with Carpenter families to determine a much better solution to the current middle school feeder pattern.
- **Lori Potter** – Ms. Potter shared her thoughts regarding the Board reconsidering whether or not Mills Park Middle should be a traditional calendar option or a year-round to accommodate students in western Wake County that are on a year-round schedule. Ms. Potter also requested that the Board reconsider Carpenter’s feeder pattern and given them a guaranteed seat at a more neighborhood school.
- **Dana Perrin** – Mr. Perrin requested a more proximate feeder middle school for Carpenter families. Mr. Perrin shared that volunteer time would be affected if his child were to attend East Cary Middle School. He would no longer be able to justify leaving his place of employment to school during the day. Mr. Perrin asked when the costs of their children being bused across town will be reduced. Mr. Perrin shared that those costs will only go away when the Board assigns Carpenter a proximate middle school.
- **Molly McKinley** – Ms. McKinley shared the possibility of Carpenter becoming a traditional calendar school. Ms. McKinley shared that parents with multiple children will inevitably get their schedules out of sync; there’s not a year-round high school option. Ms. McKinley shared that she wants her family on the same schedule. Since being in the Wake County Public School System, she has never had the choice. Ms. McKinley requested that the Board consider making Carpenter a traditional calendar school.
- **Maria Reier** – Ms. Reier requested a proximate feeder middle school for Carpenter Elementary. Ms. Reier shared that the new assignment plan feeds Carpenter into East Cary Middle and then onto Panther Creek High School. East Cary Middle School is 8 miles away and is the 7<sup>th</sup> closest middle school; the plan is supposed to be based on proximity and neighborhood schools. Ms. Reier shared that there is a problem in west Cary, a lack of sufficient middle school seats.
- **Lynn Edmonds** – Ms. Edmonds requested that the Board postpone the Choice Plan. Ms. Edmonds shared that there has been many information sessions conducted about the plan, but only one public hearing where parents could stand before the Board and give feedback. Information sessions where parents are limited to asking questions on note cards and are told the many ways this plan is wonderful grossly limits true public engagement and input.

At the October Public Hearing at Broughton, there were 31 names called, 3 of those no shows; 28 people spoke; out of the 28 people, only 1 person stood up and endorsed the plan. The rest of the speakers had specific problems with it or told the Board to slow down altogether. With 95% of parents indicating that they want to grandfather, why are we doing this and who are you doing this for? Ms. Edmonds requested that the Board slow down the plan.

- **Tama Bouncer** – Ms. Bouncer shared that education support professionals are the school support staff working side by side with teachers and administrators to help students achieve their best. From the beginning until the end of the school day, education support professionals have responsibilities that make a difference at their work sites. Budget cuts and the salary freeze have affected all educators. In addition to the salary freeze, teacher assistants, who help with instruction and provide support in the classroom, no longer work on work days. This action did save jobs, but unfortunately resulted in a pay cut due to the reduction in hours. As the budget is prepared for the upcoming school year, additional funding needs to be requested so that per pupil spending will reflect the projected increase in students, resources needed to teach our students will be provided, months of employment for teacher assistants will increase to 10 months, and consideration is given to an increase in supplement pay. Ms. Bouncer shared that more funding is required to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning needs of our students.
- **Hal Reed** – Mr. Reed shared that he hoped that everyone on the Board takes seriously their job to serve the will of the people of Wake County and the will that they have today. Mr. Reed shared that the people of Wake County do not want a rushed, poorly thought out, fiscally irresponsible assignment plan. Mr. Reed shared that he wants the Board to take the time that is necessary to make good decisions, and be certain that what you are doing is going to work. Mr. Reed shared a personal example of the assistance he received regarding the assignment plan. Mr. Reed requested that the Board be ready to implement the assignment plan.

### CONSENT ITEMS

Debra Goldman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Jim Martin. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

|                   |   |                                |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| February 15, 2011 | - | Closed Session Meeting Minutes |
| March 15, 2011    | - | Closed Session Meeting Minutes |
| May 3, 2011       | - | Closed Session Meeting Minutes |
| November 1, 2011  | - | Closed Session Meeting Minutes |
| November 22, 2011 | - | Closed Session Meeting Minutes |
| December 1, 2011  | - | Closed Session Meeting Minutes |
| December 6, 2011  | - | Closed Session Meeting Minutes |

### **FINANCE**

#### **7. RATE INCREASE FOR WCPSS GENERAL COUNSEL**

The Board's General Counsel, Tharrington Smith, has proposed a rate increase effective January 1, 2012. The rate increase is \$5 per hour across each billing rate including partner, associate, and paralegal. Detailed information including General Counsel rate history has been provided to the Board during its Work-Session. General Counsel's rates, subsequent to an approval of the

proposed rate increase, will continue to be below comparable market value for services provided. The retainer with General Counsel will continue to provide a 30-Day termination clause. Fiscal Implications: The proposed rate change reflects an effective increase of 2.7% for partners and 2.9% for associates. Savings: Not Applicable. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **8. RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

1. Professional
2. Support

## **BOARD**

### **9. BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL NOMINATIONS**

This represents new nominations to the Board Advisory Councils. The nomination forms are attached for the Board's review and consideration. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Debra Goldman made a motion to go into Closed Session at 6:22 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) and 115C-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 Keith Sutton. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board returned to Open Session on a motion by Debra Goldman, seconded by Chris Malone. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **ACTION ITEMS CONT'D**

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

John Tedesco made a motion to approve the following Administrative Appointment(s):

- (1). Alice Beth Cochran, Principal at Enloe High School to Senior Director of Magnet Programs effective TBD.
- (2). Thomas Dixon, Retiree to Interim Principal at Middle Creek High School effective 1/11/12 -1/31/12.
- (3). Fred "Drew" Sawyer, Applicant to Principal at Durant Road Middle School effective 1/24/12.
- (4). Angela Ingham, Instructional Resource Teacher at Weatherstone Elementary School to Interim Assistant Principal at Walnut Creek Elementary School effective 1/2/12 – 6/30/12.

The motion was seconded by Susan P. Evans. The motion passed on a 7 to 1 vote with Deborah Prickett voting "no".

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business coming before the Board, Kevin L. Hill made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Deborah Prickett. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin L. Hill, Chair, Wake County Board of Education

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Anthony J. Tata, Superintendent, WCPSS

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Melissa R. Allen, Recording Secretary