



**SWEARING IN CEREMONY
OF NEW SUPERINTENDENT, DR. DEL BURNS
July 18, 2006**

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present	
Patti Head, Chair	Superintendent Del Burns	Michael Evans
Rosa Gill, Vice Chair	Ann Hooker	Lloyd Gardner
Ron Margiotta	Maurice Boswell	Julye Mizelle
Beverly Clark	Linda Isley	Danny Barnes
Carol Parker	Mike Burriss	Kathy Chontos
Eleanor Goettee	Don Haydon	
Susan Parry	Terri Cobb	
Lori Millberg	Jonibel Willis	
	Mark Winters	
	Donna Hargens	Board Attorney Present
	Bev White	Ann Majestic

Patti Head called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Head thanked everyone for coming to this special occasion in the life of the Wake County Public School System, and she asked Reverend Marion Robinson of St. Matthew AME Church to come forward and offer the prayer. Following the prayer, students from Green Elementary Year-Round School, under the direction of June Williams, performed a musical patriotic medley of dance and song. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Head thanked the students for their wonderful and meaningful performance.

Rosa Gill introduced and welcomed Judge Sid Eagles, Jr. Judge Eagles administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Del Burns.

Patti Head addressed Superintendent Burns with the following remarks: *“Del, you bring to this office your immense experience as a classroom teacher, as an administrator, and you also bring to this office a sense of history of where we’ve been and where we’re going in Wake County so that we haven’t wasted any time. You also bring your incredible character, your integrity, your creativity, your intelligence, and we can just keep adding all of these things on and on. Another thing that you bring to this office is your ability to motivate staff, students, and the Board of Education, and your ability to galvanize. We have lots of issues facing Wake County Public Schools, as you know all too well, but you bring that unique ability to bring us together, and we are looking forward to that. Lots of changes have been taking place and will take place; and*

certainly in your administration, having a Leadership Team is one example of that, in that you have already hired a Chief Business Officer and a Chief Academic Officer. Changes will take place, but what is special to us as a Board of Education and to this community, is that you hold constant the values that we all share – that each and every precious child is of extreme importance to us and that the quality of the education that they receive in Wake County will be the best that we can possibly give them and that they will succeed in Wake County. You also bring a vision for teaching and learning for the 21st century that we as a board think is so very crucial. We thank you for that. On behalf of the Wake County Board of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to say we are excited about your leadership; we are excited about your vision for Wake County Public Schools; and we certainly do ask God’s blessings on you. I would now like to introduce to the public, our new superintendent, Dr. Del Burns.”

Dr. Burns received a standing ovation from the audience.

Superintendent Burns made the following remarks: *“Marian Wright Edelman wrote, ‘If we don’t stand up for children, we don’t stand for much.’ As a special education teacher; as an elementary school principal; as a high school principal and now as superintendent of one of the finest school systems in our nation, I stand for children. I stand for children, focused on the vision that every child educated in our school system will graduate on time, prepared for the future. Today, for the first time officially as superintendent and on behalf of 127,000 students, it is my honor, it is my privilege to thank you for your dedication and service to children and to thank you for your commitment to teaching and learning for all children because I know that together we stand for children. Thank you.*

And speaking of standing, I’d like to call on a few folks and ask them to stand, starting with my family - my son, Brad Burns, would you please stand; my daughter, Libby Burns and her fiancée, Josh Godwin; my daughter, Corie Jackson (I’m a new superintendent and she’s a newlywed – I don’t know how long each lasts) and her husband, Bryan Jackson; and my wife of 33 years, my best friend, and mother of my children, Vickie Burns. There are many other people I would like to recognize, but there are three in particular that I feel I must. Many, many years ago, I had one of the most incredible teachers in the world. Dr. Cathy Crossland, where are you? Would you please stand up? I never had the opportunity to embarrass Dr. Crossland; I will do it now. The first special education class I ever had was taught by Dr. Crossland, and she encouraged me and helped me become a teacher. When I was looking at this profession, I entered as a lateral entry teacher, and she helped me with my license, so thank you very much Dr. Crossland for all you have done. Way back in the day in the Wake County Public School System, we once had an Assistant Superintendent for Personnel. This Assistant Superintendent for Personnel screened every single candidate before they went into schools to interview. I interviewed with Dr. Bill Freitag. Would you please stand, Dr. Freitag? Dr. Freitag is very special because as a lateral entry teacher, he was taking a great risk when he allowed me to interview for a position at Aldert Root Elementary School. At that time, Carolyn Morrison – Carolyn, where are you, please stand – was the principal and I have to tell you about the interview process for just a moment. Carolyn, of course at Aldert Root, felt the demands of a very wonderful, caring, and demanding community, and we interviewed. In the interview it came out that she learned my mother was a third grade teacher. Carolyn knew that I was a lateral entry teacher, and she was a little nervous. I can’t remember if it was two times or three times that she asked me the same question in the interview. I’m sure she remembers the question. The question was, ‘Now, your mother is going to help you, isn’t she?’ Thank you, Carolyn, and I appreciate it. Again, there are many, many folks I could recognize, and I just appreciate so much this opportunity to lead this school system because I truly mean it - I know that as a community we stand for children, and I am very excited. Thank you so much.”

Patti Head concluded the ceremony with the following remarks: *I want to thank each one of you for being here. We have elected officials; we have family and friends; we have staff members; and each of you is an important, integral part of us being a success as the Wake County Public School System. We are the best in the nation, and we are going to pledge to you as a Board and on behalf of the Superintendent, that we are going to remain the very best in the nation and take this school system to new heights. We are excited, Dr. Burns, and it is going to be a wonderful journey with you. As we close, I want to also invite you to stay and have some refreshments with the Board and also to meet and greet and get pictures with Del. We would ask that you go out through the doors from which you came. There are stations in the hallway. You'll be directed to the left to go back into the Board Conference Room. We've got plenty of food. Nobody can leave until it is all gone. We will route you back so that at the end of your journey, Del Burns will be there so you can see him and have a picture with him. If you are in a rush, go right to the end. That's fine, but at least we wanted to give you the opportunity to enjoy some fellowship with us. Again, we are so grateful for your participation in this Swearing In Service for the Wake County Public School System and our new superintendent, Dr. Del Burns. With that, I adjourn this meeting and if you would, please go out the double doors and you can meet the new superintendent of the Wake County Public School System, Dr. Del Burns. Thank you."*

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Upton, Recording Secretary

Del Burns, Superintendent, WCPSS

Patti Head, Chair, Wake County Board of Education