



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
October 2, 2007**

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present	
Rosa Gill, Chair	Superintendent Burns	Donna Hargens
Beverley Clark, Vice Chair	Terri Cobb	Don Haydon
Eleanor Goettee	Danny Barnes	David Holdzkom
Lori Millberg	Mike Burriss	Ann Hooker
Carol Parker	Kathy Chontos	David Neter
Susan Parry	Marvin Connelly	Bev White
Horace Tart	Chuck Dulaney	Jonibel Willis
	Michael Evans	Mark Winters
	Lloyd Gardner	Board Attorney
		Ann Majestic

Chair Rosa Gill called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

INFORMATION

Chair's Comments

Ms. Gill began her comments by saying, *"This year more than 11,300 members of the graduating class of 2020 entered kindergarten, and just today, another few dozen children were born in Wake County-area hospitals making them a part of the class of 2025.*

I am proud that the work we do here everyday lays the foundation for these children's future success. The sad thing about serving as Board Chair is that I will probably never get the chance to personally meet most of the children we work so hard for, but each of us on this Board does it because we share a vision of our future.

I've often thought that the issues and decisions that this Board, and in fact, all elected officials struggle with can be done one of two ways. One way is for elected officials to focus on the short term. Their decisions can be filtered through the political winds of the day, or through a single election cycle, or by what their political support base will think.

These decisions tend to be based on the here and now, and not on the way things will be long after our terms are concluded. The simple fact is that the ramifications of our decisions will affect hundreds of thousands of lives, both students and parents and not many of today's elected officials will have to deal with the results of their decisions.

Regardless of today's sound bite mentality which is demonstrated by those focused on what they need today, this Board has a history of looking at the long term; attempting to share a vision of what is to come and what is needed as we prepare our children to compete in a world we cannot begin to imagine. We have worked to open our processes and the information we use in our decision making to the public and other governmental bodies.

Being transparent can make one vulnerable to misinformed criticism, but it can also open lines of communication between those of us who must struggle with the issues of today while holding onto a vision of tomorrow. Just this month this Board invited the elected officials of every municipality to meet, face to face, in order to continue the long range discussions we owe to this community.

In the coming weeks, we will be meeting with parents as we look for solutions to our overcrowded schools and growth that continues day in and day out, and we will continue to work with those who have differing opinions about our complex problems. However, it is not productive for this community for these discussions to be based on an “I have to win, so you have to lose” strategy. These types of discussions only ensure all of us will lose. The greatest losers will be our children. Maybe we won’t see their loss while we’re in whatever office we may be elected to, or aspire to, but this community and our children will lose to be sure.

I believe I speak for everyone on this Board ,that we will leave no stone unturned to participate in open, honest and productive conversations with this community so we can find the solutions that those babies laying in Rex, or WakeMed or Duke hospitals today will need long after we are not sitting at this table.”

- Recently, the Board had two meetings with Mayors and Council Members in each of the municipalities. Discussion included the impact of growth, the Capital Improvement Plan, and the Citizen’s Facilities Advisory Committee Recommendations. The meetings were extremely productive. Chair Gill thanked the Mayors, Council Members, and staffs from each of the municipalities that participated as well as the Board members.
- On September 19, the Board attended a Joint Meeting with the County Commissioners. The topic was Citizen’s Facilities Advisory Committee Recommendations. It was obvious that the committee had worked hard on the report. WCPSS staff is already reviewing the recommendations and are seeking input from the community through Board Advisory Councils.
- Chair Gill met with the Board Advisory Council Chairs on September 27. Chair Gill thanked the chairs that were in attendance as well as Ms. Parker. The meeting was outstanding with great conversation. A number of items were discussed including the CFAC recommendations and the Curriculum Management Audit.
- On September 27, Chair Gill attended a breakfast as part of a regional meeting for the NC High School Athletic Association. The meeting was held at North Carolina State University. One of the amazing things that happened at the meeting is that the Athletic Director and the Football Coach from NC State, made a presentation and praised the students of Wake County and North Carolina. The Athletic Director and Head Coach charged the Wake County coaches to make sure that all of our students who graduate from schools in North Carolina, attend colleges in North Carolina. Later in the day, Wake County received a number of recognitions that Dr. Burns will address in his comments.
- Recently, Chair Gill attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Heritage along with Beverley Clark and Carol Parker. The event was sponsored by Community in Schools and Skanska.
- On September 29 and 30, Chair Gill attended a conference with the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference was wonderful. Chair Gill was invited to present information related to WCPSS’s student assignment policy. Upon Chair Gill’s arrival to the conference, Dr. Lowry was speaking and stated that he hoped that Boards all over the country would make educating each child a major

goal as they move forward in making policies. The workshop that Chair Gill participated in dealt with the policy implications stemming from the U.S. Superior Court decision based on race-based assignment.

The main speaker, Arthur Coleman with Holland and Knight, LLP from Washington, D.C., dealt with numerous segregation cases and race-based decision cases throughout the United States. Mr. Coleman wrote a book called *Not Black and White*. In the book, he speaks about the Supreme Court decision dealing with Seattle and Louisville. Mr. Coleman speaks about the majority ruling of 5 to 4 living in scope regarding those two districts. Judge Kennedy was the key swing vote in the ruling. Mr. Coleman told the participants that what they need to do if they want to achieve success for all students, is to pay close attention to Judge Kennedy's ruling. Judge Kennedy's two compelling interests were, if you are going to use race-based assignment, achieve the benefit of diversity, and the other would be, avoiding the harms associated with racial isolations. The key issues are resources and time, political fall out, and litigation risk. Mr. Coleman's discussion was that race as part of a school assignment, is not banned based on the judge's ruling. Chair Gill will give a report to Board members regarding the conference at a later time.

Board Member's Comments

Ms. Millberg made the following comment – *“I attended the County Commissioners’ meeting yesterday and much like Chair Gurley felt the need to respond to statements made by Mayor Meeker, I would like to respond to statements made by the County Commissioners.*

At that meeting, Chair Gurley made the following statement: “There is never an acceptable excuse for wasting taxpayer’s money.”

I couldn’t agree more. That is precisely why the Board of Education supported the purchase of the middle school site in Rolesville.

Even if you assumed that the lowest appraisal was accurate and a suitable site in this area could be found for only \$39,000 per acre, the maximum savings that could be realized from the lower land cost would be \$1.4 M.

That savings, however, would be more than offset by the inflation of the construction costs due to the delay which would be conservatively estimated to be \$1.9M. This additional cost is not an unsupported number developed by the School Board, but is the number the County Commissioners determined when they accelerated this school earlier this year. As is clearly reflected in the minutes of their March 12, 2007 meeting, they not only acknowledged that, but that this acceleration would create a 1.9M savings on construction costs, but actually reduced the construction budget by that amount and moved that much money out of the CIP funds into the reserve funds. To now deny that this delay raises the cost of the school by the same amount is not consistent with their previous position.

Therefore, best case scenario, this school will now cost no less than a half million dollars more than it would have if the County Commissioners had approved the Rolesville site at the price that we had negotiated.

It is my position that this is a waste of a half million taxpayer dollars, and in Mr. Gurley's words, there is no acceptable excuse for it.

It is my position that this waste of taxpayer dollars will actually be far more than a half million dollars in the long run. Our representatives have researched every parcel of land of sufficient size in that part of the county, and we don't anticipate we will find a suitable site for only \$39,000 per acre.

This is one of the fastest growing areas in the county and we are competing with developers for every available parcel. That competition is driving prices up every day. While it is possible that we may find land for less than the \$75,000 per acre we had negotiated, it is likely to be a parcel that is less suitable to school construction and will, therefore, be more costly to develop. Or— it will be land that is far from where it is needed creating a hardship on the families that the school must serve.

It is fact that the decision of the County Commissioners to stop the land purchase in Rolesville will increase the total cost of this middle school, including land, site development and construction by at least a half million dollars.

It is my projection that it could potentially increase the cost by a figure closer to \$2M. The County Commissioners suggested that their actions didn't delay this construction, but instead put it back on schedule, implying that there is, therefore, no costs from the delay and that this school is not really needed until 2011. Neither is true.

This middle school is needed today. The only reason it was ever scheduled to not open until 2011 is because the County Commissioners had previously claimed in a joint meeting that they would not have a sufficient income stream to start all the schools included in the bond immediately, and that our construction plan would have to spread the school start over several years. This school was slated to open in 2011 simply to meet that requirement. We were elated when they immediately got to work on locating a site to meet that accelerated schedule.

The suggestion that delaying the opening of this middle school from 2010 to 2011 will not cause crowding problems that will be felt throughout this area is simply not true. All of the existing middle schools that surround this site are already at or near capacity and most have many trailers already. For example, Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle School is at 103% capacity with 11 trailers and Wakefield Middle is at 104% of capacity with 13 trailers. Clearly, neither school is going to be able to absorb the growth that continues to happen in their attendance areas. The School Board will be forced every year, until a new middle school brings new capacity to this area, to shift students from these crowded schools to more distant schools with some limited capacity still available. Having this school available next year wouldn't be too soon. Delaying it from 2010 to 2011 will be felt by the families in this area.

The failure of the County Commissioners to be attuned to these crowding problems and the impact their decisions have on families is illustrative of why the Legislature charged the School Board with the responsibility to site and build schools and why we should continue in that role.

Further, the County Commissioners suggest that other sites have already been identified and that no delay is necessary. While other sites have been suggested, and we greatly appreciate the help of the Rolesville Officials identifying these sites, early indications are that two of the three present significant site development challenges which could increase costs and cause delays. The third site looks more suitable for school construction, but is not within our target ring for this school. While it may be a great site for land

banking for a future school, if it is selected for this school site, it would be with the knowledge we are not building it where it is most needed. Therefore, it increases the likelihood that students would be forced to be bussed to it at that location.

Finally, as to the comment indicating that any problems with the relationship between our two Boards began with or was caused by Mrs. Gill's election to chair, is not true. Anyone who has followed this situation is well aware that our problems pre-date her term. In fact, it could instead be tracked back to the last election cycle and the year-round debate. It is time to move beyond our differences and I would be in favor of hiring a mediator or facilitator or whatever it takes to restore a working relationship between the Boards."

Ms. Parker shared that she echoes the support of Chair Gill. Ms. Parker stated that while she and Chair Gill differ on process and procedure, Chair Gill is always willing to listen, and willing to work with the Board of County Commissioners.

Chair Gill thanked the Board for their support.

Ms. Parry corrected the references of the long history that the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners having together and what has been accomplished over time. The two Boards have been meeting jointly periodically, typically once a month, for many years.

Ms. Parry shared that Combs Magnet School hosted a delegation of Japanese educators who had come to examine the ways that we teach math, science, and technology in our schools. They sent twenty representatives from universities, and public education at all levels to look at the schools here. They also spoke to some of the leadership as well as spent time in classrooms at Combs.

Ms. Clark shared that she visited Lynn Road Elementary and had the opportunity to kick off their reading incentive. Prior to the PTA meeting, she had the opportunity to tour the facility. The staff and parents are excited regarding the renovations that are being done, as well as the contractor, Balfour Beatty doing a wonderful job.

Ms. Clark also shared her thoughts regarding Les Miserables. If you were not able to attend, you missed a wonderful performance by some amazing students who have Broadway talent.

Ms. Goettee shared that recently, she joined Nicole Russell's first grade class at Briarcliff Elementary for Johnny Appleseed Day. The entire day revolved around the apple. Every center was devoted to some part of the apple. What a joy to have been involved in such a great day and activity.

Superintendent's Comments

- The U. S. Department of Education announced forty-one school districts in seventeen states that would be recipients of Magnet School grants. Dr. Burns announced that WCPSS was one of the recipients of the grant, receiving

approximately \$3.8 million during the first year of funding. The purpose of the grant is to help school districts create more school choices for parents, bring diverse groups of children together, and help create innovative educational programs. The grants range in size from less than \$1million to more than \$3 million.

Superintendent Burns thanked Ken Branch, Bill Carruthers, and the Magnet Office for their outstanding work.

- Dr. Burns attended the Friday morning performance of Les Miserables. It was an awe inspiring performance by more than 70 students from WCPSS. The play highlighted the importance of the arts to Wake County and the Wake County Public School System. The performance that Dr. Burns attended had many of the WCPSS students in the audience. They loved the play and supported their fellow students on stage. Dr. Burns congratulated the students and thanked them for their hard work in making the production possible.
- A group of eighteen Japanese visitors came and spent time in several schools. The visitors presented a number of gifts to the Wake County Public School System which is on display in the lobby. Dr. Burns did get to spend time with the delegates as well.
- Dr. Burns had the opportunity to present information related to preparing students for the future at the School-to-Career Celebration last week. Business volunteers were present where we were celebrating them and appreciating their work helping make schools and experiences more relevant for students. Middle school and high school teams were supporting them as well. Dr. Burns shared that Principals, CTE Coordinators, and the CTE Staff did a wonderful job of presenting and organizing the event.
- Fourteen students from eight Wake County Public School System schools have been named semifinalists in the 2008 National Achievement Scholarship Program. The students are among 1,600 African-American high school seniors who have been designated semifinalists in the 44th Annual Achievement Scholarship Competition. All National Achievement Scholars are selected based on their abilities, accomplishments, and potential for success in college studies. The fourteen students selected include: Destani Bizune of Apex High School, Olamide Olusesi of Broughton High School, Aja Hall, Ureigh Houston, and Amanuel Micael of Cary High School, Maggie Mial, Jasmyn Nicholas, and Amir K. Webb of Enloe High School, Joseph Bruner of Green Hope High School, Braxton D. Shelley of Garner High School, Jawara Allen, Lawrence Crosby, and Jasmine Gibson of Southeast Raleigh High School, and Renee A. McDonald of Wakefield High School.
- Forty-eight students from fourteen Wake County Schools were among the approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 53rd Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship Award, semifinalists must advance to the finalist level of the competition by fulfilling several requirements including a written essay, SAT scores, service to the community, academic achievement, and recommendations from teachers. The students selected will have an opportunity to compete for approximately 8,200 Merit Scholarship Awards. The scholarships will be offered next spring. Dr. Burns congratulated the students for being selected as semifinalists.
- The NCSHAA Regional Meeting was held on September 27 at Carter Finley Stadium. The NCHSAA gave Sportsmanship Awards to thirteen high schools for the 2006-2007 school year. The previous record was ten schools in the 2004-2005

school year. Dr. Burns congratulated Apex High School, Cary High School, East Wake High School, Enloe High School, Fuquay-Varina High School, Garner High School, Green Hope High School, Holly Springs High School, Leesville Road High School, Middle Creek High School, Panther Creek High School, Sanderson High School, and Wake Forest-Rolesville High School. Five athletic directors were also honored with Regional Awards for their service to the NCHSAA and to Wake County Schools. Those Athletic Directors include Doc Harrell from Garner High School, Kurt Glendenning from Cary High School, Buddy Stewart, Former Athletic Director from Enloe High School, Marshall Hamilton Former Athletic Director from Leesville High School, and Bobby Guthrie WCPSS Athletic Director.

- In the September edition of “Educational Leadership”, which is a national magazine for educators, there is an article entitled, *Will You Help Me Lead?* This article was written by Carolann Wade and Bill Ferriter. The article addresses National Board certification and teacher leadership. Dr. Burns congratulated Bill and Carolann for their outstanding work. As WCPSS looks for methods to retain and develop leadership skills among our teachers, it is important that we recognize the knowledge and expertise among our staff right here. Board members were provided a copy of the article.
- Hispanic Heritage Month is held from September 15, 2007 through October 15, 2007. The Kick-Off Celebration was held on September 21 at Crossroads in Room 1320, which was an outstanding celebration. Dr. Burns thanked Maria Rosa Rangel in Prevention Services for coordinating the event for WCPSS. Prevention Services prepared numerous materials to be used by schools and staff. Materials included presentations with historical events, links to different resources, and posters for the schools.
- A new edition of “Fact or Fiction” related to the Curriculum Management Audit is available. In just a few days of the quiz being up, over 8,300 questions were answered. Of those questions, 2/3 were answered correctly. Dr. Burns thanked Michael Evans and Donna Hargens for their work on the project.
- On September 27, Dr. Burns gave a presentation to the Harriet B. Webster Task Force at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church. The presentation related to the status of the achievement gap and strategies for improvement. The meeting was well attended. Dr. Burns thanked Rev. Marion Robinson for arranging the opportunity and Chair Gill for attending and supporting the event.
- Chris Droessler, the WCPSS School-to-Career Coordinator, was recently elected as chairman of the Capital Area Youth Workforce Council for the 2007-08 year. The Capital Area Youth Workforce Council is a standing committee of the Capital Area Workforce Development Board. The Council is responsible for planning and oversight of the Workforce Investment Act. This includes funded services and activities offered to youth in Johnston and Wake Counties. Dr. Burns congratulated Mr. Droessler.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Gill made the recommendation to move Public Comment prior to Information Items. Information Items to be presented as follows: Real Estate Acquisition Process Update, Recommendations of the Citizens’ Facilities Advisory Committee, and Understanding the Curriculum Management Audit.

Lori Millberg made a motion to approve, seconded by Beverley Clark. The vote was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 4 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.

- **Robin Jones (Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Tennis Association’s National Advocacy Task Force)** – Ms. Jones respectfully requested that the Board continue tennis in future schools.
- **Jennifer Mansfield (Concerned Citizen in District 3)** – Ms. Mansfield requested that the Board have a community dialogue regarding the current Diversity and Student Assignment Policies.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION PROCESS UPDATE

The CIP 2006 capital improvement program includes funds for acquisition of land for the seventeen schools to be constructed under the program and for thirteen schools that will be constructed under the next program. Staff will present an update on the land acquisition process. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: The report is presented for information.

Chuck Dulaney presented information to the Board regarding projections of student enrollment and how the students will be served. Mr. Dulaney began with a brief overview of student enrollment over the past twenty years. WCPSS has doubled in size, from 57,000 students in 1985- 1986 to 128,000 in 2006-2007. The long range enrollment projections that are made in collaboration with the Wake County Planning Department state that WCPSS will double in size again. According to projections, in 2010 WCPSS should have 12,500 kindergarten students in one cohort. The kindergarten cohort has been among the largest classes for the last seven or eight years. That is what has been making its way through the school system and driving much of the growth that is being encountered.

When the CIP was developed, and jointly adopted by the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners, it was suggested that facilities should be planned for slightly more than the number of students being projected for any given year. Current projections show that WCPSS would need eighty-two schools by 2025. With the one billion dollar program that was adopted, WCPSS would have the funding to build the first seventeen of the eighty-two schools, and would have the funding needed to acquire the land, and do the planning of the next thirteen schools. The forty-five elementary schools that have been projected and are needed over the next twenty years must have an enrollment of 1,100 students and must be utilized as year-round elementary schools. Twenty middle schools will be adequate over the course of the next twenty years, if we

serve 1,600 students in each middle school operating the school on a year-round calendar. The seventeen high schools will be adequate if each school serves 2,200 to 2,300 students. Of the eighteen elementary sites needed over the next five years, five are under construction, four are in design, three have had the land purchased but have not begun design, and six still have land being sought for.

At the middle school level, eight middle schools are needed, one is under construction, two are in design, and five additional middle school sites are needed. At the high school level, four schools need to be opened by 2012. One is currently under construction, three additional sites are needed.

Ms. Parker inquired about the future year-round elementary and middle schools planned and how to make student enrollment 1,100 for elementary schools. Mr. Dulaney responded that staff's recommendation was to assign them, however, with Judge Manning's order, if WCPSS assigned a year-round school to a student, WCPSS would have to provide a traditional calendar option, which would present an expensive alternative to the county. If the county placed everyone on a traditional calendar that asked for one, forty-five elementary schools would no longer be feasible. The reason that the Board adopted the one billion dollar building program that they did, was that the other options were much more expensive.

Ms. Parry asked if based on the shared projections created by the Board of Education and County Commissioners, if we maintained our commitment to opening new middle and elementary schools on a year-round calendar, but did not convert the twenty-two schools that were converted last year, and that the county would be 10,000 seats short by 2011. Mr. Dulaney responded, No, the 10,000 seats short would be a reflection of both converting the schools that were made year-round last year, back to traditional and opening the new schools as traditional. In order to keep pace with the projections, WCPSS would have to build new schools on a year-round calendar for elementary and middle, and would still have needed the conversion of the twenty-two schools selected a year ago.

Mike Burriss presented information to the Board regarding target dates for school openings and acquiring land to build schools. In looking at the challenge that is before the school system in providing the forty-five elementary schools, or the ones that are needed between now and 2015, there is a hurdle that the school system needs to get over for that number of acquisition of sites. There is sound planning in place for where school sites should be, however, that sound planning is based on municipal planners' input. The input from the planners is derived from comprehensive plans adopted by Boards of Aldermen, Council Members, etc., that may be within the municipalities. In applying that, staff can see where the delta is between our existing capacity and the new capacity that is going to come from new people that move into neighborhoods. Acquisitions of property for middle school sites need to occur this year for a 2010 opening. The elementary sites for the 2009 timeframe are already too late and are being forced, which is compressing design time, construction time, and permitting time in order to open. 2010 is now the target date to open the elementary schools. For the high school sites, 2010 openings need to have land acquired now. As we look at the long-range need for schools and where the placement of the schools need to go, it is

important to realize that staff needs to back up the target dates of the opening dates up to four or five years in order to acquire sites for that. The acquisition processes and discussions need to take place early with Planning Departments and Boards of local municipalities.

Ms. Parry asked at what time will the Board of Education need to procure the Apex-area high school site and the Garner-area high school site in order to have the schools open on time. Mr. Burriss responded that the construction is not funded, however, the design can begin, and the design for the site can begin. If staff can have the sites acquired by November of 2008, they will be on target to open the school in 2012.

Betty Parker presented information to the Board, regarding invitations to municipalities, who the participants are in the municipal collaborations, and how the search process begins for future sites. Ms. Parker gave a brief overview of the process of acquiring land for school sites which includes three phases. The first phase begins with a pre-search meeting which involves assigning a target ring to a real estate team, notifying the municipal staff that WCPSS is looking for a school in their area, and identifying what other public needs the municipality may need at that time. Real estate teams are then dispatched to identify as many sites as possible that fit our needs. Also, in Phase I, staff reviews size and shape of site, location of site, topography, drainage, utilities, general availability, security and safety, accessibility and impact on traffic, soil conditions and plant life, noise, and cost.

The Phase II process includes a meeting and dispatching the real estate teams out, where they now look at the top-rated sites that have been agreed upon and approved by Ms. Parker. The real estate teams begin looking specifically at available utilities, anticipated on-site issues, in-depth research into the off-site improvements, a more in-depth analysis of the physical attributes of the site, research environmental issues, research use ownership and control, etc. Teams are then authorized to begin negotiations. The negotiations are done subject to staff approval and staff supervision.

The Phase III process includes approval from the Board of Education, which includes a presentation that identifies the steps that staff has been through. Presuming Board approval, the real estate teams are then tasked with managing the due diligence process.

Mr. Burriss clarified information related to legislation that allows the Board of Education to identify parcels of land that are of interest to build schools. Dialogue has begun with the County Government to take site ring circles and place on comprehensive planning maps, so that the process of identifying sites that are likely to fit a school site, could be considered as developments are brought forward.

Ms. Parry stated that at the Board of Commissioners meeting, she heard mention from a Commissioner that the Commissioners would like all of the information about all of the alternate parcels that the Board of Education considers. Ms. Parry asked for clarification of the requests that the Board of Commissioners make of WCPSS staff in acquiring land for school sites.

Ms. Parker responded, no, she was not aware of any requests. Mr. Burriss further clarified that the person directed on the County Commissioner's staff has been asked to be intimately involved with WCPSS through the entire process. The entire staff of the County Commissioners has access to all of the information provided by WCPSS.

Ms. Gill stated that at a joint meeting, there was an agreement, if there would be any additional information, other than information listed on the checklist, it would come through the Board of Education or through the Superintendent before it goes to staff.

Ms. Parker stated that she appreciated the staff's work in developing a process to out-source some of the real estate functions. As the Citizen's Facilities Advisory Committee recommended, it is time to review and refine the process. Ms. Parker stated that there is a lack of knowledge on our elected officials' behalf regarding their staff's involvement.

After comments from the Board chair the presentation ended.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITIZENS' FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners jointly established the Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee in June 2006, and charged it to examine the construction practices used by the County, beginning with those of the Wake County Public Schools system. The committee met over the course of a year and formulated twenty-seven recommendations, affirmed certain current practices and called for further study in other areas. Their report was presented to a joint meeting of the two boards on 19 September 2007. Staff will present a summary of the recommendations. Fiscal Implications: The report is presented for information. Recommendation for Action: The report is presented for information.

Don Haydon presented a summary of recommendations from the Citizens' Facility Advisory Committee (CFAC). The Committee was charged with evaluating Wake County's Capital Improvement Program and evaluating school design criteria, construction management, and delivery methods. The committee initially reviewed WCPSS facility program. The work of the committee is long-term and also includes reviewing Wake County capital projects. The committee has thirteen members, they are chaired by Billie Redmond and John Mabe. The committee consists of architects, engineers, contractors, a banker, a policy analyst, attorneys, and government administrators.

The CFAC was established by the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners in Spring 2006. The committee met fourteen times and reported to the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners at a joint meeting on September 19, 2007. The CFAC was structured into three subcommittees: planning and site selection, program and design, and construction. The committee had three kinds of comments in the report. They included affirmations, further studies, and recommendations.

Affirmations included:

- (1) continuing the fully equipped media centers

- (2) continuing multi-purpose rooms for elementary schools
- (3) continuing multi-story prototypes
- (4) food service operations
- (5) the method of calculating school capacities is realistic

Affirmations as it pertains to Project Delivery

- (6) Support current cost model
- (7) Continue the designer selection process;
- (8) Continue the high design standards with life-cycle cost consideration
- (9) Equipment procurement process
- (10) Evaluation of alternative methods and materials

Further Studies included:

- (1) Continue evaluation of public-private partnerships
- (2) Shared use of facilities, including stadiums
- (3) Guidelines for materials and systems
- (4) Decentralized media centers
- (5) Integrating middle and high school theatre courses

Further Studies needed as it pertains to Project Delivery:

- (6) Design and competitions
- (7) Child nutrition menus
- (8) Evaluation of membership change throughout the year
- (9) Public-private partnership savings versus cost of capital

Recommendations included:

- (1) Review planning process
- (2) Increase land banking
- (3) Plan urban designs
- (4) Investigate use of bus transit centers
- (5) Review land acquisition process
- (6) Maximize the number of seats at existing and new sites
- (7) Establish a peer review committee for site plans
- (8) Establish a comprehensive site cost value engineering process
- (9) Reduce the number of parking spaces at all school levels
- (10) Ensure designs are sustainable and energy efficient
- (11) Municipalities should adopt standard development ordinances for construction and renovation
- (12) Reduce or modify requirements for on-site queuing, involve municipality and NCDOT sooner in process
- (13) Review and reconsider athletic activities that exceed PE requirement
- (14) Evaluate cost/benefit of improvements; top priorities are life and safety, code, protect investment, increase capacity; no requirement to add amenities to keep pace with new
- (15) Design media centers no greater than NC DPI standards
- (16) Reduce middle school auditorium size by use of cafeteriums
- (17) Increase core areas to reduce over utilization and time constraints; continue to use mobile/modular units
- (18) Enhance wireless technology
- (19) Develop cost allocation plan for program management/project management
- (20) Monitor personnel levels; reduce facility planner involvement once contracts are awarded

- (21) Challenge structural elements; include value-engineering requirements in professional services contracts
- (22) Support initial public-private partnership contractual document
- (23) Stagger bid days to allow contractors to bid more projects; include surrounding counties, state government, and area universities
- (24) Continue to use Construction Manager-At Risk delivery method for projects \$15 million or greater or for smaller complex projects
- (25) Eliminate some steps in change orders that are duplications of effort
- (26) Develop an efficient, streamlined, common review and permitting process; Wake County Government should be the single inspection authority
- (27) Address the remaining conditions in the FMI Operations Assessment Report.

Ms. Parker inquired about the plan for implementation. Mr. Haydon responded that staff would approach the recommendations by grouping and would work through the Facilities Committee to set up a structure for implementation.

Ms. Parker inquired if the DeYoung Report would be used by staff in the future. Mr. Haydon responded that as the data was received, staff did review it and the data served a purpose for the staff to see how WCPSS compared to other school districts. Looking at the data, staff had to make sure that a true comparison was being maintained.

After several comments from the Board regarding the CFAC report, Mr. Haydon concluded his presentation.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AUDIT

Dr. Hargens will provide a brief overview of the sections of the Curriculum Management Audit Report. Single-page overviews of each recommendation will be reviewed as a method to understand the report and to easily locate additional information regarding a finding, a recommendation, or an action step.

Dr. Rosanne Stripling, lead auditor, presented the 400-page CMA Report to the Board of Education at the September 4, 2007 meeting. At the September 18, 2007 Committee of the Whole, Dr. Hargens presented an expanded overview of the report and overviews of each recommendation for the Board.

At the September 18, 2007 Board Meeting, Dr. Burns and Dr. Hargens provided a framework for the staff work and the phases of the staff work related to the audit and aligned to the four Strategic Directives. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: None

Dr. Hargens presented information to the Board regarding an overview of the Curriculum Management Audit. Dr. Hargens stated that staff is in the knowledge and comprehension stage of understanding the audit. There are three objectives for ourselves and the public to understand the parts in the contents of the audit report, to understand the components of each recommendation, and be able to use the one-page overviews to find more detailed information in the report. The report has six parts, the introduction is 3%, the methodology description is 2%, which represents the findings, the recommendations represent 6%, the summaries contain 1% of the report, and the appendix is 5%. The majority of the report are evidences that were found in WCPSS.

The process began with data sources, interviews, documents, and site visits. Comparing them to the five standards and to curricular quality control, which is the written curriculum aligning with what is taught in the classroom, aligning with what is in the tested curriculum. Auditors reviewed evidences and compared it with the standards and quality curricular control which resulted in findings, which were the basis for the recommendations.

Findings represent the majority of the report. A finding is a description of the existing state at the time of the audit and its comparison with one or more of the five standards. Findings in the negative represent discrepancies below the standard. Findings in the positive reflect meeting or exceeding the standard. There are no commendations in audit. It is expected that every school district should be meeting every standard as a normal way of doing business.

Of the five standards, control, had three findings, curriculum had five findings, connectivity had six findings, assessment had four findings, productivity had four findings, for a total of twenty-two findings.

The findings form the basis for the recommendations. The standards are the working characteristics that any complex organization should possess. They are the ideal, but they are not unattainable. The findings are the description in between where we are related to that ideal, yet attainable condition.

The recommendations are the overall arching goals for the Board or the Superintendent that the auditors recommended to address the findings. The recommendations have two types of actions, governance actions, which are the policy and monitoring responsibilities for the Board of Education, and administrative actions which are the operational and administrative duties of the superintendent.

There were eight recommendations presented by the auditors in order of criticality. They are:

Opportunity – providing access to comparable programs, eliminating the achievement gap, and allocating resources based on need.

Consistency – refocusing the planning process .

Governance – providing Board policies that provide direction to employees.

Management – developing a comprehensive curriculum management process and revising resources.

Evaluation – formalizing a comprehensive assessment procedure.

Budgeting – developing and implementing a multi-year plan that fully aligns resources to curricular goals and includes cost benefit analyses.

Instruction – establishing a plan for centralized professional development, and revising the teacher appraisal process.

Organization – adopting policies governing the management of job descriptions and table of organizations.

The audit contains six parts, the majority of the report are the findings, which is over 80% of the report. The one-page overview for each of the recommendations goes from the findings organized by standard, to the over-arching recommendations, to the governance and administrative steps. The one-page review for every recommendation has page numbers, which will assist in going deeper into the audit report, based on the one-page overviews.

With no questions from the Board, Dr. Hargens concluded her presentation.

CONSENT ITEMS

Lori Millberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Beverley Clark. The vote was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- May 23, 2007 - Board of Education Work Session Minutes – **Revised**
- August 7, 2007 - Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- August 7, 2007 - Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- August 7, 2007 - Closed Session Meeting Minutes
- August 21, 2007 - Closed Session Meeting Minutes
- August 28, 2007 - Joint Meeting of the Board of Education and Raleigh Town Council Meeting Minutes
- September 4, 2007 - Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- September 11, 2007 - Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes
- September 18, 2007 - Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

FINANCE

1. GIFTS TO THE SYSTEM

Sixty-three gifts have been donated to the Wake County Public School System. The approximate value of the gifts is \$30,573.79. Fiscal Implications: Not applicable. Recommendation for Action: No action is required.

FACILITIES

1. GREENWAY EASEMENT DEDICATION AND UTILITY LINE MEMORIALIZATION: HERITAGE MIDDLE AND HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

In order to acquire the final certificate of occupancy for Heritage Middle, the Town of Wake Forest requires that the private water and sanitary sewer utility lines, located on the site containing both Heritage Middle and Heritage Elementary, be memorialized on a map. In addition, the Town requires the dedication of a 30 feet wide greenway easement to the Town. The site was developed in compliance with the required utility lines and

greenway easement areas as identified on the site plans; however, the utility lines and greenway easement have not yet been formally memorialized in a recorded map. Board approval is requested for the granting of the greenway easement dedication to the Town so that recordation of said dedication map can occur. The requested easement dedication will not interfere with Wake County Public Schools' present or future use of the property. A copy of the Easement Plat is attached with the area of the easement identified thereon. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: Staff requests Board approval.

2. UTILITY EASEMENT: SYCAMORE CREEK ELEMENTARY (E-17)

As part of the construction process and in order to provide service to the Sycamore Creek Elementary school site, Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc., requires an easement to construct, maintain, and operate electric and/or communication facilities thereon, consisting of poles, cables, wires, underground conduits, enclosures and other pertinent facilities. The easement to be granted will allow for installation of utility service equipment where needed upon the site, with the precise location to be determined by mutual agreement and to be memorialized by site maps or drawings upon installation. The requested easement will not interfere with the Wake County Public School System's present or future use of the property. A copy of the proposed Easement is attached. Fiscal Implications: None.

Recommendation for Action: Staff request Board approval.

3. ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS: WAKELON ELEMENTARY (E-15)

As agreed to in the Offer to Purchase and Contract dated December 20, 2004 for the Wakelon Elementary property the Board would pay for required improvements to Pippin Road from the center line of Pippin Road to the property boundary line fronting Pippin Road. MacGregor Development completed the work during the Spring 2007 and has presented a final construction invoice, in the amount of \$140,967.12, for the Board's portion of the costs. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$22,073,088, of which \$21,876,183 is from PLAN 2004, \$73,952 from the Town of Zebulon, and \$122,953 from the Wake County Parks and Recreation.

Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

4. MATERIALS TESTING SERVICES: WENDELL MIDDLE SCHOOL (M-5)

Negotiations have been completed with Froehling & Robertson, Inc., to provide construction materials testing and inspection services for Wendell Middle School, in an amount not to exceed \$138,845, in accordance with the Master Services Agreement for Geotechnical/Materials Testing Services and the Individual Project Proposal Agreement. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget of \$31,217,501, of which \$1,548,373 is from PLAN 2004 and \$29,669,128 is from CIP 2006.

Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

5. CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS: POE ELEMENTARY

Staff has reviewed the construction documents for Poe Elementary, and requests Board approval and authorization to advertise for the construction. Fiscal Implications: Funding is available from the total project budget \$14,089,270, of which \$250,000 is from the PLAN 2004 and \$13,839,270 from CIP 2006. Recommendation for Action: Board approval is requested.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

1. GRANT PROPOSALS

- Competitive (#1176): North Carolina Donors Choose / Individual schools.
- Collaboration (#1188): US Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, Social Communication and Symbolic Play Intervention for Preschoolers with Autism / WCPSS Related Services, with UNC-CH serving as fiscal agent.
- Collaboration (#1189): US Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, Treatment Comparison of Two Comprehensive Treatment Models (LEAP and TEACCH) for Preschool-aged Children with Autism and Their Families / WCPSS Counseling and Student Services, with UNC-CH serving as fiscal agent.

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

2. BLUE DIAMOND INFORMATION SOLUTIONS CONTRACT

Blue Diamond Information Solutions (BDIS) provides software site licenses for all school sites, enabling each site the ability to score formative assessments and generate reports. BDIS also provides consultation services, support services, maintenance of applications, software maintenance, back-up data, and documentation as set forth in the service agreement with the Wake County Public School System. Fiscal Implications: This contract is for \$200,000.00 and will be paid from Disadvantaged Students Supplemental Funding. Recommendation for Action: This item is presented for approval.

3. REQUEST FOR TWO-HOUR DELAY IN YEAR-ROUND AND MODIFIED CALENDAR SCHOOLS ON NOVEMBER 4, 2008, DUE TO GENERAL ELECTION

The Wake County Board of Elections is requesting a two-hour delay on November 4, 2008, since many of our schools are polling places.

November 4, 2008, is a workday for traditional schools; therefore, this request applies only to year-round and modified calendar schools. Fiscal Implications: There are no fiscal implications. Recommendation for Action: This item is presented for action.

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.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS

Mr. Tart reported that the Facilities Committee met on September 25, 2007. The committee reviewed topics that included an update on the schedule of mobile and modular units as well as the cost associated with setting them up and relocating them where needed. There was a report on the Root Elementary swing space solutions with three options to consider. There was discussion of the acquisition method for E-25,

which will be located in Wake Forest. The committee reviewed the Facilities consent items on the agenda. The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Parry reported that the Policy Committee would meet on October 9, 2007. The topic of discussion would be the Student Assignment Policy.

Ms. Parker reported that the Community Relations Committee will meet on October 17, 2007, which will be its first meeting. Each Board member has been asked to appoint two citizens to the committee.

It was reported that committee meetings on October 10, 2007 would be cancelled.

It was reported that the Human Resources Committee and the Instructional Program Committee would not meet on October 11, 2007.

Ms. Millberg reported that the Finance Committee would meet on October 9, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE

1. JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT FOR TRIANGLE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

This is to renew the contract and funding for Wake County Public Schools continued participation in Triangle Leadership Academy. Fiscal Implications: \$150,000.00 per year. Recommendation for Action: Seeks Board approval.

Dr. Joe Peel presented information to the Board regarding the Triangle Leadership Academy, which has been in full operation for 20 months. Dr. Peel shared that the Triangle Leadership Academy has increased the level of services it provides to WCPSS as well as the breadth and depth. During the past year, Triangle Leadership Academy provided 96 seminars for a total of 241 days of training, in which 2,800 participants from WCPSS participated. The average number of days of the trainings were 3 .

The Triangle Leadership Academy provided 35 days of trainings, which included facilitating meetings, working with a variety of teams within the district. Twenty-two people have participated in year-long leadership institutes, 3 cohorts of students in the Master's Degree Program for a total of 48, 17 in a Doctoral Cohort.

The Triangle Leadership Academy provided a year-long induction program for 57 new assistant principals and a year-long induction program for 27 new principals.

The Triangle Leadership Academy organized trips off-campus for teams to research Professional Learning Communities more in depth.

The Triangle Leadership Academy has been contacted by Brown University to become part of the National School Leaders Network.

After several positive comments from the Board, Susan Parry made a motion to approve, seconded by Lori Millberg. The vote was unanimously approved.

FACILITIES

1. TREE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: SYCAMORE CREEK ELEMENTARY (E-17)

As a condition of building plan approval, the City of Raleigh has requested Tree Conservation Easements upon school property in order to preserve the integrity of tree protection and natural resource buffers. These requested easements, containing a total of 1.9 acres, are in compliance with the City of Raleigh Tree Conservation Ordinance. The requested easements will not significantly interfere with the Wake County Public School System's present or future use of the property and were part of the master plan. A copy of the plat which indicates the areas of the tree conservation easements is attached. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: Staff requests Board approval.

Don Haydon presented information to the Board regarding tree conservation easements. Mr. Haydon shared that 10% of the site will be reserved for the tree protection easement. The Sycamore Creek site was \$153,000 per acre, approximately \$300,000 of the investment in the site is protected where WCPSS cannot build. Very detailed recordings have to be conducted on the site to protect the trees.

Ms. Millberg inquired about the amount of money that is spent on the detailed recordings for the tree conservation. Ms. Betty Parker responded that approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000 is spent.

After several comments from the Board, Eleanor Goette made a motion to approve, seconded by Lori Millberg. The vote was unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS – 6 P.M.

Seventeen students will be recognized as Spotlight on Students award winners. Fiscal Implications: None. Recommendation for Action: None

Eric Sparks presented each student for recognition. Mrs. Gill thanked the students and their supporters for sharing in the special occasion. Mrs. Gill stated that the students are great examples of students who exhibit exemplary character traits every day. Hearing the accomplishments of each student and how they are serving as role models for their school and community is truly rewarding. Mrs. Gill congratulated the students and thanked them for serving as role models.

Carol Parker made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:16 p.m. to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and 115C-319. The motion was seconded by Beverley Clark. The vote was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS- Cont'd

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)

Lori Millberg made a motion to approve the following administrative appointments:

- (1) Kendra Culberson, Assistant Principal at Timber Drive Elementary School, to Principal at Timber Drive Elementary School, effective October 3, 2007 (Permanent position).
- (2) Bobby Allen, Retired Principal, to Interim Assistant Principal at Sanford Creek Elementary School effective October 3, 2007 through November 2, 2007 (Interim position-Converted).
- (3) Patrick Grant, Applicant, to 50% Assistant Principal at Holly Springs Elementary School, effective date October 3, 2007 (Permanent position).

The motion was seconded by Eleanor Goettee. The Board approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before the Board, Beverley Clark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eleanor Goettee. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa U. Gill, Chair, Wake County Board of Education

Del Burns, Superintendent, WCPSS

Melissa R. Christmas, Recording Secretary