

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPEN MINUTES –BOARD MEETING Tuesday, November 5, 2002

Board Members

*Kathryn Watson Quigg, Chair
Susan Parry, Vice Chair
Beverley Clark
Bill Fletcher
Rosa Gill
Jeff York
Patti Head
Tom Oxholm
Amy White*

Staff Members Present

*Bill McNeal, Superintendent
Jo Baker
Karen Banks
Danny Barnes
Maurice Boswell
Del Burns
Mike Burriss
Luther Cherry
Michael Evans
Linda Isley
Cindi Jolly
Ray Massey
Toni Patterson
Janice Shearin
Walt Sherlin
Jonibel Willis*

Board Attorney Present

Jonathan Blumberg

Kathryn Watson Quigg called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INFORMATION

Chairman's Comments

- *Kathryn made a public comment: She stated that the Abstinence Until Marriage Healthful Living standard course of study was heard at a number of board meetings over the course of several months. The board held a public hearing on October 21 at Millbrook High School for the express purpose of hearing comments on this topic. An announcement was made at that hearing that it would be the last opportunity for public comments on this topic. She also reported that no public hearing comments would be heard on this issue at this board meeting. Ms. Quigg asked that as business is conducted this evening that a respectful environment be maintained throughout the entire meeting. If anyone engages in conduct that is disruptive, they will be asked to leave. She thanked everyone.*
- *Ms. Quigg attended the Open House for the Bridges Program.*
- *On Saturday, November 2, Ms. Quigg attended the Hodge Road Field Day and Magnet Program open house at Southeast Raleigh High School.*
- *Ms. Quigg was asked to sit in on a roundtable discussion with the women of the Middle East.*

Superintendent's Report –

- *Superintendent McNeal reminded everyone that November 17-23 is American Education Week. He asked everyone to thank a teacher for the hard work they do in educating our children.*
- *He attended the Magnet Fair at Southeast Raleigh High School.*
- *Superintendent McNeal presented the board members with a package of helpful information that will be given to the members of the Healthy School Task Force.*
- *He also shared with the board that Wake County Schools earned 8 of the top 9 ribbons awarded to schools for art and photography at the 2002 NC State Fair. They are*

<u>In Elementary Division</u>	▪
▪	▪ Farmington Woods earned 1 st place blue ribbon
▪	▪ Brooks earned 2 nd place red ribbon
▪	▪ Olds won 3 rd place white ribbon
▪	▪ Combs, Joyner, Pleasant Union finished 4 th through 6 th
▪	▪ Fuller earned an honorable
<u>In Middle School Division</u>	▪
▪	▪ Martin earned 1 st place blue ribbon
▪	▪ Dillard Drive earned 2 nd place red ribbon
▪	▪ Ligon earned a 3 rd place white ribbon
<u>In High School Division</u>	▪
▪	▪ Apex earned a 2 nd place red ribbon
▪	▪ Enloe earned a 3 rd place white ribbon
▪	▪ Southeast Raleigh placed 4 th and Broughton placed 6 th

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- *Bill Fletcher made a motion to amend the meeting agenda to add three resolutions to the **Action Agenda** (1) Resolution in support of encouraging respectful student behavior toward other students; (2) Resolution clarifying student characteristics and behaviors with regard to personal sexual identity; (3) Resolution in support of abstinence until marriage sex education within healthful living curricula, seconded by Patti Head. The vote failed with a 3 to 5 vote with Bill Fletcher, Amy White, and Patti Head voting “yes” and Tom Oxholm, Beverley Clark, Jeff York, Susan Parry, and Rosa Gill voting “no.”*
- *Bill Fletcher made a motion to amend the meeting agenda to add three resolutions to the **Information Agenda** (1) Resolution in support of encouraging respectful student behavior toward other students; (2) Resolution clarifying student characteristics and behaviors with regard to personal sexual identity; (3) Resolution in support of abstinence until marriage sex education within healthful living curricula, seconded by Amy White. The vote failed with a 3 to 5 vote with Bill Fletcher, Amy White, and Patti Head voting “yes” and Tom Oxholm, Beverley Clark, Jeff York, Susan Parry, and Rosa Gill voting “no.”*
- *Jeff York made a motion to amend the closed session agenda item to add: (1) to consider confidential student information protected under the Family Rights and Privacy (FERPA) and G.S.115C-402 and (2) to establish or instruct the Board’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the Board in negotiation of (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract under G.S.143-318.11(a)(5), seconded by Patti Head. The vote was 7 to 1 with Beverley Clark voting “no.”*
- *Bill Fletcher made a motion to add to the Action Agenda Facilities-“Resolution and Order of Sales, Cary Elementary Primary Building and Davis Drive Middle School Property.” Seconded by Jeff York. The vote was unanimous.*
- *Bill Fletcher made a motion to add to the Action Agenda Facilities-“Transfer of Cary Elementary Primary Building and Davis Drive Middle School Property to the Town of Cary subject to complying with statutory provision related to the disposition of surplus property G.S. 115-C-518, seconded by Jeff York. The vote was unanimous.*

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

PUBLIC HEARING (None)

CONSENT ITEMS

Jeff York made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was unanimous.

FACILITIES

1. Resolution: Funding for PLAN 2000 School Building Program

Resolution requested appropriation of funds for the PLAN 2000 School Building Program previously approved by the board. This request is for start-up funds to begin projects that will be completed in the next building program. A total of \$20,902,153 is included in PLAN 2000 for start-up projects, of which \$5,566,217 has been previously requested. Total of this appropriation request is \$1,500,000. Appropriations for PLAN 2000 to date total \$463,734,182. The total PLAN 2000 appropriations including this request, equals \$465,234,182.

2. Resolution: PLAN 2000 Funding Reallocation

Resolution requested reallocation of PLAN 2000 Start-Up funds for the next building program to Bugg Elementary, Douglas Elementary, East Millbrook Middle, Martin Middle, Cary High and Millbrook High. Total reallocation amount is \$1,500,000

3: Bids: Temporary Modular Classroom Building - Longview

Bids for the temporary modular classroom building at Longview were received on October 17, 2002. Staff and Gurel Architecture, Inc. recommended awarding the single-prime contract to Modular Solutions in the amount of \$460,000. Funding is available from the total project budget of \$606,000, which is provided in the Longview PLAN 2000 School Building Program.

4. Utility Easement: Creech Road Elementary

Development of the Creech Road Elementary School Park by Wake County requires the dedication of a sewer line easement to the City of Raleigh, 20-feet wide and approximately 176 feet in length. The county will install a 6-inch sewer line to provide service for restrooms and a concessions building.

5. Utility Easement: Farmington Woods Elementary

To complete a fire protection water line at Farmington Woods Elementary, the Town of Cary requires an easement 20-feet wide and approximately 1,366 feet in length. The easement will be dedicated by recorded plat.

6. Utility Easement: Knightdale High

Construction of Knightdale High required electrical service from Wake Electric Membership Corporation. Wake Electric requires an easement along Forestville Road 30-feet wide and approximately 560 feet in length for overhead lines.

7. Change Order No. G-6: Cedar Fork Elementary

The Board approved request for Change Order No. G-6 to Centurion Construction Company. This change order, in the amount of \$849,708.76, is for labor and materials to remove mass rock. This amount represents the negotiated agreement for work performed and is approximately 25 percent less than contract unit rates. When calculations are completed, the Town of Morrisville

will contribute their portion of the cost of the change order. The current total project budget is \$12,403,965, of which \$10,662,555 is from the PLAN 2000 School Building Program, and \$1,741,410 is from the Town of Morrisville.

FINANCE

1. Contract: School Resource Officers in Middle Schools

This contract with the Wake County Sheriff's Department for COPS in Schools federal grant where Wake County Sheriff deputies serve as School Resource Officers in the following fifteen (15) middle schools:

Carnage Middle	Carroll Middle	Centennial Middle
Daniels Middle	Durant Road Middle	Dillard Drive Middle
East Millbrook Middle	East Wake Middle	Leesville Road Middle
Ligon Middle	Martin Middle	WakeForest-Rolesville Middle
Wakefield Middle	West Lake Middle	West Millbrook Middle

Funding for this contract, in the amount of \$147,132 is available through local contract services. WCPSS share is 25% of the total - \$557,278.

2. Gifts To The System *(Exhibit A)*

Forty-one gifts have been donated to the Wake County Public School System. The approximate value of the gifts is \$16,335.65.

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Recommendations for Employment *(Exhibit B)*

2. Requests for Leave

- *Myra Best, Southeast Raleigh High School*
- *Elizabeth McInerney, Hodge Road Elementary School*

3. Recommendations for Administrative Appointments

- *Teri Whyte Scott, teacher at East Wake High School, to assistant principal at Garner High School.*
- *Pamela T. Smith, teacher at Swift Creek Elementary School, to assistant principal/SOAR coordinator at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School.*

ACTION ITEMS

POLICY

1. Appointment to the Wake Technical College Board of Trustee

In accordance with NC General Statute 115-12, the Board of Education appoints four if the trustees on the Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees. Terms are for four years and are staggered. The term for one of the Board's appointees, Don Perry, expired June 30, 2002. Mr. Perry is currently serving as chair of the Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees.

- *Jeff York made a motion to open the floor up for nominations.*
- *Tom Oxholm nominated Jim Perry, seconded by Beverley Clark.*
- *Rosa Gill nominated Don Perry, seconded by Amy White.*
- *Patti Head moved the nominations be closed, seconded by Bill Fletcher.*

The vote was 6 to 2 with Jim Perry appointed to the Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees.

Tom Oxholm made a motion that Don Perry continue his term until December 31, 2002, and Jim Perry's term would be effective as of January 1, 2003, seconded by Amy White. The vote was unanimous.

2. Board Advisory Council Nomination

New nomination to Board Advisory Council

- *Jan Ammons, Durant Road Middle School.*

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

FACILITIES

1. Designer Selection: Design Package 2002B – PLAN 2000 Start-Up Projects

In accordance with the designer selection procedures adopted by the Wake County Board of Education, the pre-selection committee presented recommendations for the board to select an architectural firm for each of the following PLAN 2004 building and campus improvement projects: Millbrook High - Cherry Huffman Architects PA; Cary High - Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee PA; East Millbrook Middle - The Roberts Group, PA; Martin Middle – Davis-Kane Architects, P.A.; Bugg Elementary – Ramsay GMK; Douglas Elementary - Schenkel & Schultz Architects, PA.

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

2. Resolutions and Order of Sale: Cary Elementary Primary Building and Davis Drive Middle School Property

Officials with the Town of Cary have requested a transfer of ownership of the Cary Elementary Primary Building and approximately 13.3 acres of land at Davis Drive Middle School. The Cary Elementary Primary Building is to be renovated for a community arts facility and office complex. The Davis Drive Middle School property is to be used exclusively for open space and greenway purposes. The Board receives \$337,000 and the use of the renovated auditorium in the Primary Building for 2 use days per month for 50 years at no cost to the system.

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

3. Transfer of Ownership: Cary Elementary Primary Building and Davis Drive Middle School Property.

The WCBOE will receive \$337,000 and the use of the Cary Elementary Primary auditorium at no cost twice monthly for 50 years.

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

PROGRAM

1. Instructional Calendar for 2003-2003 for Traditional Schools

The first day of school is August 11; the last day of school is May 27. The first semester has 88 days; the second semester had 92 days. Incent weather make-up days are October 6, October 17, February 13, February 16, March 15, and March 16. Spring Break will be April 5-12, 2004. *Ms. Jo Baker reported to the Board that the calendar must consist of 220 days, all which must fall within the fiscal year. It must consist of a minimum of 180 instructional days and 10 annual vacations days.*

- *Ms. Baker stated that eleven paid holidays must be scheduled into the calendar. Normally there are ten days, but this increases to eleven when Christmas falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Christmas 2003 falls on a Thursday.*
- *Nineteen non-instructional workdays must be scheduled into the calendar. The local Board designates eight of these workdays in the master calendar and schools designate the other eleven.*

- *State legislation requires that Veterans' Day be a holiday for students. The teachers may use this day as a workday or vacation day.*
- *According to Board Policy 5030.5, Spring Break for students following the traditional calendar should be scheduled in conjunction with the end of the third nine-weeks grading period.*
- *The first semester ends in December allowing high school students to taken end-of-term exams prior to the holiday.*

Amy White made a motion to approve, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was 7 to 1 with Jeff York voting "no."

Beverley Clark made a motion to waive Policy 5030 for the establishment of the 2003-2004 calendar, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was 7 to 1 with Jeff York voting "no."

2. Abstinence Until Marriage Unit for Grade 7-9 Healthful Living Education Standard

On October 8, 2002, staff presented recommendations to the Committee of the Whole of the Wake County Public School System's Board of Education in response to the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) recommendation five. Staff recommended that the WCPSS continue to implement abstinence until marriage curriculum for grades 7-9. Revisions to the topics to be covered in the Abstinence until Marriage Unit for Grades 7-9, were identified and lessons were developed for use in the classroom. The recommendations, revised topics, and lessons have been available for public view. Staff presented an overview of comments received from reviewers.

Ms. Quigg asked each board member (if they wish) to make a statement so that their views are heard on this recommendation.

***Bill Fletcher** reported that the board is being asked to approve or disapprove a list of discussion topics within curriculum objectives in a single course of study for grades 7 thru 9. He stated that it is inappropriate for the Board to be asked to make decisions at this level, to be required to meddle and micro-manage such minute details as determining the appropriate source for data on the failure rate of condoms. The Board should not be making decisions at this level, but rather at the policy level where guidance may be given and boundaries set in order for staff to perform their professional responsibilities appropriately. The failure is at the Board level for not more clearly defining the expectation it held for staff's evaluation of the SHAC recommendations and the content expected in the staff report. The Board needs to reaffirm its support for the eight character traits and the community engagement process, and to staunchly support a conservative approach to abstinence until marriage curricula by voting "no" on this staff recommendation.*

Mr. Fletcher asked to table the staff recommendations until the policy questions raised are addressed by the Board's Policy committee and ultimately resolved by this board. He urged board members to vote "no" on the staff recommendations and to immediately begin to address the policy and process issues raised so that children get the healthful living curriculum they need and our community support.

***Rosa Gill** supported the staff recommendations.*

***Amy White.** The Wake County Board of Education is charged with spending our resources wisely. Abstinence Until Marriage curriculum does teach about contraceptives and STD's. The current curriculum follows state guidelines for abstinence. The schools have materials that educate children about the social, emotion, physical, and psychological consequences of engaging in sexual activity. The system has counselors and educators as well as coaches who*

have not received adequate training on the current curriculum. The current curriculum is “comprehensive” but the training has not been adequate. All students need to know that the only 100% effective means to protect them from pregnancy and from infection of a sexually transmitted disease is to abstain from sexual activity of any kind. Ms. White stated that she was not in support of staff recommendations.

Susan Parry supports the staff’s proposal to revise and update the 7-9-grades curriculum. Educators must keep an ongoing effort to maintain accuracy and to ensure instruction is meaningful and effective should be the standard for any curriculum. The Board does the best by thoughtful decision-making providing flexibility and by considering the need of each child. The greatest obligation as educators is to use every bit of wisdom and professional skill we possess. This will help the students become clear thinking, caring, and responsible adults.

Patti Head Wake County Public Schools needs to provide unbiased, medically accurate, responsible instruction to include information on the infection and elimination of risk for STD, HIV, HPV, and the prevention of pregnancy. In the present WCPSS AUM curriculum, all the above are included in an excellent program that has not been properly implemented. With regard to the issues of “tolerance,” Ms. Head fully supports the character education mission and objectives of the WCPSS staff to educate each student to be a responsible and productive citizen who can effectively manage future challenges. The WCPSS staff will (1) develop an integrated curriculum emphasizing the elements of character, (2) promote a climate permeated with the culture of character, and (3) provide opportunities to practice the habits of character at school and in the community. Courage, good judgment, integrity, kindness, perseverance, respect, responsibility, and self-discipline are all character education traits that help our children with decision-making skills for life choice that lead to healthy living. They also create a climate of understanding that recognizes all people have value as human beings and encourages all students to treat everyone with civility. Since the system has very strong character education initiative that is an integral part of the overall curriculum, and since the current sex education curriculum has not been properly implemented, she supports the current AUM Sex Education curriculum of WCPSS.

Jeff York. When staff decided to remain with abstinence until marriage curriculum as its standard, the role of the board in this decision should have essentially been over. It is not the board’s place to be adopting curricula, not for something as complicated as sex education. Mr. York understands why staff desires the Board to vote on this issue and since not voting is the same as an affirmative vote in our bylaws, he felt it was the Board’s responsibility to understand the issue well enough to make a reasoned vote. Much has been made of the use of the word “tolerance vs. respect” and the inclusion of sexual orientation in the list of possible characteristics leading to prejudice or bias. Certainly various interpretations of these words can lead people to different conclusions. Respect is a higher standard than tolerance. Legal counsel has reviewed this curriculum and finds it in compliance. Mr. York will vote in favor of this curriculum which staff believes is the best implementation of the Board’s policy.

Beverley Clark. The number one message to children in Wake County should be that abstaining from sex is the smartest and safest choice. All lessons are under the framework of an abstinence curriculum that is a subset of the Healthful Living curriculum. Any parent that does not want their child in this curriculum may choose to opt out of this curriculum. The elective that is presented for information does offer parents a choice. This is a topic that parents need to talk with their children about. Ms. Clark will support staff’s recommendations.

Tom Oxholm –Wake County Schools should have a state approve Abstinence Until Marriage curriculum that (1) clearly instructs students on the benefits of remaining abstinent until marriage and the potential for serious damage to their lives if they fail to do so; (2) a curriculum that is medically accurate and reviewed by Wake County medical professionals annually; (3) keeps character education in character education curriculum; (4) gives teachers training in delivering the curriculum which has not been occurring. Mr. Oxholm stated that he would vote against the recommendations from staff.

Kathryn Watson-Quigg will support staff recommendations.

Tom Oxholm asked staff if a medical staff had reviewed the curriculum for accuracies?

- Jo Baker, Associate Superintendent reported that “yes” the curriculum has been reviewed by a team of medical staff. Dr. Peter Morris will be pulling the medical panel back together to give the consensus of the panel.

Patti Head amended the motion to affirm the present character education 8 traits and to remain with our current Abstinence Until Marriage curriculum fully implemented and to use the three sources already purchased, seconded by Bill Fletcher. The vote failed 3 to 5 with Patti Head, Amy White, and Bill Fletcher voting “yes” and Tom Oxholm, Beverley Clark, Jeff York, Susan Parry, Rosa Gill, voting “no.”

Susan Parry made a motion to approve the Abstinence Until Marriage curriculum for grades 7 – 9 Healthful Living Educational standard course of studies, seconded by Rosa Gill. The vote was “5 to 4” with Rosa Gill, Susan Parry, Jeff York, Beverley Clark and Kathryn Quigg Watson voting “Yes” and Bill Fletcher, Amy White, Patti Head, and Tom Oxholm voting “no.”

INFORMATION

3. High School Healthful Living Elective Course in Grade 10-12

On October 8, 2002, staff presented recommendations in response to the Committee of the Whole of the Wake County Public School System’s Board of Education in response to School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) recommendation five which recommended in part that there be “...an expansion of the high school (health) elective course be offered to students in grades 10-12. This elective will address healthy relationships, nutrition and weigh management, alcohol and drugs, resources for dealing with unhealthy relationships, gender issues, sexual harassment, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), and unintended pregnancies. The course would be developed as an elective course for those students whose parents want an opportunity for their child to enroll in a class that promotes healthy choices and healthy life style. The course would include a more comprehensive discussion of sex education but would continue to promote abstinence. Staff presented an overview of the timeline for development of this course and proposed topics to be included.

- Implement a comprehensive family life education curriculum in grade 7-9 with an expansion of the high school elective courses in grade 10-12.
- Staff recommends providing a high school healthful living elective course that addresses health issues in grades 10-12. This course would require parental permission and would be implemented during the 2003-2004 school year.
- Topics may include: healthy relationships, nutrition and weigh management, alcohol and drugs, resources for dealing with unhealthy relationships, gender issues, sexual harassment, prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), and unintended pregnancies.

Amy White made a motion to move this item to the Action Agenda, seconded by Patti Head. Motion failed.

CLOSED SESSION

Jeff York made a motion to go into closed session at 6:10 p.m. to consider confidential student information protected under the Family Rights and Privacy (FERPA) and G.S. 115C-402, seconded by Patti Head. The vote was unanimous.

Reconvened to the Board Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Fifteen students will be recognized as Spotlight on Students award winners.

<i>Tiffany Scarborough, Farmington Woods Elementary</i>	<i>Joseph Wagstff, Zebulon Elementary</i>
<i>Aaron Jacobs, Holly Springs Elementary</i>	<i>Sarah Castle, Reedy Creek Elementary</i>
<i>Brooke Foil, Knightdale Elementary</i>	<i>Hannah Perry, East Wake High</i>
<i>Hannah Bailey, Lincoln Height Elementary</i>	<i>Elexis Gillette, Athens Drive High</i>
<i>Elizabeth Ogle, Lockhart Elementary</i>	<i>Graham Sharpe, West Lake Middle</i>
<i>Elyas Rashid, Lynn Road Elementary</i>	<i>Christopher Poteat, West Lake Elementary</i>
<i>Tiffany Pearce, Wildwood Forest Elementary</i>	
<i>Sam Hodgin, Wiley Elementary</i>	

ACTION ITEMS (cont'd.)

1. Acquisition and Funding Resolution: New Cary Area High

Acquisition of approximately 71.2 acres of land for a new Cary area high school requires a resolution to the Wake County Board of Commissioners approving of the acquisition and funding for the purchase. Estimated total land cost \$ 4,272,000; Board pays 2/3 of cost or: \$2,848,000; Town of Cary pays 1/3 of cost or \$1,424,000.

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

2. Offer to Purchase and Contract: New Cary Area High

Terms and condition of an Offer to Purchase and Contract have been reached with Panther Creek Associates to acquire approximately 71.2 areas for a new Cary area high school. The property is located off N.C. Highway 55 North adjoining a new road system to be constructed by the town of Cary entitled: "Panther Creek Parkway." Purchase price \$60,000 per acre or estimated total cost of 4,272,000. The Board of Education pays 2/3 of estimated cost \$2,848,000; Town of Cary pays 1/3 of estimated cost of \$1,424,000.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Kathryn Watson Quigg adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

Elwanda K. Farrow, Recording Secretary

Bill McNeal, Superintendent, WCPSS

Kathryn Watson Quigg, Chair

