

## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

**Minutes  
September 5, 2001 — 5 P.M.**

### INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the committee introduced themselves, giving a short bio of their background and reason for interest in serving on the committee. It was noted that Ben Hinton had to withdraw from the committee for family reasons.

### OPEN MEETINGS AND POSTINGS ON THE WCPSS WEBSITE

Meetings of the committee are subject to the Open Meetings Law. All meetings will be posted and postings are placed on WCPSS website.

### PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee was formed during the budget negotiations between the Wake County Public School System and the Wake Board of County Commissioners for the purpose of determining an appropriate level of funding for the school system. Review of the Guiding Statement for the advisory group followed. Discussion ensued regarding the charge of the committee and what it meant and whether there are other goals beyond Goal 2003 that the group should assess. The group determined that activities related to reaching Goal 2003 (i.e., technology, organizational structure, etc.) are included in the evaluation process. It was stated that one of the items off the table as defined by conversations with both commissioners and board of education members is programs except as it relates to their effective and efficient delivery from a funding perspective. The appropriateness of programs is not part of the study. Vernon Malone (Commissioner) and Tom Oxholm (School Board Member) as liaisons to the committee were to talk with their respective boards to clarify and/or broaden the scope of the review and identify other criteria critical to the review process.

The committee will operate on a “consensus” basis and the definition and parameters of “consensus” were discussed. In the discussion of operating guidelines for the committee, it was stated that all requests for data and information come from the co-chairs, and likewise the co-chairs would be the voice of the group in providing external communication.

A subcommittee of Jim Talton, Cressie Thigpen, Tom Owen, and Gary Ackley was established to prepare a draft RFP (to hire consultant) for the group’s review. The county and the school system may submit recommendations of possible consultants to consider.

### SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AND COMPLETION DATE

Meeting dates and times were discussed, but a definitive day and time for regular meetings was not determined. It was determined that meetings would be held in the Board Conference Room of the Wake County Public School System Administration Building. Jim Talton

requested that future meetings be videotaped for the use of members who cannot make meetings.

An administrative staff person will be hired and paid for by the county to support the work of the committee. The school system will provide office space for this individual.

The expectation of the committee is to complete their work by April of 2002, earlier if possible. Recommendations would come forth at various intervals during that time; although it makes sense that some recommendations would have to be considered throughout the process and would come in the final report.

MATERIALS DISSEMINATED FOR YOUR REVIEW

Materials were mailed to each committee member (KPMG Management Audit Report: "From Good to Best," February 4, 1997; "Show Me the Money: A Community Guide to Wake County Public School System Spending," 1997-98 school year; "Quality Matters 2001: A Wake Community Review of the Public's Schools," 2001). Handouts at the meeting consisted of agenda, Guiding Statement for Citizens Advisory Committee for School System Operating Budget, tentative meeting schedule, and committee roster.

OTHER, INCLUDING NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, at 3 p.m. A second tentative meeting was set for Friday, September 14, at 8 a.m. at the same location. It is anticipated that a draft RFP will be ready for dissemination to the group at the September 12 meeting. Also, on September 12, the school district staff will make a presentation on the district's budget and the process for formulating the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice D. Shearin

Approved:

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Jim Talton, Co-chair

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Cressie Thigpen, Co-chair

*Membership Present:*

Jim Talton (co-chair), Cressie Thigpen (co-chair), Gary Ackley, Ken Black, Cathy Crossland, Dudley Flood, Ben Goldstein, John Haley, Jeff Leiter, Vernon Malone, Tom Owen, Tom Oxholm, Dwight Pearson, Marjorie Salzman, and Billy Wilder.

September 17, 2001