GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Thursday, September 11, 2008

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes (via telephone conference), Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh, Anita Sharpe and Garth Hébert (arrived at 6:15 p.m.). Also present were Superintendent Maurice Green and Attorney Jill Wilson.

Call to Order
Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
Board member Anita Sharpe led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Recognitions

A. GCS Employee of the Month for September 2008
The board recognized Wanda Rose, teacher assistant at Frazier Elementary**,** as the Guilford County Schools' (GCS) September Employee of the Month. Board member Amos Quick presented Ms. Rose with a certificate of recognition from the board. She received a $50 gift card from Sam's Club, which has partnered with GCS to support the employee recognition program.

B. GCS Volunteer of the Month for September 2008
The board recognized Melissa Painter, a volunteer at Allen Jay Elementary, as the GCS September Volunteer of the Month. Teacher Rebecca Thomas nominated Ms. Painter. Board member Walter Childs presented Ms. Painter with a certificate of appreciation. She received a $25 gift card from American Express, which has partnered with GCS to support the volunteer recognition program.

Public Comments
Chairman Duncan called on members of the public who requested an opportunity to address the board.

Clarence Easter, 1724 Glenwood Ave.,Greensboro, NC 27403
Mark Jewell, 201 N. Lindell St., Greensboro, NC
Robert Owen, 4100 Duffers Lane, Greensboro, NC 27407
Melvina Harrington, 214 Kenley Court, Greensboro, NC 27455
Sandra Koritz, 1801 Murray Hill Road, Greensboro, NC 27406
Joe Stafford, 4604 Forest Village Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406

Approval of Agenda
Chairman Duncan asked board members to review the meeting agenda and called for a motion to approve or amend it. Darlene Garrett moved to add to the agenda renaming of the Newcomers School.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Nancy Routh, to amend the agenda as noted. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda

Superintendent Maurice Green presented the following consent agenda items:

A. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 9 Special Called Meeting, July 10 Special Called Meeting, July 17 Special Called Meeting, July 23 Special Called Meeting, August 12 Regular Meeting and August 28 Regular Meeting were presented for approval.

B. Personnel Reports

The consent agenda included personnel actions as noted in the monthly Personnel Action Report and addendum requiring board approval.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Walter Childs, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

C. 2008-09 Budget Resolution

Dot Kearns raised concerns regarding the Natural Science Center funding being put back into the budget. Given that the board approved the budget at their July 28 meeting, Sharon Ozment suggested that the only solution would be for funding for the Natural Science Center to be provided for the first semester of the 2008-09 school year and have services provided by Piedmont Environmental Center for the second semester. The board approved the budget resolution with the provision that, if there are funds available, they will use the funds to pay for a half-year to the Piedmont Environmental Center.

This item will be flagged for consideration at the next budget meeting in January 2009.

Motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to approve the 2008-09 budget resolution with the amendment as stated by Sharon Ozment with respect to the Piedmont Environmental Center. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 9-to-2 as follows: ***Ayes*** *–Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns, Jeff Belton, Amos Quick, Darlene Garrett and Nancy Routh;* ***Nays*** *– Garth Hébert and Anita Sharpe.*

Staff Reports

A. 2008 SAT Update

Dr. Gongshu Zhang, Chief Accountability and Research Officer, presented to the board an update of the district's SAT results. Seven GCS high schools met the 2008 North Carolina average SAT score. Those schools were Andrews High, Eastern High, The Middle College at GTCC-Greensboro, High Point Central High, Page High, Smith High and Western High. Six high schools exceeded the North Carolina average score of 1489 – The Early College at Guilford,

Grimsley High, Weaver Academy, Northwest High, Western High and Page High. Five high schools exceeded the national average of 1511. Those schools were The Early College at Guilford, Grimsley High, Weaver Education Center, Northwest High and Western High.

B. Opening of Schools – Staffing Adjustments

Dr. Peggy Thompson, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented to the board an update on staffing adjustments that have been made associated with the opening of schools. During the 2008-09 school year, 17 teaching positions have been provided to schools who have gained enrollment over their student enrollment projections. Most of the changes have occurred at the elementary level. This year, approximately 35 percent of the adjustments have been made to schools in the northern part of the county.

Board Discussion

A. Second Reading – Policy JHB, Gang Education and Prevention

Chairman Duncan called on board member Nancy Routh, convener of the governance review committee, to lead the board in a discussion regarding the second reading of Policy JHB, Gang Education and Prevention. The committee decided to develop a project team for prevention and intervention. A reference has now been added to the policy that states, "See Policy JD: Student Discipline, and Procedure JD-P: Violations of the Code of Conduct. Also posted in the student handbook." A change would also be made to the end of second paragraph to remove "students at risk for gang involvement and schools and neighborhoods with high levels of gang activity" and replace it with "and to provide all students with access to information about school or community based gang prevention services."

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Amos Quick to table the policy until the next board meeting. *The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 10-to-1 as follows:* ***Ayes*** *– Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns, Jeff Belton, Amos Quick, Anita Sharpe, Darlene Garrett and Nancy Routh;* ***Nays*** *– Garth Hébert.*

B. Planning for Joint Meeting with Guilford County Board of Commissioners

Chairman Duncan led the board in a discussion regarding the planning of a joint meeting with the Guilford County Board of Commissioners. The board authorized Chairman Duncan and board member Kris Cooke to schedule a joint meeting with the board of county commissioners.

C. Renaming of GCS Newcomers School

Board member Nancy Routh announced that the board had been asked to consider renaming Guilford Primary School and naming it for an individual.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Anita Sharpe, that the board begin the process the renaming of the GCS Newcomers School.

The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Board Comments

Board members were each allowed two minutes to make remarks, as they deemed appropriate.

Closed Session

At 9:32 p.m., *motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney/client privilege and to give advice to our attorneys regarding the placement of an ABC store. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

The board returned to open session at 9:43 p.m.

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to file a formal complaint opposing the opening of a liquor store next to a school. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Deena Hayes was no longer on the telephone.

Adjournment

With no further business, at 9:50 p.m., *motion was made by Walter Childs, seconded by Anita Sharpe, to adjourn the meeting*. *The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*