GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Nancy Routh, Anita Sharpe, Garth Hébert (arrived at 6:35 p.m.). Also present were Superintendent Maurice Green and Attorney Jill Wilson. Absent was Kris Cooke.

Call to Order
Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
Board member Darlene Garrett led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Chairman Duncan recognized two students who recently passed - Travis McConnell, a student at Southwest High and Calvin Brown, a student at The Middle College at NC A&T.

Recognitions

A. Board Member Dot Kearns Received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine
The board recognized Dot Kearns as the recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Board member Anita Sharpe presented Ms. Kearns with a certificate of recognition from the board. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award is North Carolina's highest civilian award.

B. New Retired Teacher Receives The Order of the Long Leaf Pine
The board recognized Marsha Morrel Sarvis as a recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Ms. Sarvis is a newly retired teacher from Gateway Education Center. Vicki Simmons nominated Ms. Sarvis for the award. Board member Deena Hayes presented Ms. Sarvis with a certificate of recognition from the board. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award is North Carolina's highest civilian award.

C. Three Schools Receive 100 Percent Graduation Rate
The board recognized The Early College at Guilford, Weaver Academy and Greensboro College Middle College as three of only eight schools statewide that achieved a 100 percent graduation rate. Board member Amos Quick presented the current principal, Pete Kashubara and former principal, Anna Brady of Weaver Academy a certificate of recognition. Charles Blanchard, principal of The Early College at Guilford received the certificate of recognition presented by Board member Darlene Garrett. Board Member Nancy Routh presented Denise Francisco, principal of Greensboro College Middle College, a certificate of recognition. Weaver Academy, Southeast High, Western High and Northwest High were also recognized for having the highest graduation rate by ninth grade cohort size.

Amos Quick recognized four young ladies present the meeting who are students at NC A&T State University aspiring to be teachers in the very near future.

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

Joe Stafford, 4604 Forest Village Drive, Greensboro, NC

Approval of Agenda
Chairman Duncan asked board members to review the meeting agenda and called for a motion to approve or amend it. Nancy Routh asked that Consent Agenda Item B. Approval of Mountains-to-Sea Easement be moved to Staff Reports for discussion.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Deena Hayes to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda
Superintendent Maurice Green presented the following consent agenda items:

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

B. Approval of Mountains-to-Sea Easement
This item was moved to Staff Reports Item A.

C. Approval of Encroachment Agreement – Pruette SCALE School Campus
The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve the execution and delivery of the encroachment agreement required by North Carolina Department of Transportation affecting the Pruett SCALE School campus located at 900 West English Road in High Point.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Walter Childs to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Staff Reports

A. Approval of Mountains-to-Sea Easement – Northern Middle School and Northern High School
Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, discussed with the board a recommendation to approve the Mountains-to-Sea Trail easement as requested by Guilford County affecting Northern Middle/High School campus. The proposed route for the shared use trail will parallel the boundary of the campus of Northern middle/high schools and would stretch across North Carolina.

Dr. Routh shared concerns regarding whether the purchases were final or were they still being negotiated. It is unclear to whom the easement is being granted.

Jill Wilson stated that the Board could limit the use of the easement if needed by the county for a specific purpose. Roger Bardsley, parks and open space planner, confirmed that Guilford County would be the holder of the easement and will take care of the maintenance of the trail.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Nancy Routh to limit the use for the stated purpose or it will revert back to Guilford County Schools. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

B. Construction Update

Andy LaRowe, executive director of facilities, presented to the board an update on the district's construction projects. All projects are on budget and on time. Board members expressed concerns regarding issues at specific schools. Gerald Greeson, director of maintenance, was present to answer questions.

C. 2008-09 Capital Outlay Budget

Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer and Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board a recommendation to approve the 2008-09 capital outlay budget. The spreadsheet presented provided the proposed expenditures for this year's budget.

Motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Walter Childs to approve the 2008-09 capital outlay budget as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

D. Transportation Report – Update on the North Carolina Retread Tire Contract

Jeff Harris, director of transportation, presented an update on the contract for retread tires. The current statewide retread tire contract expires on November 30, 2008. The new contract should be ready at the beginning of December 2008. The recommendation is to continue using the current vendor until a new contract is in place for the best economic value and safety of our students.

Motion was made by Chairman Duncan, seconded by Jeff Belton to table discussion on the retread tire contract until a new contract is in place in December. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Break taken at 7:53 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

E. 2008-09 Local Options for Alternative Schools

Russell Woodward, principal of SCALE, presented for approval local options for the 2008-09 school year for SCALE-Greensboro, Pruette SCALE and the High School Ahead Academy. The accountability model for alternative schools is based on achievement and the degree of success that the school has in meeting certain objectives.

Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Deena Hayes to approve the local options as submitted for the 2008-09 school year for SCALE-Greensboro, Pruette SCALE and the High School Ahead Academy. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Reports from the Superintendent

The Superintendent reported that there are 2,700 sixth-graders who have not received the TDAP vaccine. At this week's media briefing, an update on TDAP will be given.

The superintendent had a meeting with concerned Title I parents. He listened to their frustrations, concerns, suggestions and took notes. The superintendent informed that board that he plans to have a number of advisory councils, including a Superintendent's Parents Advisory Council, Teachers Advisory Council and Students Advisory Council. The superintendent will continue to keep the board informed of any parent group meetings he has.

Reports from the Chairman

The Chairman reported that there is a voting delegates form that needs to be filled out by board members for the School Board Association. Chairman Duncan asked Dot Kearns to get with board members and record the delegates at the next board meeting.

Chairman Duncan received a letter from the American School Board Journal that the National School Board Association sponsors annually the magnet award for school boards in different categories. The award is focused on some innovative programs, so that other districts can benefit from some of those ideas. The deadline for nominations is Oct 15. This item was passed to the superintendent for handling.

At the last meeting, we had an issue regarding an ABC store next to a SCALE school. Attorney Jill Wilson reported that during today's meeting, local ABC commission would apply to the state ABC Commission for placement of the store – they have designed a rendering of the site that would place the entrance on the opposite side of the school, install an aluminum fence to provide some separation, provide a security camera for us to use and provide some continuing education at the Pisgah Road site. The board did not change its position on the location of the store.

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

Adjournment

With no further business, at 9:15 p.m., *motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Amos Quick, to adjourn the meeting*. *The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*