GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Thursday, March 20, 2008

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Thursday, March 20, 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, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Nancy Routh (arrived at 6:09 p.m.) and Anita Sharpe. Also present were Co-Interim Superintendents Sharon Ozment and Eric Becoats and Attorney Jill Wilson.

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

Pledge of Allegiance
Board member Garth Hébert led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

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

Barbara Kremer, 3718 Sage Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410
Betty Brown, 1315 Lakewood Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410
Rob Ehinger, 16 Winterberry Court, Greensboro, NC 27455
Shannon McCoy, 228D Northpoint Avenue, High Point, NC 27262
Natalie H. Andrews, 1826 Runner Stone Drive, High Point, NC 27265
Catherine Brown, 3817 Rolling Road, High Point, NC 27265
Charlotte Edwards, 2604 Glasshouse Road, Jamestown, NC 27282
Ida Pittman, 101 Old Gate Court, Jamestown, NC 27282
Lorenzo Meachum, 308 Aloe Road, Greensboro, NC 27409
Michelle Thigpen, 615 Howard St., Greensboro, NC 27403
Sandy Westmoreland, 3205 Sandy Ridge Road, Colfax, NC 27235
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. He asked that the following items be added under Staff Reports. Under *A. Construction Update,* a second item was added, entitled *Eastern High Project Ordinance Revisions*. Two additional items were added after completion of *A. Construction Update* as follows: *2008-09 Proposed Calendar Adjustments* and *Discussion of Montessori*.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Jeff Belton, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda
Co-Interim Superintendent Sharon Ozment presented the following consent agenda items:

A. Personnel Action Reports

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

B. Budget Amendments and Transfers

The consent agenda included State, Local, Federal, Capital Outlay, Child Nutrition Fund and After School Care Enrichment Services (ACES) budget amendments/transfers for the 2007-08 school year.

State Public School Fund Amendment #4 reflects:

- the receipt of
  - School Technology Fund interest for December 2007 and January 2008 ($5,634)
  - Transportation allotment revisions including adjustments to the fringe benefits portion of the legislative increase for transportation and driver salaries for 2007-08 and removal of the 5 percent ADM cap applied to 12 LEAs ($41,180)
  - Special fuel adjustment for transportation which reinstates the amount of fuel funding cut in November 2007 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction calculations and reinstates the per gallon fuel price to the $2 level that was averaged during 2006-07 ($285,993)
  - School Connectivity allotment [Connectivity Project will be centered around five strategies: establishing a shared education backbone for K-12 connectivity; providing an opt-in services model that provides core services plus value added network services; implementing a community-driven collaboration model; developing an effective and efficient operation organization that best fits the needs of service delivery and accountability and sustaining the operation leveraging myriad funding resources from all sources] ($420,002)
- the reversion of ABC Incentive Award allotment funds [Allocation is based on the number of state and local personnel in grades Pre-K through 12 assigned to eligible schools. Awards of up to $1,500 plus benefits for certified personnel and up to $500 plus benefits for teacher assistants are allocated to schools that attain high growth. Awards of up to $750 plus benefits for certified personnel and up to $375 plus benefits for teacher assistants are allocated to schools that attain expected growth. If personnel at eligible schools are employed less than 100 percent or less than a full school year, the incentive award is prorated accordingly. If actual expenditures are less than allotted amounts, the balance of the allotment is reverted as it cannot be transferred or spent for any other purpose] (-$47,952)
- transfers for school allotments and due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

Local Current Expense Fund Amendment #4 reflects:

- the receipt of:
  - More at Four reimbursement for January 2008 ($344,560)
  - School Impact Grant reimbursement for December 2007 ($11,320)
  - Donation from Wal-Mart for Engaging Families for Student Success program at Pruett SCALE School site ($300)
  - Donation from the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro from the Deaf Education Fund for the GCS Hearing Impaired Program at Page High School ($1,697)

- Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation Student Mentoring Awareness and Resource Team (SMART) grant payment ($66,250)
- Superintendents' Development Fund monies from the Bryan Foundation ($31,739)

- the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

***Federal Grant Fund Amendment* #4** reflects:

- transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

***Capital Outlay Fund Amendment* #4** reflects:

- the transfer of available funds within the Northwest High School ($54,383) project from construction to furniture and equipment for installation of surveillance/security camera system as approved by the Board of Education on April 26, 2007
- the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

After School Care Enrichment Services (ACES) #4 reflects:

- the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

C. First Reading – Policy IHA, Grading and Reporting Student Progress
The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve for First Reading – Policy IHA, Grading and Reporting Student Progress.

D. First Reading – Policy JBC, School Admission
The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve for First Reading - Policy JBC, School Admission.

E. Duke Energy Carolinas Right-of-Way Agreement, Southern Middle School
The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve a right-of-way requested by Duke Energy Carolinas affecting a 20-foot strip at Southern Middle to permit the installation and maintenance of underground wiring to serve softball, baseball and multi-purpose fields on the school campus. The requested right-of-way would have a width of 10 feet on each side of a centerline, and its location would be determined by the centerline of the electrical facilities to be installed.

Chairman Duncan asked board members if they had any questions or comments regarding the consent agenda.

Board member Garth Hébert expressed concern about the use of a seven-point grading scale rather than a ten-point scale as used in universities, colleges and most high schools. Chairman Duncan stated that this issue was reviewed by the board in April of 2006. He asked that staff bring information back to the board at the next meeting for reconsideration.

Board members' questions regarding the Budget Amendments and Transfers report were answered by Co-Interim Superintendent Sharon Ozment.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Walter Childs, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Items A, B and D passed upon unanimous roll call vote. Item C passed upon majority roll call vote of 9-to-1 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nay*** *– Garth Hébert. Item E passed upon majority roll call vote of 9-to-1 as follows:* ***Ayes*** *– Jeff*

Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; ***Nay*** *– Alan Duncan.*

Staff Reports

Construction Update

Andy LaRowe, executive director of facilities, presented to the board an update on the district's construction projects for the following schools: Eastern High, Northern High, Parkview Elementary, Pleasant Garden Elementary, Pruett SCALE School, Union Hill Elementary, Special Education Center West, Southeast High, Southwest High and Washington Elementary Montessori Magnet.

Contract for Southeast High Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion Project

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board a recommendation to award a contract to Brooks General Contractors, Greensboro, N.C. in the amount of $1,326,323 for the renovation and expansion of Southeast High. The project was re-advertised and 10 bids were received on March 11, 2008. The construction budget for this project is $1,381,843. Brooks General Contractors, Greensboro, N.C. submitted the lowest responsible, responsive bid of $1,326,323 including alternate No. EC-1 for Radionics.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Anita Sharpe, to award a contract to Brooks General Contractors, Greensboro, NC in the amount of $1,326,323 for the renovation and expansion of Southeast High. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 10-0-1 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Abstain*** *– Amos Quick.*

Eastern High Project Ordinance Revisions

Sharon Ozment, co-interim superintendent, presented to the board information on the final installment on the Eastern High insurance claim settlement. The total settlement equals $17,627,438.16 ($17,632,438.16 less a $5,000 deductible). Of that $17,625,438.16 amount, $17,019,750 is attributable to capital losses/damages and $607,688.16 is associated with operating costs/expenditures.

The current Eastern project ordinance reflects $14 million in insurance proceeds and $16,014,752 in county funds ($250,000 from Colfax Elementary settlement plus $15,764,752 in funds temporarily transferred from various Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects to Eastern in order to fund the $30 million in estimated construction and soft costs needed for Eastern in 2007-08).

The following revisions to the Eastern project ordinance were requested:

- increase insurance proceeds from $14 million to $17,019,750; and
- decrease county funds from $16,014,752 to $15,569,752 in order to transfer $445,000 from the Eastern project ordinance to the Pleasant Garden Elementary project ordinance so as to replenish the furniture/equipment/technology dollars that were temporarily transferred from Pleasant Garden to Eastern.

Also requested was that $108,111 be transferred from the Florence Elementary project ordinance to Oak View Elementary project ordinance. During the Oak View contract period, there was an incident involving structural failure of a metal façade and fascia system. This involved the failure of metal fasteners installed in a stucco substrate. Based on a series of tests completed by a third party engineer, it was determined that the remaining metal façade and fascia system should be taken down and replaced for both safety and structural integrity reasons. The work was completed at a cost of $87,000 and billed to the project budget. Other work required on the project that was outside the original project scope included removal of an underground storage tank ($8,015); the multiple mobile unit relocations ($39,453) and demolition/reinstallation of a canopy between the main building and the mobile units ($37,709.95). These items total $169,177.95 with $61,066.95 of these costs covered from contingency dollars available within the project; however, $108,111 needs to be transferred from Florence to Oak View to cover the balance of the costs.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Dot Kearns, to (a) increase insurance proceeds on the Eastern project ordinance from $14 million to $17,019,750; (b) decrease county funds on the Eastern project ordinance from $16,014,752 to $15,569,752 in order to transfer $445,000 from Eastern to Pleasant Garden so as to replenish the furniture / equipment / technology dollars that were temporarily transferred from Pleasant Garden to Eastern; (c) transfer $108,111 from the Florence project ordinance to the Oak View project ordinance; and (d) authorize appropriate staff member(s) to appear before the County Commission on April 3 and request approval of the project ordinance revisions outlined above. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

2008-09 Proposed Calendar Adjustments

Dr. Eric Becoats, co-interim superintendent, presented to the board information on 2008-09 proposed calendar adjustments related to Brooks Global Studies, Johnson Street Global Studies and the observation of Good Friday in 2009.

The staffs of Brooks and Johnson Street were asked to review with their communities the additional week that was added to their calendars. As a result, approximately 67 percent of the community at Brooks and 76 percent at Johnson Street were in favor of moving the start date of school from July 30 to August 6. Approximately 21 percent at Brooks and 14 percent at Johnson Street were in favor of keeping the calendar as originally approved. Approximately 12 percent at Brooks and 10 percent at Johnson Street had no preference.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Jeff Belton, to approve the recommended calendar adjustment for Brooks and Johnson Street to move the start date from July 30 to August 6. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

As a result of comments received regarding the observation of Good Friday, the 2009 calendar was reviewed by staff. It was staff's recommendation that April 10, 2009 be used as a teacher workday, which would allow teachers the opportunity to take the day off if they so desired since students would not be in school on that day. The impact on the traditional calendar is that June 11, 2009 would be the last day of school (extended by one day); June 12 would become a district-wide mandated workday; June 15 would become a protected teacher workday and June 16 would remain as a workday. On the extended year calendars for Brooks and Johnson Street,

April 10, 2009 would become a teacher workday. The GCS middle college calendars would keep April 10, 2009 as a teacher workday. There is no impact on the GCS year-round calendar since April 10, 2009 is not a school day for students and teachers. For the Washington Montessori extended year calendar, April 10, 2009 would become a teacher workday. For The Early College at Guilford calendar, April 10, 2009 would become a teacher workday.

Chairman Duncan asked that in the future the attempt be made to schedule the spring break for the week preceding Easter, if at all possible.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Kris Cooke, to follow staff's calendar recommendations, as noted above, regarding the observation of Good Friday 2009. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 6-to-5 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert and Amos Quick;* ***Nays*** *– Jeff Belton, Alan Duncan, Dot Kearns, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe.*

Following this vote, Dr. Becoats reported that, after reviewing North Carolina G.S. 115C-84.2, he has found that this statute states that the end date for school shall not be after June 10 and the start date cannot be before August 25. Given this state guideline, the board cannot take action as previously voted on to have April 10 as a teacher workday and June 11 as the last day of school. As a result of this, board member Deena Hayes withdrew her prior vote.

There was further discussion as to whether to reconsider keeping April 10 as a teacher workday by exchanging it with the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. There was board consensus to not consider this or any other options pertaining to the observation of Good Friday for 2009. There was agreement that no change will be made to the 2008-09 calendar.

Discussion of Montessori

Dr. Eric Becoats, co-interim superintendent, presented to the board information regarding the applications for the Montessori programs in the district for 2008-09. After reviewing that information and in response to discussions the board has had in regard to Triangle Lake, staff asked the board to consider three items:

1. Florence, Southwest, Colfax, Millis Road and Pilot serve as elementary feeders to the Triangle Lake Montessori program for 2008-09 and the future instead of to Washington. The 19 families who have applied to Washington Montessori would be contacted to advise them of their new option (Triangle Lake). This recommendation would not negatively impact Washington Montessori, as the applicant pool exceeds the number of available seats.
2. The magnet opt out will remain as Colfax for the 2008-09 school year. Therefore, there would not be a school within a school at Triangle Lake in the 2008-09 school year. The recommendation is that Triangle Lake and Washington Montessori not have attendance boundaries beginning in 2009-10. This would make all three Montessori programs dedicated magnet schools. The next year would be spent investigating possible school attendance boundary options for affected students.
3. Increase the pre-K and/or kindergarten seats to approximately 90 students to allow growth in the Erwin and Triangle Lake programs, which would further fill the school to its stated capacity.

Dr. Becoats also provided information on the number of Triangle Lake opt outs by grade level as of March 4, 2008. The breakdown is as follows:

11	Kindergarten
18	Grade 1
26	Grade 2
23	Grade 3
19	Grade 4
17	Grade 5
114	TOTAL

Board discussion followed.

Chairman Duncan spoke regarding the reference in recommendation #2 listed above for Washington to not have attendance boundaries beginning in 2009-10. He stated that the board made a commitment to children of that district, and the principal has worked hard to outreach to children in that district to tell them they are wanted in that school. He asked that the reference in regard to Washington's attendance boundaries be taken off the table based on the board's commitment to the community. There was board consensus.

He also stated that it appears that a number of children in the Triangle Lake attendance zone move frequently. The downside is that with children moving in, the Montessori program will not work for them if they are above pre-K or kindergarten age and have not attended a Montessori program in their prior school. If the board is committed to the Montessori program, then the program needs to be served well.

Additionally, existing facilities need to be fully utilized. The long transportation times of students who are not part of the Montessori program at Triangle Lake were discussed. With the opening of the new Union Hill next year, the hope is that Triangle Lake students could become part of that attendance zone.

Staff will continue to investigate options regarding available facilities should the decision be made to move the Montessori program at Triangle Lake to another location.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Garth Hébert, to follow staff's recommendation that Florence, Southwest, Colfax, Millis Road and Pilot serve as elementary feeders to the Triangle Lake Montessori program for 2008-09 and the future with staff to follow up by contacting the19 families who have applied to Washington Montessori to advise them of the new option at Triangle Lake with the assurance that this will not negatively impact Washington Montessori, as the applicant pool exceeds the number of available seats. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

The board talked about whether Colfax should remain as the opt out for Triangle Lake for the 2008-09 school year, keeping Triangle Lake as a dedicated magnet.

Motion was made by Garth Hébert, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to regretfully keep Colfax as the magnet opt-out for the 2008-09 school year for Triangle Lake Montessori with staff to evaluate the transportation situation to find a way to eliminate hubs, provide shorter travel times,

bus monitors and also for staff to evaluate the needs in the areas of social workers or other student support services and report back to the board as part of the budget process.

A substitute motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Anita Sharpe, to add up to two additional teachers with staff to evaluate the needs in the areas of social workers or other student support services at Triangle Lake to create a school within a school for grades K-5 for students who are presently opting out to Colfax and Shadybrook.

A substitute motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Garth Hébert, that for 2008-09 the children who do not choose to go to Triangle Lake remain at Colfax and that for those children there is a direct bus route with a monitor on each bus, and further that staff evaluate the needs in the areas of social workers or other student support services at Triangle Lake. Board member Garth Hébert rescinded his first motion in favor of the motion on the table. The motion failed upon majority electronic vote of 6-to-5 as follows: ***Nays*** *– Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Deena Hayes, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert and Dot Kearns.*

A vote was taken on the substitute motion made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Anita Sharpe, *to add up to two additional teachers with staff to evaluate the needs in the areas of social workers or other student support services at Triangle Lake to create a school within a school for grades K-5 for students who are presently opting out to Colfax and Shadybrook. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 6-to-5 as follows:* ***Ayes*** *– Walter Childs, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nays*** *– Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett and Dot Kearns.*

There was discussion regarding the option to increase the pre-K and/or kindergarten seats to approximately 90 students.

Motion was made by Alan Duncan, seconded by Nancy Routh, to increase the number of seats for kindergarten to approximately 90 students.

Director of Student Assignment Doyle Craven stated that there are already 89 students in kindergarten. Following additional board discussion on this topic, Chairman Duncan withdrew his motion.

Motion was made by Garth Hébert, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to reconsider the last motion made by Nancy Routh, to add up to two additional teachers with staff to evaluate the needs in the areas of social workers or other student support services at Triangle Lake to create a school within a school for grades K-5 for students who are presently opting out to Colfax and Shadybrook, which had been approved. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-4 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nays*** *– Walter Childs, Deena Hayes, Amos Quick and Nancy Routh.*

Motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Darlene Garrett, that for 2008-09, the children who are now at Colfax go back to Colfax with direct bus routes, buses that have a monitor and with a social worker at least half time. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-4 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nays*** *– Walter Childs, Deena Hayes, Amos Quick and Nancy Routh.*

Continued Discussion – 2008-09 Magnet and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Opt-out Schools

Doyle Craven, director of student assignment, and Kelly Hales, director of Title I, led the board in a continued discussion regarding the 2008-09 NCLB opt-out schools. Approval of the magnet opt-outs was completed during discussion of the Triangle Lake Montessori proposal. A recommendation for approval of the NCLB opt-out schools for the 2008-09 school year was presented.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Jeff Belton, to approve the NCLB opt-out schools (dated 3/7/08) as presented. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-4 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nays*** *– Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett and Deena Hayes.*

School Nutrition Services – Contract for Processing of USDA Commodities into Pizza

John Mann, purchasing officer, presented to the board a recommendation to award a contract to Schwans, Inc., Marshall, MN in the amount of $722,088 and a contract to Nardone's Inc., Wilkes-Barre, PA. in the amount of $282,243 to provide processing of USDA commodities for pizza to the district.

Four bids were received on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, for the processing of USDA Commodities into pizza for the district. A total of four companies submitted bids in eight separate products. This bid is for the 2008-09 school year.

Schwans, Inc. submitted the lowest responsive, responsible bid of $272,940 for product C and $417,648 for product D.

Conagra, Inc., of Troy, O.H., submitted the lowest bid in product J. However, due to minimum order requirements, it is not possible to award to Conagra for only one product. The lowest responsive, responsible bidder in category J was Schwans. The bid was $31,500.

The total annual contract with Schwans is estimated to be $722,088. This amount includes $272,940 (0.4549 x 600,000), $417,648 (0.4972 x 840,000) and $31,500 (0.21 x 150,000).

Nardone's, Inc. submitted the lowest responsive, responsible bid of $78,678 for product E , $59,415 for product F, $40,900 for product G, $56,750 for product H and $46,500 for product I. The total annual contract with Nardone's is estimated to be $282,243. This amount includes $78,678 (0.186 x 423,000), $59,415 (0.233 x 255,000), $40,900 (0.409 x 100,000), $56,750 (0.454 x 125,000) and $46,500 (0.31 x 150,000).

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Kris Cooke, to award a contract to Schwans, Inc., Marshall, M.N., in the amount of $722,088, and a contract to Nardone's, Inc., Wilkes-Barre, P.A., in the amount of $282,243 to provide processing of USDA commodities for pizza to the district. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Academic Improvement Update

Dr. Mack McCary, chief academic officer, and Dr. Beth Folger, chief curriculum and organizational development officer, presented to the board an update on academic improvement strategies. Also providing a report on Jackson Middle was Principal Rodney Wilds and teachers Kimberly Perry and Tammy Bowman.

Contracted Transportation Services Extension

John Mann, purchasing officer, presented to the board a recommendation to approve a contract extension with First Student, Inc., in the amount of $3,130,236 for the 2008-09 school year. First Student, Inc. will provide 65 school buses to transport approximately 610 students. The original bid specifications included an option whereby, if agreeable with both parties, the contract entered into for the 2006-07 school year could be extended for four additional 12-month periods. First Student, Inc. has requested a 4.4 percent increase for providing transportation services. This increase is based on data obtained from the Consumer Price Index utilized by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; specifically, the South Urban area. The specifications of the bid contained an escalation clause that allows for this requested increase.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to approve a contract extension with First Student, Inc. in the amount of $3,130,236 for the 2008-09 school year. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Update on GCS Newcomers School, The High School Ahead Academy and Twilight High School

This item was deferred until the April 8, 2008 meeting.

Update on School Climate Task Force Recommendations

This item was deferred until the April 8, 2008 meeting.

Board Discussion

First Reading - Policy FDCA, Naming of Schools

This item was deferred until the April 8, 2008 meeting.

First Reading – Policy JCDAD, Student Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Environment

This item was deferred until the April 8, 2008 meeting.

First Reading – Policy JCDAE, Sexual Harassment by Students

This item was deferred until the April 8, 2008 meeting.

Legislative Agenda Update

Chairman Duncan called on board member Dot Kearns, convenor of the legislative committee, to present an update on the legislative agenda. The revised Legislative Agenda 2008 was

distributed to board members. Changes had been made to remove any items from the legislative materials which have already been satisfied or are no longer necessary or to add any new items that have come to the legislative committee from staff or board members. Also, the attempt was made to make the language as crisp as possible so that the printed copy can be easily read and understood. Ms. Kearns reviewed the revisions with the board.

Under the section, "Support for High Quality Teaching," a change was suggested to replace the sentence in bullet #5 which says, "Reward teachers for not using state granted personal leave days by allowing conversion of unused days to sick leave" to "Eliminate the state deduction of $50 for teachers who take advantage of personal leave days on a teaching day." Following board discussion, there was consensus to leave this bulleted item off of the legislative agenda.

Motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Deena Hayes, to adopt the Legislative Agenda 2008 as presented with the removal of the item under "Support for High Quality Teaching," as discussed. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote. Board member Anita Sharpe was not present for this vote.

Consideration of Date Change for May 6 Board Meeting

Chairman Duncan led the board in a discussion regarding the date change for the May 6 board meeting due to the primary election. There was board consensus to change the meeting date to Thursday, May 8, 2008.

Search Process for New Superintendent

Chairman Duncan led the board in a continued discussion regarding the search process for a new superintendent.

Attorney Jill Wilson reported on research she has done regarding the search firms of Ray and Associates, Inc. and Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. Board discussion followed.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Amos Quick, to go forward with Ray and Associates, Inc. with the stipulation that all completed applications will be given to board members for review. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-4 as follows: ***Ayes*** *–Walter Childs, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nays*** *– Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan and Deena Hayes.*

The suggestion was made at the February 19, 2008 board meeting to schedule nine community forums related to the search for a new superintendent. There was additional board discussion regarding the number of meetings.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Walter Childs, to reconsider the issue regarding the number of community forums to be changed to three meetings, one in Greensboro, one in High Point and one in the county. The motion failed upon majority electronic vote of 6-to-5 as follows: ***Nays*** *– Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes, Amos Quick and Anita Sharpe;* ***Ayes*** *–Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns and Nancy Routh.*

Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Deena Hayes, to reconsider the issue regarding the number of community forums to be changed to five meetings to be held in Greensboro, High Point and the county with careful consideration given to areas central to these locations, and also that the board partner with at least one community group for each of these forums. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 6-to-5 as follows: ***Ayes*** *–Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns and Amos Quick;* ***Nays*** *– Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Garth Hébert, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe.*

Reports from the Chairman

Chairman Alan Duncan reported on a meeting he attended with the Department of Education regarding the Mission Possible program. Present were board members Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Dot Kearns and Nancy Routh. He stated that the representatives from the Department of Education asked a lot of questions and provided insight and feedback with respect to the progress of that program, which is part of the federal grant. Chairman Duncan said they were very positive about many aspects of the program.

Chairman Duncan reported on a second meeting he attended. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), as part of the University System, is moving ahead with the UNC Tomorrow program, which is led by President Erskine Bowles. Some of their initiatives, as they are working with the community, have to do with education, including K through 12, which is part of President Bowles' initiative. Board members Walter Childs, Alan Duncan and Dot Kearns met with UNCG representatives and had a positive interchange of ways to complement the work of UNCG and the ways UNCG could help complement the work we are doing with our students. UNCG will continue to develop this initiative, and the UNCG representatives who attended the meeting were extremely appreciative of the insights shared.

Board Comments

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

Closed Session

At 11:33 p.m., *motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Walter Childs, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney client privilege and to discuss personnel matters protected by state law and to give instruction to our attorney and staff regarding the price or other material term to be contained in a proposed contract for the purchase of real property.*

The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

The board returned to open session at 12:07 a.m.

Adjournment

With no further business, at 12:08 a.m. on Friday, March 21, *motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Amos Quick, to adjourn the meeting*. *The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*