

**GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Tuesday, March 4, 2008**

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan (arrived at 6:14 p.m.), Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes (arrived at 11:16 p.m.), Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe. Also present was Attorney Jill Wilson and Superintendent Terry Grier.

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Board member Kris Cooke led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Recognitions**

**A. GCS Employee of the Month for March 2008**

The board recognized Nancy Abel, adapted physical education teacher at schools across the district, as the district's March Employee of the Month. Board member Nancy Routh presented Nancy with a certificate of recognition. In a prior ceremony, Ms. Abel 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 March 2008**

The board recognized Kristi Bryson, a volunteer at Rankin Elementary, as the district's March Volunteer of the Month. Board member Dot Kearns presented Kristi with a certificate of appreciation. Ms. Bryson received a \$25 gift card from American Express, which has partnered with GCS to support the volunteer recognition program.

**C. Winter Sports State Championship Recognition**

The board recognized high school students who have earned the state champion designation either as an individual competitor or team member in the areas of indoor track, swimming and wrestling:

Indoor Track

*Western:* Radiance Basden – 300 meter girls champion; Crystal Webley, Jasmin Richardson, Britney Cuthrell and Radiance Basden – 1600 meter relay champions

*Southern:* William Graves – 300 and 500 meter dash champion, Meet MVP

*Northwest:* Scott Houston – Pole Vault State Champion, new state record

Swimming

*Grimsley:* Myles Oliver – 50 freestyle state champion; James Gentry, William Ruhm, Adam Nussbaum and Myles Oliver – 200 Freestyle Relay champions

### Wrestling

*Andrews:* Timdarius Thurston – 3A 103 lb. champion; Timothy Thurston – 3A 119 lb. champion; Marcus Blue – 3A 152 lb. champion

*Ragsdale:* Jacob Creed – 3A 130 lb. champion, three consecutive state championships

*Southwest:* Christian McLean – 3A 215 lb. champion

### **D. Recognition of the Smith High School Gospel Choir**

The board recognized the Smith High School Gospel Choir for awards received at the national Gospel Choir Olympics. Smith High student and choir member Dominique Wharton took top honors as male soloist and student director. The choir also took top prize in the youth division of National Pathmark Gospel Choir Competition, a separate competition in New York City.

### **Public Comments**

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

Mark Jewell, 210 N. Lindell Road, Greensboro, NC 27403  
Virginia Hoover, 713 W. Academy St., Madison, NC 27025  
Teresa McNeill, 4008 Hicone Road, Greensboro, NC 27405  
Sharon Shepard, 100 Buckeye Road, Jamestown, NC 27282  
Rebecca Rice, 1411 W. Meadowview Road, Greensboro, NC 27403  
Ida Pittman, 101 Old Gate Court, Jamestown, NC 27282  
Jay Harris, 215 Homewood Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403  
Jill Berry, 603 Thurwood Drive, Jamestown, NC 27282  
Victor Vigoya, 608 Westland Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410  
David Moore, 1200 Bilbro St., Greensboro, NC 27406  
Nie Xin, 305 Heather Ridge Court, Greensboro, NC 27455  
Sam Hyman, Eight Monmouth Court, Greensboro, NC 27410  
Joe Waters, 1306 Craven St., Greensboro, NC 27405  
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. Board member Nancy Routh requested that an item be added to Staff Reports, *First Reading – Policy DE, Student Meals Charge. Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Walter Childs, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

### **Consent Agenda**

Superintendent Grier presented the following consent agenda items:

#### **A. Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the January 31 Regular Meeting, February 7 Regular Meeting, February 19 Regular Meeting and February 25 Special Called Meeting were presented for approval.

#### **B. Personnel Action Reports**

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

*Motion was made by Walter Childs, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous roll call vote.*

## **Staff Reports**

### **Approval of the 2008-09 Magnet and NCLB Opt-Out Schools**

Doyle Craven, director of student assignment, and Kelly Hales, Title I director, presented to the board a recommendation to approve the proposed magnet and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) opt-out schools for the 2008-09 school year. Donna Bell, director of planning, was also present to answer questions.

There was discussion regarding Triangle Lake and combining districting lines. The opt-out working group recommended to not have an opt-out school for Triangle Lake, but instead operate traditional and Montessori programs there. Concern was expressed that this could cause a diminished magnet school. The possibility of adding pre-K and kindergarten at Triangle Lake was also discussed, which would allow more children to start school there and continue in the Montessori program. Superintendent Terry Grier suggested that staff go back and re-evaluate the Triangle Lake situation and bring additional information back to the board.

Chairman Duncan stated that the board passed a number of opt-out schools at its January 26 board retreat. Staff was asked to consider changes with respect to Irving Park Elementary as an opt-out. The board had discussion on this matter.

*Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Garth Hébert, to accept the revised NCLB opt-out recommendation (dated 2/20/08) for Irving Park Elementary as submitted. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-3 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Darlene Garrett, Dot Kearns and Amos Quick.*

On January 26, staff was also asked to consider changes with respect to Jamestown Elementary as an opt-out.

*Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Kris Cooke, to accept the revised NCLB opt-out recommendation (dated 2/20/08) for Jamestown Elementary as submitted. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.*

Chairman Duncan asked if changes to any additional schools (other than Irving Park Elementary and Jamestown Elementary) were being recommended in regard to the NCLB opt-outs. Mr. Craven stated that there were not.

*Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Walter Childs, to approve the recommendation for the remainder of the 2008-09 proposed NCLB opt-outs as presented.*

*A substitute motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to accept the recommendation with the exception of Alamance and that some alternative be found, if-needed, for Foust and Hunter.*

Board member Amos Quick asked that an amendment be added to the motion to include removing Allen Middle as an opt-out for Jackson and that an alternative be found. Board members Anita Sharpe and Darlene Garrett accepted Mr. Quick's amendment. After further discussion, board member Darlene Garrett asked to withdraw her acceptance of the amendment.

*A substitute motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Walter Childs, to accept the recommendation for the remainder of the 2008-09 proposed NCLB opt-outs (dated 2/20/08) with three changes – that Allen be removed as an opt-out for Jackson Middle with staff to provide an alternative for Jackson and that Alamance be removed as an opt-out for both Foust and Hunter with staff to provide an alternative, if needed, for Foust and Hunter. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 9-to-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nay** – Darlene Garrett.*

The board began discussion of the list of alternative schools for magnet and year-round programs. Discussion of Triangle Lake Montessori ensued with regard to whether this school should be a dedicated magnet or whether it should also include traditional students from the community. Concern was expressed that if it is a dedicated magnet, traditional students would be required to attend Colfax, which is too far a distance for students to have to travel.

Chairman Duncan asked that consideration be given to Triangle Lake Montessori being changed to 90 students per class, including pre-K through fifth grade. Further discussion followed on whether Triangle Lake should be a dedicated magnet or whether it should also include traditional students from the community. The suggestion was made that staff further review data and report back to the board.

*Motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Alan Duncan, to approve the magnet school opt-out chart as presented with the exclusion of Triangle Lake. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 6-to-4 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns and Nancy Routh; **Nays** – Walter Childs, Darlene Garrett, Amos Quick and Anita Sharpe.*

Further discussion ensued regarding Triangle Lake.

*Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Walter Childs, that Triangle Lake allow the neighborhood students to attend and create a school within a school, eliminating the need for an opt-out.*

*A substitute motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Alan Duncan, to leave things as they are this year and ask staff to look at the data at the end of the enrollment period and make recommendations for next year.*

*Motion was made by Garth Hébert, seconded by Anita Sharpe, to table discussion on Triangle Lake until the next board meeting. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-3 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Walter Childs, Darlene Garrett and Amos Quick.*

## **Expansion of Mandarin Chinese Program**

Dr. Beth Folger, chief curriculum and professional development officer, presented to the board a recommendation to expand the Mandarin Chinese Program at Northwood Elementary, Northwest High and Page High for the 2008-09 school year. Currently, the district has three Mandarin Chinese teachers at the following schools: Northwood Elementary, Ferndale Middle and High Point Central High.

Through a current agreement between The College Board and GCS, The College Board administers a program to provide teachers from China to teach at schools determined by the district. Chosen through a highly selective process, the teachers are matched to suit each school's individual needs. As a part of the agreement, GCS must pay U.S. Visa application fees for Mandarin Chinese Program teachers, approved homestays (housing) and transportation. Dr. Folger provided cost estimate information for expanding the Mandarin Chinese Program.

*Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Dot Kearns, to expand the Mandarin Chinese Program at Northwood Elementary, Northwest High and Page High for the 2008-09 school year as presented. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 9-to-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Garth Hébert.*

## **Superintendent's Goals for 2008-09**

*Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Anita Sharpe, to table this item until the next meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.*

## **First Reading – Policy DE, Student Meals Charge**

Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, led the board in a discussion regarding the first reading of Policy DE, Student Meals Charge.

*Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Garth Hébert, to accept Policy DE, Student Meals Charge, for first reading and direct the administration to receive input per the board's adoption policy (BD). The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 6-to-4 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett, Dot Kearns and Amos Quick.*

## **Board Discussion**

### **School Climate Task Force**

Chairman Duncan called on Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, to lead the board in a discussion regarding the budgetary impact of the recommendations presented by the School Climate Task Force. Ms. Ozment provided a preliminary assessment of the costs associated with those recommendations. She said that the list presented was not a complete list, and additional items will be addressed at a future board meeting.

### **Search Process for New Superintendent**

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

Board members discussed whether to form a search committee within the board composed of a certain number of members who would report back to the full board regarding the search process. Given the importance of this process, there was consensus by the board that the committee will be a full-board committee.

The next item of discussion was in reference to utilizing a different process for internal candidates than what will be used for external candidates. There was board consensus that the same process be used for both internal and external candidates.

The next item of discussion was to decide on whether to use a search firm and, if so, which firm would be selected. Board member Kris Cooke said she believes that a search firm is needed to facilitate a widespread search, to ensure confidentiality for applicants and to perform criminal background checks. During board discussion of this matter, the following motions were made:

*Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Garth Hébert, that the board employ a search firm of some description. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.*

*Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Darlene Garrett, that the board employ Ray and Associates, Inc. as the search firm for the superintendent search.*

*A substitute motion was made by Garth Hébert, seconded by Jeff Belton, to narrow consideration to Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. and Ray and Associates, Inc.*

*A substitute motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Nancy Routh, to begin the search with the North Carolina School Boards Association. The motion failed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-4 as follows: **Nays** – Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns and Amos Quick; **Ayes** – Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe.*

*A vote was taken on the substitute motion made by Garth Hébert, seconded by Jeff Belton, to narrow consideration to Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. and Ray and Associates, Inc. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 6-4-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett and Nancy Routh; **Abstain** – Deena Hayes.*

Continued board discussion ensued.

*Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Jeff Belton, to enter into negotiations with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd.*

*A substitute motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Amos Quick, to enter into negotiations with Ray & Associates, Inc. The motion failed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-4 as follows: **Nays** – Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Ayes** – Walter Childs, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes and Amos Quick.*

*A vote was taken on the motion made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Jeff Belton, to enter into negotiations with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. The motion failed upon majority electronic vote of 6-to-5 as follows: **Nays** – Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena*

Hayes, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns and Amos Quick.

*Motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to reconsider the vote with regard to entering into negotiations with Ray & Associates, Inc. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-4 as follows: **Ayes** – Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Jeff Belton, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert and Nancy Routh.*

*Motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to enter into negotiations with Ray & Associates, Inc.*

*A substitute motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Amos Quick, to authorize Attorney Jill Wilson to negotiate with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. and Ray & Associates, Inc. and report back to the board. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 9-to-2 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Alan Duncan and Darlene Garrett.*

### **Board Comments**

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

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, at 11:48 p.m., *motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Deena Hayes, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*