

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

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 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 6:10 p.m.), Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe. Also present were Co-Interim Superintendents Sharon Ozment and Eric Becoats and Attorney Jill Wilson.

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Amos Quick called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Board member Jeff Belton led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Recognitions

A. GCS Employee of the Month for April 2008

The board recognized Tom Anderson, teacher at McIver Education Center, as the Guilford County Schools' (GCS) April Employee of the Month. Board member Deena Hayes presented Tom with a certificate of recognition. In a prior ceremony, Mr. Anderson 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 April 2008

The board recognized Jean Pudlo, a volunteer at The Early College at Guilford, as the GCS April Volunteer of the Month. Board member Darlene Garrett presented Jean with a certificate of appreciation. Ms. Pudlo 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.

Mona Edwards, 5320 Candlewick Road, Greensboro, NC 27455
Larry Morse, 224 Kensington Road, Greensboro, NC 27403
Jessi Rice, 1411 West Meadowview Road, Greensboro, NC 27403
Ida Pittman, 101 Old Gate Court, Jamestown, NC 27282
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. *Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Anita Sharpe, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

Consent Agenda

Co-Interim Superintendent Eric Becoats presented the following consent agenda items:

A. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 28 Special Called Meeting, March 4 Regular Meeting and March 20 Regular Meeting were presented for approval.

Motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Garth Hébert, to amend the second paragraph on page 8 of the March 20, 2008 minutes for the Staff Reports item, Discussion of Montessori, to state that, "Board member Garth Hébert rescinded his first motion in favor of the motion on the table," prior to the vote being taken on the substitute motion made by board member Dot Kearns. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

B. Personnel Action Reports

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

C. Second Reading – Policy DE, Student Meals Charge

The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve Policy DE, Student Meals Charge for second reading. The board approved this policy for first reading at its March 20 meeting. It had been posted on the district Web site for a public comment period per the board's policy. One comment was received and will not have any bearing on the policy.

D. Amendment of 2008-09 Calendars for Brooks and Johnson Street Global Studies

The consent agenda included a recommendation to amend the 2008-09 calendar for Brooks and Johnson Street Global Studies. The board approved at its March 20 meeting to extend the 2008 summer break for students attending Brooks and Johnson Street by one week (five days). This action resulted in the first day of school starting on August 5, 2008. As a result of this action, the total number of school days for next year would be 195 vs. the traditional 200. In order to maintain the traditional 200-day calendar for both schools, the last day of school needs to be amended to June 24, 2008 rather than June 17, 2008.

*Motion was made by Jeff Belton, seconded by Garth Hébert, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Item A passed upon unanimous roll-call vote. Item B passed upon majority roll-call vote of 10-to-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; **Nays** – Amos Quick. Item C passed upon majority roll-call vote of 6-to-5 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns and Amos Quick. Item D passed upon unanimous roll-call vote.*

Staff Reports

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

Dr. Terrence Young, chief information and special services officer; Mayra Hayes, ESOL director; and Jake Henry, principal, presented to the board an update on the GCS Newcomers School. In addition, Dr. David Roper, executive director for innovative services, introduced Michelle Hayes,

principal of The High School Ahead Academy and Pandora Bell, principal of the Twilight High School, who presented an update on their schools. This item was deferred from the March 20 meeting.

Update on School Climate Task Force Recommendations

Sharon Ozment, co-interim superintendent, led the board in a continued discussion regarding the budgetary impact of the recommendations presented by the School Climate Task Force. This item was deferred from the March 20 meeting.

Implementation of Guilford Education Management System (GEMS) / Learning Village

Dr. Beth Folger, chief curriculum and organizational development officer, presented to the board an overview of GEMS to illustrate how it will enhance the educational process in GCS. GEMS is the district's curriculum management system. Teachers, curriculum facilitators and curriculum specialists collaborated to create current curriculum guides including instructional resources such as lesson plans, assessment tools and textbook materials to create a learning village known as GEMS. Also present to provide information were Dr. Michelle Ungurait, high schools curriculum officer/interim principal; Jonathan McRae, social studies curriculum specialist; Meredith Chandler, elementary math curriculum specialist; and Keisha Gabriel, High Point Central High teacher.

Board Discussion

First Reading – Policy FDCA, Naming Facilities

Chairman Duncan called on board member Nancy Routh, convener of the governance review committee, to lead the board in a discussion regarding the Policy FDCA, Naming Facilities. This item was deferred from the March 20 board meeting.

*Motion was made by Walter Childs, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to accept Policy FDCA, Naming Facilities, 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 8-to-3 as follows: **Ayes** - Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Alan Duncan, Dot Kearns and Amos Quick.*

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

Chairman Duncan called on board member Nancy Routh, convener of the governance review committee, to lead the board in a discussion regarding the Policy JCDAD, Student Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination-Free Environment. This item was deferred from the March 20 board meeting.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Walter Childs, to accept Policy JCDAD, Student Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination-Free Environment, for first reading and direct the administration to receive input per the board's adoption policy (BD). The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

First Reading – Policy JCDAE, Sexual Harassment by Students

Chairman Duncan called on board member Nancy Routh, convener of the governance review committee, to lead the board in a discussion regarding the Policy JCDAE, Sexual Harassment by Students. This item was deferred from the March 20 board meeting. Board members asked that a change be made in the policy's first paragraph from, "...and prohibits any student to engage in..." to "...and prohibits any student from engaging in ..."

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Walter Childs, to accept Policy JCDAE, Sexual Harassment by Students, for first reading and direct the administration to receive input per the board's adoption policy (BD). The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Proposed 2008-09 Board Meeting Schedule

Chairman Duncan led the board in a discussion of the proposed 2008-09 Board of Education meeting schedule. This schedule follows the same format of the meeting schedule for the current year in that two meetings are scheduled each month, generally the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday. Some meetings have been moved from the normal practice of the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday so as not to have meetings scheduled for back-to-back weeks or to avoid conflicts with conference dates. It was noted that dates for the fall and winter retreats and budget meeting are included in the proposed schedule.

Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Dot Kearns, to adopt the 2008-09 Board of Education meeting schedule as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Search Process for New Superintendent

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

The board discussed the five public forums and two staff forums which are scheduled to be held in April. Attorney Wilson informed board members that she has been corresponding with Ray and Associates, Inc. to coordinate these forums. Discussion followed regarding the format of these forums and whether Ray and Associates would conduct the two staff forums in the absence of board members being present, which is the recommendation of Ray and Associates. Board members agreed with this recommendation believing that staff might feel more comfortable.

There were questions raised as to whether it was necessary for Ray and Associates to attend all public forums, and discussion ensued regarding the additional travel expenses that would be incurred for them to attend. Chairman Duncan asked for a board vote to get consensus on whether board members want Ray and Associates to conduct the five public forums. A majority vote of yes would indicate that Ray and Associates would lead the public forums, and a majority vote of no would indicate that the board would lead the public forums.

*The result of the electronic vote was 7-to-4 follows: **Nays** – Jeff Belton, Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Ayes** –Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett and Dot Kearns.*

As a result of the vote, it was decided that the board will lead the public forums.

The next item of discussion was in regard to Ray and Associates' recommendation to advertise the position including the salary in the advertisement. The general feeling of the board was that wording be included in the advertisement to indicate a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with similar districts nationwide, and not a specific number.

*Motion was made by Garth Hébert, seconded by Anita Sharpe, to advertise with appropriate terminology stating that the salary and benefits package will be competitive. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 9-to-2 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe; **Nays** – Kris Cooke and Dot Kearns.*

Attorney Jill Wilson asked for additional clarification regarding the staff forums and public forums. There was board consensus that Ray and Associates attend the two public forums scheduled for April 14 and 16, since they will already be here to lead the staff forums on those same dates. In order for the board to not incur additional travel expenses, Ray and Associates will not attend the remaining public forums. However, all forums will be recorded in order to allow Ray and Associates the ability to hear all comments made.

Board Comments

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

Adjournment

With no further business, at 11:17 p.m., *motion was made by Dot Kearns, seconded by Deena Hayes, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*