GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Thursday, July 24, 2008

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Walter Childs (arrived at 4:20 p.m.), Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe. Board members Jeff Belton and Kris Cooke were absent. 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 4:15 p.m.

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

Closed Session
At 4:16 p.m., *motion was made by Alan Duncan, seconded by Anita Sharpe, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney/client privilege and to discuss personnel matters protected by state law. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

The board returned to open session at 6:18 p.m.

Moment of Remembrance and Silence
Chairman Duncan led the board in a moment of remembrance and silence in honor of those students who have tragically lost their lives this school year.

At this time, board members Jeff Belton and Kris Cooke joined the meeting via telephone conference.

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

Karen Siler, 1007 Pineland St., Greensboro, NC 27407
Lissa Harris, P.O. Box 78174, Greensboro, NC 27427
Linda Mozell, 4701 Whitby Place, Greensboro, NC 27406
Kay Doost, 1618 Marion St., Greensboro, NC 27403
Darryl Kosciak, 7611 Strawberry Road, Summerfield, NC 27358
Christina Sanchez, 1214 Grove St., Greensboro, NC 27403
Mike Stone, 8112 Hunting Cog Road, Oak Ridge, NC 27310
Marnie Thompson, 712 South Elam Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27403
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. Chairman Duncan requested that the Board Discussion item, “Search Process for New Superintendent,” be moved immediately after the consent agenda. Board

member Deena Hayes asked that an item be added under Board Discussion titled, “Title I Parent Participation in Conferences.” *Motion was made by Alan Duncan, seconded by Walter Childs, 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. Approval of Contract with Blackboard Connect, Inc. for Connect-ED

The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve a contract with Blackboard Connect Inc. for Connect-ED services in the amount of $217,470 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 with the option of renewing for two additional years. Guilford County Schools (GCS) began using Connect-ED services provided by Blackboard Connect Inc. (formerly known as Notification Technologies and The NTI Group, Inc.) in 2004. GCS utilizes Connect-ED services to record, schedule, send and track personalized voice messages to parents and/or employees. The Connect-ED service offers a bundled set of emergency communication, survey and community outreach notification tools designed to help schools improve awareness, increase involvement and audit and communication on a regular basis. The Connect-ED service requires no hardware, no software, no additional phone lines. Messages can be sent to all defined recipients or to targeted subgroups.

In 2007-08, the district operated under two six-month contracts, the second of which expired June 30, 2008. However, Blackboard Connect has extended the 2007-08 contract through July 24, 2008. The service period or term is a three-year contract, July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011, with the option to terminate on the annual anniversary of the effective date (July 1, 2009 for period 2 and July 1, 2010 for period 3) by providing 30 days prior written notice to terminate.

The $3 per student message fee is a fixed annual fee for unlimited use. The negotiated $3 message fee per student has not increased since the district began using Connect-ED services in 2004. The annual message fee is paid from our telecommunication budget. Blackboard Connect has waived the annual support fee of $12,200. Therefore, the cost of the contract for the 2008-09 fiscal year is $217,410 ($3 x 72,470 students), which is an increase of $6,132 [(72,470 - 70,426) x $3]. The cost of the contract for fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be calculated by multiplying the projected student enrollment for each respective fiscal year by the $3 per student message fee.

C. Approval of Eastern Guilford High School Generator Project

The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve the authorization for a lease agreement with Duke Energy for the Eastern Guilford High School (EGHS) Generator Project. The EGHS replacement facility will include an elevator. The GCS facilities staff has determined that a backup generator for the school is a requirement to support several life safety systems as well as critical loads. The generator will be sized and configured in a similar manner to the generator that was installed at Northern High.

The facilities staff evaluated the lease agreement with Duke Energy and also requested additional information relative to the equipment cost and value of services. Duke Energy will design, procure, install, test, own and maintain (*inspect and service*) a back-up generation system at the EGHS site for a fee of $3,000 per month for 120 months [*annual cost = $3,000 x 12 or $36,000; total cost = $3,000 x 120 or $360,000*]. The fees associated with the Northern High generator [*annual cost = $4,430 x 12 or $53,160; total cost = $4,430 x 120 or $531,600*] have been paid and the fees associated with the EGHS generator will be paid from our energy budget.

D. Approval of 2008-09 Instructional School Day Bell Schedules

The consent agenda includes a recommendation to approve the 2008-09 instructional school day bell schedules. Transportation staff members review the instructional school day bell schedules annually in an effort to reduce transportation costs, promote school bus efficiency, promote on-time delivery of students, meet the minimum of six hours and 40 minutes of instructional time for elementary schools with delivery of students complete at least 15 minutes prior to the start of school and meet the minimum of six hours and 55 minutes of instructional time for middle and high schools with delivery of students complete at least 10 minutes prior to the start of school.

The proposed bell schedules include the following changes:

- The Summerfield Elementary instruction day start time has been moved from 7:40 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. making dismissal time 2:30 p.m. versus 2:20 p.m. This 10-minute change will enable buses to unload kindergarten students at the Laughlin school site prior to unloading at the Summerfield school site and will accommodate afternoon loading of kindergarten students at the Laughlin school site first.

- Summerfield Elementary kindergarten students will attend school at the Laughlin school site. In order to maintain bus schedules, the Laughlin site instructional day schedule will be 7:40 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

- The GCS Newcomers School instructional day schedule will be moved from 8:40 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. The change from the traditional calendar schedule to the year-round schedule initiates challenges for these students changing bus routes when the calendar days do not coincide. The change in the later schedule provides direct bus routes for these students that may have language barriers.

Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Dot Kearns, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Item A passed upon majority roll call vote of 8-to-3 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Garth Hébert, Dot Kearns, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nays*** *– Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes and Amos Quick. Items B, C and D passed upon unanimous roll call vote.*

Board Discussion

Search Process for New Superintendent

Chairman Duncan provided an update regarding the search process for a new superintendent. The board had sent out a schedule early in this process identifying the goal of attempting to

have a superintendent in place at or about the start of the school year. Diligent work has been done during the past months to meet this schedule. A process was built into the schedule where the board wanted to have a period in which the finalists would agree to publicly appear and talk with senior staff, employees, principals and constituents of the public. The board spoke with participants in the meetings and listened to comments received outside of these meetings. Chairman Duncan expressed appreciation to the two finalists, Dr. Shirley Prince and Maurice Green, for their willingness to participate in the public sessions. Additionally, he expressed appreciation to all members of the public for their participation in the process. Following the sessions, board members spent a considerable amount of time discussing the two finalists and public comments with the goal of reaching a decision as soon as possible.

Motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Amos Quick, that

> *WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education performed a national search for a superintendent to lead its District; and*
>
> *WHEREAS, after extensive interviews and consideration of many fine and impressive candidates, the Board believes that Maurice "Mo" Green has the intellect, experience, knowledge and leadership to become the superintendent of the Guilford County Schools; and*
>
> *WHEREAS, the Board believes that Mr. Green's experience as an attorney representing boards of education for over eight years, five years as in house counsel for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, two years as Chief Operating Officer and 2008 appointment as Deputy Superintendent of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools give him the experience, management and administrative experience to be verified by the North Carolina State Board of Education pursuant to N.C.G.S. 115C-271 as Superintendent; and*
>
> *WHEREAS, the Board authorizes the Chair and the Board Attorney to enter into an employment contract for a term from September 8, 2008 to June 30, 2012, for the base salary of $250,000.00 and such other terms and conditions as are appropriate;*
>
> *NOW, THEREFORE, the Guilford County Board of Education resolves to appoint Maurice "Mo" Green Superintendent of the Guilford County Board of Education effective September 8, 2008, subject to authorization from the North Carolina Board of Education establishing that Green meets the standards for the position of superintendent.*
>
> *This the 24th day of July, 2008.*
>
> *The Guilford County Board of Education*

A substitute motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Garth Hébert, that the board instruct the board's attorney to go into negotiations to offer the same contract to Dr. Shirley Prince.

Board discussion followed.

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

A vote was then taken on the original motion by Deena Hayes and seconded by Walter Childs in regard to Maurice "Mo" Green. *The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-4 as follows:* ***Ayes*** *– Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick and Nancy Routh;* ***Nays*** *– Jeff Belton, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert and Anita Sharpe.*

Board members Kris Cooke and Jeff Belton departed the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Title I Parent Participation in Conferences

Board member Deena Hayes led a discussion regarding Title I parent participation in conferences. She has attended several meetings with Title I parents across the district and stated that it is important for the board to make sure funds are available for them to attend the Title I parental advisory conference in Alabama. These are a group of parents committed to their children's education and it will help to make them stronger advocates, not only for their children, but as leaders in their schools. Ms. Hayes asked that the money which has been allocated to the schools should be used for parents to participate in the conference, which will be held in late October. Chairman Duncan asked staff to review the situation and come back at the next meeting with additional information in terms of where we are from a funding as well as a recommendation standpoint.

Staff Reports

Preliminary 2007-08 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update

Dr. Gongshu Zhang, chief accountability and research officer, presented to the board an update on preliminary 2007-08 AYP results.

Haberman Study

Dr. Gongshu Zhang, chief accountability and research officer, presented to the board initial research regarding the effectiveness of the Haberman screening process. Chief Human Resources Officer Peggy Thompson and Executive Director of Talent Development Amy Holcombe were present to provide additional information and answer questions.

In order to allow further discussion and to discuss the recommended ongoing plan, Chairman Duncan asked that this item be included on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Construction Management at Risk for Jamestown Middle School

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board a recommendation by the Architect Selection Committee that staff and the board attorney enter into negotiations with New Atlantic Contracting Group to provide services as Construction Management at Risk for Jamestown Middle. It is also requested that the board select the second and third ranked firms and authorize staff and the board attorney to enter into negotiations with the second and/or third ranked firm, if necessary.

A request for proposals for Construction Management at Risk for Jamestown Middle was advertised on May 18, 2008. A mandatory pre-proposal conference was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 with 30 contractors in attendance. Seventeen proposals were received on June 9, 2008. After an extensive review, GCS staff and the Architect Selection Committee selected four companies for the board to review. The four companies, in order of ranking, are: New Atlantic Contracting Group, Winston Salem, NC; Samet Corporation, Greensboro, NC and Barnhill Contracting, Raleigh, NC (tied for second) and D.H. Griffin, Raleigh, NC.

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Nancy Routh, to follow the recommendation of the Architect Selection Committee to authorize staff and the board attorney to enter into negotiations with New Atlantic Contracting Group to provide services as Construction Management at Risk for Jamestown Middle School and additionally to select the second and third ranked firms and authorize staff and the board attorney to enter into negotiations with the second and third ranked firms, if necessary. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Amos Quick, that Barnhill Contracting be named as the second ranked firm for consideration. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 7-to-2 as follows: ***Ayes*** *–Walter Childs, Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes, Dot Kearns, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nays*** *– Darlene Garrett and Garth Hébert.*

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Dot Kearns, that Samet Corporation be named as the third ranked firm for consideration. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Board member Anita Sharpe departed at 10:05 p.m.

2008-09 Universal Free Breakfast Program

Sharon Ozment, co-interim superintendent, presented to the board a recommendation to approve 23 schools as the schools eligible to participate in the GCS Universal Free Breakfast Program in 2008-09 as follows:

Allen Jay Elementary	Hampton Elementary	Peck Elementary
Bessemer Elementary	Hunter Elementary	Rankin Elementary
Cone Elementary	Jackson Middle	Sedgefield Elementary
Fairview Elementary	Kirkman Park Elementary	Sumner Elementary
Falkener Elementary	Montlieu Elementary	Union Hill Elementary
Foust Elementary	Northwood Elementary	Washington Elementary
Gillespie Park Elementary	Oak Hill Elementary	Wiley Elementary
Hairston Middle	Parkview Elementary	

The percentage of students eligible to receive free meals for the recommended schools ranges from 63.64 percent to 93.14 percent.

Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Deena Hayes, to approve the 23 schools listed above as the schools eligible to participate in the GCS Universal Free Breakfast Program in 2008-09. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Board Comments

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

Adjournment

With no further business, at 10:22 p.m., *motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Deena Hayes, to adjourn the meeting*. *The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*