GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Thursday, August 28, 2008

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Thursday, August 28, 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 7:03 p.m.), Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe. Board member Dot Kearns was 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 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
Board member Jeff Belton 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.

Mark Jewell, 201 North Lindell St., Greensboro, NC 27403
Joe Stafford, 4604 Forest Village Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406

Approval of Agenda
Vice Chairman Quick asked board members to review the meeting agenda and called for a motion to approve or amend it. Mr. Quick asked that Staff Report Item *A. Update on 2008-09 Budget* be discussed after Staff Report item *E*. *Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Anita Sharpe, 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 item:

A. Personnel Action Reports

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

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Walter Childs, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed upon majority roll call vote of 8-to-1 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nay*** *– Deena Hayes.*

Staff Reports

Update on the First Day of School for Students

Dr. Eric Becoats, co-interim superintendent, presented to the board an update on the first day of school for students. On August 28, the student enrollment was 70,012. The enrollment projection of 72,000 is expected to be reached closer to Labor Day.

Every school in the district has been visited by a senior staff member and, for the first two days of school, senior staff met to talk about issues and concerns.

Within the first few days of school, 29,141 breakfast meals and 118,847 lunch meals were served.

There were 3,000 textbooks ordered that had not come in by the first day of school. However, the books had been delivered to Raleigh and were anticipated to be in schools later that week or early the next week.

Dr. Becoats talked about some challenges that occurred with bus routing, late pickups, etc. and stated that these types of issues are normal with a district as large as GCS. All issues are being addressed as quickly as possible. There were additional challenges with relaying information about severe weather on August 27. Staff will revisit emergency procedures to improve them and to do a better job of communicating with families on a more timely basis in the future.

Staff is continuing to review enrollment on a daily basis. The plan is to begin adjustments after Labor Day once enrollment begins to stabilize. The goal is to make the least number of moves as possible to avoid disruption in the classrooms.

Construction Update

Andy LaRowe, executive director of facilities, presented to the board an update on the district's construction projects in conjunction with the first day of school and an update on the progress of the 2008 bond projects.

- Gibsonville Elementary School - Acoustical ceilings in classrooms are all in
- Guilford Elementary School - New handicap ramp and canopy has been installed
- Northern High School - Football stadium and concession stand will be ready for first home game on August 29; remaining technology issues for several classrooms will be completed by end of September
- Parkview Elementary School - Project is completed
- Pleasant Garden Elementary School - Project is completed; additional work beginning in the vacated dining and kitchen areas to be completed by year end
- Smith High School – Gymnasium air conditioning work has been completed, marking the first completed 2008 bond project
- Southeast High School - Paving completed for enlarged student parking lot, and arrangements have been made to serve food from the auditorium through November
- Southwest High School - Technology lab has been completed
- Washington Elementary Montessori Magnet School - Project has been completed

2008 Bond Program

- Eastern Guilford High School - Work is progressing on interior of building including framing, sheetrock installation, door and window frame installation, electrical rough-in, and fire alarm control boxes. Duke Power has installed student parking lot lighting. The plan is to move into the new building in spring of 2009
- Special Ed West - Project team continues to meet with architect, and staff is evaluating potential sites
- Jamestown Middle School – Staff is bringing contract for pre-construction services for board approval at August 28 meeting; phase 1 site development should bid in the fall and work could begin before year end
- Smith High School HVAC – Project is completed

Other Projects

- Union Hill Elementary – Received building permit on August 11, 2008. All rough grading is complete, most concrete footings have been poured, underground sanitary sewer lines are being installed and road widening on Central Avenue is underway
- Dean B. Pruette Scale Center – Work is progressing well. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work are underway, elevator foundation completed and steel being set, fire sprinkler system being installed
- Northeast High School - Installation of tennis courts is underway

Architectural Selection Committee Update

Andy LaRowe, executive director of facilities, presented to the board an update based on the discussions at the Architectural Selection Committee's meeting on Tuesday, August 26.

Staff requested and received proposals for architectural and engineering firms in conjunction with the passage of the 2008 School Construction Bond. The Facilities staff has reviewed qualifications from 50 proposals and submitted their recommendations to the Architectural Selection Committee. Recommendations were made for firms to provide design services on six of the 2008 bond projects with respect to the board's order of priority. The six projects include:

- Ragsdale High School
- Southeast High School
- Alamance Elementary School
- Summerfield Elementary School
- Southwest High School
- Southeast Middle School

The committee selected 10 firms to be scheduled for presentations on specific projects. Interviews will be held in early October. Facilities staff is preparing additional recommendations of architectural firms for additional 2008 bond projects to be brought to the Architectural Selection Committee within the coming weeks.

Also discussed at the committee meeting was an existing contract at Ragsdale High with the Adams Group. That 2005 contract dealt with a limited scope, primarily master planning on the

campus. For the most part, that contract was completed. In order to proceed with the project, the committee agreed to complete that contract out by giving the contractor 30 days notice, as required.

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to give 30-day notice of termination of contract to the Adams Group for their design services on Ragsdale High. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Contractual Agreement with New Atlantic Contracting for Pre-Construction Services at Jamestown Middle School

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board a recommendation to award a contract to New Atlantic Contracting for Pre-Construction services at Jamestown Middle School in the amount of $130,000. New Atlantic Services was one of four firms approved by the Architectural Selection Committee and previously presented to the board to provide CM at Risk Services for the Jamestown Middle School project. Board approval is now requested for New Atlantic Contracting to provide pre-construction services to the Jamestown Middle School project in exchange for the lump sum payment of $130,000.

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to award a contract to New Atlantic Company for pre-construction services at the Jamestown Middle School project in the amount of $130,000. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Garth Hébert, to discuss the Pre-Kindergarten Report at this time followed by Update on 2008-09 Budget. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Alan Duncan arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Pre-Kindergarten Report

Dr. Gongshu Zhang, chief accountability and research officer, presented to the board a report on the district's pre-kindergarten program.

Update on 2008-09 Budget

Sharon Ozment, co-interim superintendent, led the board in a continued discussion regarding the 2008-09 budget.

She reviewed the proposal to address the shortfall of $1,991,275 which was presented at the August 12, 2008 board meeting as well as an alternate proposal dated August 28, 2008.

8/12/08 Proposal:

Shortfall based on final/adopted local and state budgets		($1,991,275)
Additional funding issues per final state budget:		
Transportation – fuel funding deficit	($182,759)	
NC WISE – implementation costs	($253,375)	
Subtotal		($2,427,409)
Proposed budget reductions/adjustments:		
Testing Coordinators at Middle Schools	$721,632	($1,705,777)
Reading Teachers at High Schools	$731,575	($974,202)
2008-09 Red Light Camera Money	$612,225	($361,977)
READ 180 at Smith High School	$115,625	($246,352)
TeachScape/Assistant Principals Academy	$152,025	($94,327)
Revise Fines and Forfeitures Revenue Estimate	$94,327	$0

8/28/08 Proposal:

Shortfall based on final/adopted local and state budgets		($1,991,275)
Additional funding issues per final state budget:		
Transportation – fuel funding deficit	($182,759)	
NC WISE – implementation costs	($253,375)	
Subtotal		($2,427,409)
Proposed budget reductions/adjustments:		
Weighted Student Formula $	$1,109,327	($1,318,082)
Reading Teachers at High Schools	$731,575	($586,507)
2008-09 Red Light Camera Money	$224,530	($361,977)
READ 180 at Smith High School	$115,625	($246,352)
TeachScape/Assistant Principals Academy	$152,025	($94,327)
Revise Fines and Forfeitures Revenue Estimate	$94,327	$0

The last three items in both proposals remain the same (Read 180 at Smith High School, TeachScape/Assistant Principals Academy, Revise Fines and Forfeitures Revenue Estimate). The variance occurs in the top three items as follows:

Weighted Student Formula (WSF) $ *(the 2008-09 budget included $11.7 million in WSF dollars. Schools have been allotted 75 percent, or approximately $8.8 million, of these dollars, leaving 25 percent, or approximately $2.9 million, to be allotted based on actual 10th day enrollment numbers versus projected enrollment numbers used for budgeting purposes. This recommendation would utilize $1.1 million of the remaining $2.9 million to offset state and local funding shortfalls. This would reduce funding to schools by approximately $15.31 per pupil. This would negatively impact schools as principals built their budgets predicated upon receipt of the remaining 25 percent, or $2.9 million, less any adjustments based on actual 10th day versus projected enrollment numbers.)*

Reading Teachers at High Schools *(use of state DSSF [Disadvantaged Students Supplemental Funding] dollars to fund 15 high school reading teacher positions. Given funding source, positions will be allotted based on numbers of Level I and II students versus a*

set allotment of one position per high school. Given time of year positions will be filled, staff will explore possibility of filling positions with retired teachers versus new hires.)

<u>2008-09 Red Light Camera Money</u> *(use of $224,530 of the 2008-09 Red Light Camera money to fund the one-time start-up expenses associated with imaging of human resource records. Per October 14, 2005 agreement, GCS received check #199683, dated July 17, 2008, from the City of Greensboro in the amount of $612,225.)*

Staff's recommendation is to continue to favor the recommendations presented on August 12 with the following two modifications:

- Reading Teachers at High Schools - While this was included as a reduction in the proposal of August 12, staff recommends including the proposal as it is in the August 28 recommendation, funded with DSSF dollars.

- 2008-09 Red Light Camera Money - Looking at the Red Light Camera dollars in total, knowing that staff has specifically identified $224,530 in one-time expenses associated with human resources document imaging, the task would be to identify approximately $387,000 in additional one-time or non-recurring expenses for the 2009-10 budget cycle.

Motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Kris Cooke to accept the August 12 2008-09 budget proposal with modifications as presented by Co-Interim Superintendent Sharon Ozment. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 8-to-2 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Walter Childs, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Amos Quick and Anita Sharpe;* ***Nays*** *– Garth Hébert and Nancy Routh.*

Ms. Ozment stated that the capital outlay budget with itemization of all projects will be brought to the board for approval at a later meeting. She requested that the board give approval at this time to proceed with the per-pupil allotments of $16.74 for elementary, $19.96 for middle and $22.38 for high so that schools can begin accessing those funds.

Motion was made by Jeff Belton, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to authorize staff to proceed using the following per pupil allotments: $16.74 for elementary, $19.96 for middle and $22.38 for high. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Board Discussion

North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) Annual Conference Delegates and Confirmation of Attendance at the NCSBA District 5 Meeting

Chairman Duncan led a discussion of North Carolina School Boards Association delegates. NCSBA will hold its annual conference on November 10-12, 2008 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. The Guilford County Board of Education is eligible to have four board members serve as voting delegates at the conference. Board members will check their calendars and notify Chairman Duncan regarding their ability to serve as delegates.

Also, Chairman Duncan discussed with the board the NCSBA District 5 meeting on September 17, 2008 at Highland Elementary in Burlington, North Carolina. He stated that the board will be represented at that meeting.

Reports from the Chairman

Chairman Duncan discussed the upcoming Board of Education Fall Retreat scheduled for the weekend of September 20, 2008. He asked board members to think about the items they want included on the agenda and to send them to him by September 11.

Closed Session

At 9:08 p.m., *motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Kris Cooke, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney client privilege, to give advice to our staff and attorneys regarding the price or other material term to be included in a proposed contract for the purchase of real property and to discuss that lawsuit encaptioned "The Guilford County Board of Education v. Skanska USA Building Inc. and American Home Assurance Company" and to discuss lawsuits of the Guilford County Board of Education. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

The board returned to open session at 9:26 p.m.

Attorney Jill Wilson, on behalf of the board, announced a resolution of the lawsuits of the Guilford County Board of Education against TFF, Boney and Herman Fox. The matter has been resolved with a payment to the Guilford County Board of Education in the amount of $1,973,000. It should be noted that there were other in-kind services (engineering services and other construction additions) that were also part of contributions by those companies.

Board Comments

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

Closed Session

At 9:37 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 give advice to our staff and attorneys regarding the price or other material term to be included in a proposed contract for the purchase of real property. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

The board returned to open session at 10:34 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business, at 10:35 p.m., *motion was made by Anita Sharpe, seconded by Kris Cooke, to adjourn the meeting*. *The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*