

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

**Thursday, September 24, 2009**

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton (arrived 6:32 p.m.), Kris Cooke, Carlvena Foster (arrived 6:20 p.m.), Paul Daniels, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert (arrived 6:35 p.m.), Amos Quick (arrived 6:21 p.m.), Nancy Routh. Board member was absent. Also present were Superintendent Maurice Green and Attorney Jill Wilson.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Board member Nancy Routh led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

**Moment of Remembrance and Silence**

Chairman Duncan led the board in a moment of remembrance and silence of honor of those students who tragically lost their lives this school year: Nigel Battle, Gillespie Park Elementary; Keyonna Robertson, Erwin Montessori; and Lamar Tolbert, Gateway Education Center.

**Recognitions**

**GCS Receives 2009 Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Great Start Award**

The board recognized the district as a recipient of the 2009 Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Great Start Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The district received the award for its commitment to improving student health. Recently, the GCS Facilities Department formed an indoor air quality team that will be leading the district's efforts in identifying, correcting and preventing indoor air quality problems.

During the 2009-10 school year, the team will work to implement EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools program, a comprehensive resource that helps districts maintain a healthy environment in school buildings. Additionally, the team is developing a written indoor air quality management plan that will capture best practices for handling air quality issues.

The EPA gives the Great Start Award to school districts every year for committing to improve the indoor air quality in schools and protecting the health and safety of students and staff. As an award recipient, GCS will receive a "Commitment to School Health" certificate signed by an EPA official; recognition on EPA's Web site; access to topical web conference calls, training, events and recognition/mentoring opportunities; and regular e-mail updates aimed at advancing the district's indoor air quality program. Board member Darlene Garrett presented Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, with a Certificate of Recognition.

**Public Comments**

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

Tijuana Hayes, 6 Pyruess Court, Greensboro, NC 27401

Andrew Corbin, 4460-2D River Burch Lane, Greensboro, NC 27409

Jessi Rice

Bill Stephens, 5109 West Wendover Avenue, Jamestown, NC 27282

Linda Mozell, 4701 Whitby Place, Greensboro, NC 27406

Leon Mozell, 4701 Whitby Place, Greensboro, NC 27406

Kim Norosed, 4212 Stonehenge Road, Greensboro, NC 27406

Thomas McKinney, 4207 Hunting Meadow Road, Greensboro, NC 27406  
Tim Hopkins, 402 East Lake Drive, Greensboro, NC 27401  
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 Amos Quick, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

### **Consent Agenda**

Superintendent Maurice Green presented the following consent agenda items:

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

The minutes of the August 11 and August 27 regular meetings were presented for approval.

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

The consent agenda included personnel actions as noted in the monthly personnel action report requiring board approval.

#### **C. Approval of North Carolina A&T State University – NASA Grant**

The consent agenda included a recommendation to authorize staff to submit a notice of intent for the NASA K-12 Grant. Select Central Region schools, in conjunction with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, will apply to participate in a NASA K-12 grant. The title of the proposed project is "Enhancing Earth System Science & STEM Education in High Schools." The total amount of funding requested for the project as a whole is \$750,000 to \$1,500,000 over a two-year period.

#### **D. Agreement with State Employees' Credit Union to Construct Sidewalk at Oak Ridge Elementary School**

The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve the execution of the agreement with State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) affecting Oak Ridge Elementary School. As part of the site plan requirements for the construction of a State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) branch office at the southwest corner of Oak Ridge Road and Linville Road, the town of Oak Ridge and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) are requesting that the SECU, provide in addition to road improvements along Oak Ridge Road and Linville Road, certain sidewalk improvements, including a sidewalk segment along the north property line of the Oak Ridge Elementary School campus.

SECU has agreed to pay all costs associated with constructing the sidewalk on school property, which will be approximately 5 feet in width and 190 feet in length along Linville Road. This new sidewalk segment will then extend the school's existing sidewalk along Linville Road to the corner of Oak Ridge Road and Linville Road.

By allowing SECU to construct the sidewalk, GCS will satisfy all sidewalk requirements regarding the approved Oak Ridge Elementary School site plan. After the completion of the sidewalk construction by SECU, GCS would incorporate the new sidewalk segment in its repair and maintenance program, since it will be located on school property.

*Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Deena Hayes to approve the consent agenda and passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

At 6:54 p.m., *motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Amos Quick, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to discuss student matters protected by state and federal law, to discuss personnel matters protected by state law. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

The board returned to open session at 7:39 p.m.  
Kris Cooke and Amos Quick were absent when open session began.

## **Staff Reports**

### **A. Approval of Low Performing School Plans**

Dr. Beth Folger, chief academic officer, presented to the board a recommendation to approve the revised action plans to be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for the following schools designated as low performing: Fairview Elementary, Gillespie Park Elementary, Hampton Elementary, Montlieu Math and Science Academy, Oak Hill Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Hairston Middle, Andrews High, Dudley High and Eastern High. On August 27, 2009, the Board of Education received plans for action for each of the district's low-performing schools. According to the state's ABCs of Public Education, school districts must develop plans for improvement for all schools designated as low-performing. Low-performing schools are those that failed to meet their expected growth standards and have less than 50% of their students' scores at or above Achievement Level III.

In compliance with the ABCs of Public Education, the plans were placed on each school's Web site and a printed copy made available at the school for public comment, including personnel assigned to each school, and the parents or guardians of the students attending the schools. Based upon feedback received, the revised plans are presented to the board for approval to submit to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by September 25, 2009.

*Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Jeff Belton, to approve the revised action plans for the district's ten low performing schools for submission to the Department of Public Instruction. The motion passes by unanimous electronic vote of 9-0.*

### **B. Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program Update**

Dr. Barbara Zwadyk, chief curriculum and organizational development officer, and Robert White, director of college tech prep and career and technical education, presented to the board an update on the district's CTE program.

The mission of NC secondary Career and Technical Education is to empower all students to be successful citizens, workers and leaders in a global economy. In Guilford County, students have the opportunity to select from a wide range of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses to assist them in preparing for post secondary education and employment in technical careers.

#### CTE Courses and Enrollment

- 97 CTE courses are offered in grades 6-12
- 295 CTE teachers provide instruction
- 23,242 individual students were enrolled in CTE courses in 2008-09

#### CTE Funding Sources for 2008-09

- \$ 1,044,543 in federal CTE program improvement funds
- \$ 935,382 in state CTE program support funds
- \$17,776,067 in state month of employment for CTE teachers
- \$ 49,914 in local CTE funds

Funding for supplies and state-of-the art labs have allowed our students to reach an overall 72.7% proficiency on CTE end-of-course assessments. CTE courses provide the foundation for College Tech completion. College Tech Prep (CTP) is a course of study with required math, science, English, and Career/technical course sequences that provide every student with the opportunity for a focused course of study related to his/her career goal. College Tech Prep completers can meet college course requirements and have the multiple options of enrolling in a four-year college or university, a community college, or entering adult apprenticeship programs. This course of study prepares students to enter technical careers after completing two or four years of college study.

College Tech Prep completion also provides students with the eligibility to apply for the CTP Scholarship at Guilford Technical Community College. This fall, 288 College Tech Prep graduates were awarded the CTP Scholarship at GTCC. The four-year cohort graduation rate for 2007-2008 for the state of North Carolina was 70.3 percent and for Guilford County it was 79.7 percent. For North Carolina CTE completers the rate was 88.0 percent and for GCS CTE, it was 97.3 percent.

Amos Quick returned at 8:16 pm  
Kris Cooke returned at 8:25 pm

#### **C. Oak Ridge Elementary School Update**

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board an update regarding Oak Ridge Elementary. The facilities department holds weekly conference calls with Turner Building Science and Design, LLC and continues to work on developing protocols for work being done. The vinyl composition tile (VCT) is installed and testing of airflow is being conducted. The district received final protocols from Turner on work in the crawlspace, sheet rock, ceilings and flashing and roof repairs. It is estimated that it could take until the end of November to complete these projects. Protocols from Turner are still pending on other repairs and final cleaning. Some concerns have been shared from parents and school staff including staff finding materials that were stored during the move, help for teachers who monitor the bus hub at Northwest Middle daily, technology available at the Oak Ridge Military Academy site and the availability of library books.

#### **D. Construction Update**

Andy LaRowe, executive director of facilities and construction management, presented to the board an update on the district's 2008 construction projects at the following schools: Eastern Guilford High, Jamestown Middle, Ragsdale High/Autism Wing, Meredith Leigh Haynes-Bennie Lee Inman Education Center, Southeast Middle and High Schools, Alamance Elementary, Summerfield Elementary, Southwest High, Southeast Area Elementary/Autism Wing, Allen Middle, North Greensboro Area Elementary, Grimsley High, Airport Area High/Autism Wing, Northwest High and Middle, Allen Jay Middle, Dudley High, High Point Central High, McLeansville Elementary. Also included were heating and air conditioning projects and mobile classroom relocations. Union Hill is complete. The ribbon cutting will take place on September 25, 2009. Other projects included Southern Middle School's new movable partition wall, staging lighting and miscellaneous site improvements.

At the site for the Meredith Leigh Haynes – Bennie Lee Inman Education Center, the contractor has completed the first phase of site grading and has begun footing installation. The district is planning a groundbreaking ceremony for Sunday at 3 p.m. A rain date of October 18 at 4 p.m. has been reserved in the event that it is needed.

Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, shared with the board there is a need to submit an application for release of education lottery distribution. In the past, the board has received confirmation on what the amount Guilford County Schools would receive. The NC Association

of County Commissioners has published a document that reflects Guilford County Schools' portion as \$8,474,988 for the 2009-10 school year. The Guilford County Manager requested that GCS submit its application for the release of the education lottery distributions for approval. If the proceeds are not what has been published, Guilford County Schools would only be required to turn over what is received.

*Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Darlene Garrett to approve staff's recommendation for an application for the district's share of the lottery distribution to be signed by the board chair. The motion passes by unanimous electronic vote.*

#### **E. SAT Update**

Dr. Gongshu Zhang, chief accountability and research officer, presented to the board an update on SAT results.

- In 2009, GCS had the least number of students to take the SAT since 2003. This decrease mainly came from White students, while African American (AA) reached the highest percentage among SAT takers since 1999.
- In comparing 2009 to 2008, there are a few points difference. The total SAT score of Math & Reading & Writing (M&R&W) decreased, total score of Math & Reading (M&R) decreased, with math score decrease, critical reading slightly increased and writing decreased.
- The number of schools whose total mean scores of M&R&W exceeded NC and the nation, increased in 2009.
- Among ethnic groups White students' scores decreased mainly in math and writing, AA students' scores increased in math and reading, and decreased in writing.
- Among top 10% school class ranked students, GCS has outperformed NC and the nation for the recent six consecutive years. Among top 40% school class ranked students, GCS performed about the same as NC, which is below the nation.

Board discussion followed.

#### **Board Discussion**

##### **Law Enforcement Use of Tasers**

Chairman Duncan led the board in a discussion regarding the use of tasers by law enforcement. Tasers are now at the disposal of officers who are in our schools. The equipment they use is at the discretion of the division in which they are employed.

Board member Deena Hayes asked if it were possible for the board to establish a review panel/committee with subpoena power that would review some of the taser cases.

Board discussion followed.

*Motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Amos Quick, to ask the superintendent to direct staff to establish a review process for taser incidents. Ms. Hayes rescinded her motion and the board decided that the motion should be discussed at a later board meeting.*

### **Reports from the Superintendent**

There has been recent legislation which removed the requirement for computer skills and computer competency. The district has implemented processes for students to petition us for their certificates to be changed to diplomas.

### **Closed Session**

At 11:02 p.m., *motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to go into closed session to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to discuss personnel matters protected by state law, and to give advice and instruction to our agents and employees and attorneys with regard to a material term to be included in a proposed contract for the purchase of real property. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

At 12:09 p.m., the board returned to open session.

### **Reports from the Chairman**

The board completed its evaluation of the superintendent. Chairman Duncan read the following statement as a motion - *The Guilford County Board of Education met to discuss the evaluation of its superintendent, Maurice "Mo" Green. After discussion and review, the board's consensus on the performance of Mr. Green during his first full year was extremely positive. The board commended Mr. Green on his clearly articulated vision for the school system and the message of excellence that is echoed throughout our community. The strategic plan reflects the goals and values of the superintendent and the board and we look forward to watching the plan's implementation in the coming and future years. In the area of policy and governance, the board appreciates Mr. Green's command of these areas. He is gracefully prudent in his dealings with policy, legal matters, and interpersonal staff and board relations. In the area of community relations, the superintendent was a visible and approachable force in our school community in the past year dealing head on with often difficult issues in a poised and thoughtful way. He has begun building relationships and partnerships and we expect he will continue to reach out to even more areas of our community in the coming year. In the area of organizational management, Mr. Green has surrounded himself with capable and impressive people who have managed our financial and other resources well. Mr. Green has also managed the human resources of the district in an exemplary manner and his expectation that all people be treated with dignity and respect is reflected in the work of the human resources area. The area of curriculum and instruction is an area where Mr. Green has just begun to make headway in ways consistent with the strategic plan. In this area, the board appreciates Mr. Green's commitment that all children can and should expect and produce excellence and looks forward to seeing the strategies and methodologies the staff will incorporate to reach these goals. In the area of person integrity, ethics and professional bearing, Mr. Green is outstanding. He is a visionary, and an imaginary, he exhibits trust, honesty and fairness in his every dealing. He has professional courage even in the face of less than unanimous support. His leadership of the Guilford County Schools over the past year has been exemplary and we look forward to making even greater strides toward the vision and goal of excellence that we all have for all of our students in the coming years.*

*The motion was seconded by Deena Hayes and passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

*Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to extend the term of the superintendent's contract by one year. The vote passed by unanimous hand vote.*

### **Board Comments**

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

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, at 12:15 a.m., *motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Carlvena Foster, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*