GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Thursday, December 18, 2008

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton (arrived 6:15 p.m.), Kris Cooke, Carlvena Foster, Paul Daniels, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert (arrived 6:24 p.m.), Amos Quick, Nancy Routh. Also present were Superintendent Maurice Green and Attorney Jill Wilson.

Call to Order
Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
Board member Sandra Alexander led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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

Lucas Vobsky, 4108 Hope Valley Lane, Greensboro, NC 27401
Suzanne Plihcik, 2901 St. Regis Road, Greensboro, NC 27408
Margaret Arbuckle, 1100 Buckingham Road, Greensboro, NC 27408
Alex Goldstein, 801 Greenwood Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410
Rev. Cardes Brown, 1105 Willow Road, 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.

Chairman Duncan asked that Item H – Jamestown Middle School will be removed from the consent agenda and placed under staff reports.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Paul Daniels 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 October 30 Regular Meeting, November 13 Regular Meeting, November 18 Joint Meeting with Guilford County Board of Commissioners and November 19 Special Called Meeting were presented for approval.

B. Personnel Reports
The consent agenda includes personnel actions as noted in the monthly personnel action report requiring board approval.

C. 2008-09 Budget Amendments/Transfers Report
The consent agenda includes a recommendation to approve the State, Local, Federal, Capital Outlay and After-School Care Enrichment Services (ACES) budget amendments/transfers for 2008-09 school year as follow:

State Public School Fund Amendment #3 reflects:

- transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

Local Current Expense Fund Amendment #3 reflects:

- the receipt of:
  - Reimbursement for Ready Schools program at Peck Elementary for October 2008 ($326)
  - High Schools That Work reimbursement for site visits at Northern and Southern high schools ($4,500)
  - Funds from the Guilford County for Public Education Government (PEG) supplemental funding ($1,818)
  - Clearwire Wireless Broadband lease payments ($800)
- the transfers for school allotments and due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

Federal Grant Fund Amendment #3 reflects:

- the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

Capital Outlay Fund Amendment #3 reflects:

- the receipt of funds from North Carolina Department of Transportation for easement ($4,930)
- the transfer of available funds within the Eastern High School ($500,000) project from construction to furniture and equipment
- the transfer of available funds within the Northeast High School ($10,362) project from furniture and equipment to construction

After School Care Enrichment Services (ACES) Fund Amendment #3 reflects:

- the reflect transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Nancy Routh to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Item A passed upon majority roll-call vote of 8-2 as follows: ***Ayes*** *– Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett. Abstain – Sandra Alexander and Paul Daniels, with board member Paul Daniels approving the minutes of November 18 only for a majority roll-call vote of 9-1. Item B and C passed upon unanimous roll-call vote.*

Staff Reports

A. Restructuring Plan for Kirkman Park Elementary School

Dr. Beth Folger, chief curriculum and organizational development officer, and Gay Citty, instructional improvement officer, presented to the board a restructuring plan for Kirkman Park Elementary.

Staff recommended that Kirkman Park Spanish Immersion move to a school-within-a-school model beginning with the 2009-10 school year.

Motion was made by Carlvena Foster, seconded by Deena Hayes, to approve the recommendation of moving Kirkman Park to a school-within-a-school model. The motion passes by unanimous electronic vote.

B. Montessori Program Update

Dr. Beth Folger, chief curriculum and organizational development officer, and Sandra Culmer, instructional improvement officer, presented to the board an update on the district's Montessori program with the following recommendations:

1. All three schools (Triangle Lake, Erwin and Washington) will add new students through second grade and provide additional support to transition first and second grade students in to the Montessori learning environment. As approved by the Board of Education last year, Washington Montessori will serve all attendance zone students by also accepting new students in grades 3-5. The three schools will develop a transition plan using existing staff to assist in transitioning new students in first and second grade to Montessori expectations and practices. The schools will also explore the possibility of sharing a transition support position based on available funding.
2. Continue work initiated with the Department of Public Instruction, Office of School Readiness in exploring potential More at Four (MAF) funding for Montessori PreK seats beginning this current school year, 2008/2009.
3. Increase the number of Pre K seats at the three Montessori Schools. The additional seats will serve as potential feeders for the Montessori programs. As set forth in #2 above, the additional seats can also result in additional MAF funds that can help support and sustain Montessori education.
4. Pursue accreditation for Guilford County Schools to serve as a training site for training teachers in the Montessori educational methods and philosophy.

The board requested that, as a follow-up, staff provide clarification on the following items at the first meeting in January:

- Financial impact of recommendations;
- Financial impact of alternatives;
- Comparison of Montessori of traditional programs; and
- Comparison of Montessori to other magnet programs in the district.

Break taken at 7:48 pm
Meeting resumed at 8:15 pm

C. Approval of Proposed 2009-10 Academic Calendar

Lekan Oguntoyinbo, district relations officer, presented to the board a recommendation to approve the revised version of Option 2 for the 2009-10 academic calendar. Under this option, the November 3 workday would shift to Monday, January 4, 2010. The administration is also recommending this option because it designates Good Friday as a holiday. In Option 1, Easter Monday is a holiday. Further, the administration recommends that under this option, snow make-up days 6 and 7 (June 14 and 15) be switched with snow make-up days 8 and 9 (March 29 and 30). The vacations days on March 29 and 30 will remain in place; however, by moving two snow days to March, we will preserve instructional time prior to the state testing period.

Motion was made by Jeff Belton, seconded by Deena Hayes, to approve revised Option 2 calendar. The motion passes by majority electronic vote of 8-3.

D. Budget Reductions

Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, presented to the board information regarding budget reductions. The proposed budget reductions were presented at the work session on December 17, 2008. The presentation reflected suggested changes made during the work

session. Two dollar adjustments were made in line numbers 1 and 2. Travel will be at $3,000 and increased by $17,000 the reduction to legal fees. These were the only reductions made from the presentation made on December 17.

Motion was made by Garth Hebert, seconded by Darlene Garrett to pass the amendment with the stipulation that as funds become available, that are not in the budget currently, those funds be reinstated to weighted student funding and to the undesignated fund balance. The motion failed by vote of 2-9.

A substitute motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Carlvena Foster, to approve the budget reductions recommendation submitted with any necessary adjustment review for Kirkman Park and the Newcomers School. The motion passes by majority electronic vote of 10-1.

E. Bond Projects

Superintendent Green, Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer and Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board an update on bond projects passed in the most recent bond referendum in May 2008. Joe Hill from facilities, was present to address questions. If the county is unable to sell the $232M in bonds for Guilford County, the sheriff's department, GTCC and Guilford County Schools, could we use an amount lower than the $100M initially earmarked to be used in the first year and still move forward with our projects.

Mr. Bobadilla stated that his team took a cash flow evaluation approach to this issue moving forward with a minimal amount of $85M. Staff looked at projects that are currently under construction, land acquisition, design, pre-construction and construction. The reduced cash follow will cause us to lose some of the flexibility in completing our projects.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Jeff Belton, to move forward with the $85M in place for the district's bond projects. The motion passes by unanimous electronic vote.

F. Report on High Point Central High School

Monica Walker, diversity officer, presented to the board a report on potential hate crime at High Point Central High School. Also present were High Point Central High School principal Revonda Johnson and Beth Folger, chief academic officer. Ms. Walker informed the board of the timeline of events that took place on December 17, 2008.

Ms. Walker recommended that steps should be taken to have a procedure and a process to ensure all safety measures are in place. The diversity department has begun working on developing a process to better prepare the district to be able to respond to the questions the state department will ask when incidents such as this occur.

G. Construction Update

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board an update on the district's construction projects.

H. Contract to Purchase Replacement School Buses 2008-09

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board a recommendation to approval the authorization of appropriate staff member (s) to proceed with ordering 39 replacement buses at the cost of $3,150,654.30. The Department of Public Instruction will make three payments of $1,050,218.10 beginning this fiscal year, to SunTrust Inc. on behalf of GCS for the purchase of three 42-passenger school buses, equipped with wheelchair lifts and flat floors, and 36 72-passenger school buses. The replacement buses are the Thomas Built Buses C2 model. Jeff Harris was present to answer any questions.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Nancy Routh, to approve the contract to purchase replacement school buses. The motion passes by majority electronic vote of 9-2.

Board Discussion

Second Reading – Policy GBM, Assignment and Transfer - Licensed

Chairman Duncan called on board member Nancy Routh, convenor of the governance review committee, to lead the board in a discussion regarding the second reading of Policy GBM, Assignment and Transfer - Licensed. Peggy Thompson made was present to answer any questions.

Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Kris Cooke, to approve for second reading adopt Policy GBM, Assignment and Transfer – Licensed. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 9-2.

Reports from the Superintendent

No comments.

Reports from the Chairman

Chairman Duncan requested that board members inform him of their choices for board committee assignments as well as any item they would like to have discussed at the board retreat in January. Items for the retreat should be submitted to both Chairman Duncan and Superintendent Green.

Board Comments

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

Closed Session

At 10:41 pm, motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Alan Duncan to go into closed session to preserve the attorney client privilege and to discuss personnel matters protected by state law.

The board returned to open session at 10:56 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business, at 10:56 p.m., *motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to adjourn the meeting*. *The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*