

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

**Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Carlvena Foster, Paul Daniels, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert, Amos Quick (6:30 p.m.), Nancy Routh. Also present were Superintendent Maurice Green and Attorney Jill Wilson.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Board member Carlvena Foster led the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

**Recognitions**

**A. GCS Employee of the Month for March 2009**

The board recognized Elton Davenport, bus driver at Northern Elementary and Northern Middle, as the March 2009 Employee of the Month. Board member Darlene Garrett presented Mr. Davenport with a certificate of recognition. Mr. Davenport received a \$50 gift card from Sam's Club, which has generously partnered with GCS to support the employee recognition program.

**B. GCS Volunteer of the Month for March 2009**

The board recognized Franklin Bowman, volunteer at Reedy Fork Elementary, as the March 2009 Volunteer of the Month. Board member Sandra Alexander presented Mr. Bowman with a certificate of recognition. Mr. Bowman received a gift bag and a \$25 gift card from American Express. American Express recognizes the important role that volunteers play in our schools, and American Express has generously partnered with GCS to sponsor the volunteer recognition program.

**Public Comments**

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

Ralph Johnson, 2402 Bothwell Street, Greensboro, NC  
Tijuana Hayes, 6 Pyruss Court, Greensboro, NC  
Joe Stafford, 4604 Forest Village Drive, Greensboro, NC

**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 original Item A - Approval of Proposed 2009-10 Non-Traditional Calendars under Staff Reports be presented at the March 26, 2009 meeting and a new Item D – Calendar/Inclement Weather Make-up Days be added under Staff Reports to this agenda.

*Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Kris Cooke 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 January 21 special called meeting and February 10 regular meeting were presented for approval.

**B. Personnel Reports**

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

**C. Duke Energy Carolinas Right-of-Way Agreements, Jamestown Middle School**

The consent agenda included a recommendation that the board approve two Right-of-Way Agreements requested by Duke Energy Carolinas affecting the new Jamestown Middle School campus. Duke Energy Carolinas has requested that the Board approve two separate Right-of-Way Agreements, one for temporary service to the new Jamestown Middle construction trailer and the second for permanent service to the new school. The new Jamestown Middle is located off Hethwood Drive within the Town of Jamestown.

The temporary service agreement would affect a 30 foot strip for the installation and maintenance of overhead wiring to serve the new Jamestown Middle construction trailer. The requested right-of-way would have a width of 15 feet on each side of a centerline, and the location would be determined by the centerline of the electrical facilities to be installed.

The permanent service agreement would affect 30 and 20 foot strips for the installation and maintenance of overhead and underground wiring to serve the new Jamestown Middle. The requested rights-of-way would have widths of 15 and 10 feet on each side of a centerline, and their locations would be determined by the centerline of the electrical facilities to be installed.

**D. Capital Outlay Purchase of School Buses**

The consent agenda included a recommendation that the board approve financing the purchase of 10 passenger buses to continue to provide efficient and effective transportation services. At the August 14, 2007 meeting, the board approved a request to DPI Transportation Services for 10 school buses to be added to the GCS fleet to be used on a temporary basis, if it so chooses, to issue a purchase order for the purchase of 10 new school buses with 18 months.

The current state purchase contract for school buses is awarded to Thomas Built Buses for conventional school buses. This contract meets the school bus specifications as defined by the North Carolina School Bus Specifications Committee. This price per unit (71-72 passenger) is \$78,140.95 x 10 for a total of \$781,409.50 as specified in cost quotations by Carolina Thomas, LLC.

The option to finance these buses is available, whereas a preliminary proposal has been received from Daimler Financial Services for a three year period. Financing allows for the distribution of capital outlay dollars over this proposed period. The estimated financial cost breakdown for the purchase of 10 school buses as proposed by Daimler Financial Services is \$270,546.90 x 3 (payments for three years) for an estimated total cost of \$811,640.70.

*Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Jeff Belton to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote as follows:*

*Item A-C passed upon unanimous roll-call vote.*

*Item D passed upon majority roll-call vote of 9-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexandra, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster, and Paul Daniels – **Nays** – Garth Hebert.*

## Staff Reports

### A. Approval of Proposed 2009-10 Non-Traditional Calendars (*This item was removed from the agenda.*)

### B. Strategic Plan: Reorganization of Academic Services/Regionalization

Lewis Ferebee, instructional improvement officer on special assignment, Dr. Beth Folger, chief academic officer, and Superintendent Maurice Green presented to the board an update on the strategic plan: reorganization of academic services/regionalization. The strategic plan states that GCS will provide quality, timely and cost-effective support to schools by reorganizing the schools and district resources into geographic regions. GCS central office administrators will collaborate with regional superintendents to set outcomes and standards of consistency. Each region, including the Enrichment Region, will have support teams that provide direct and specific services to the schools and work with the communities in each region. The plan also states that GCS will provide additional district support to selected schools. GCS will establish an Enrichment Region to provide additional support and resources for our most impacted schools. This region will have a regional superintendent and corresponding team to provide supervision and support. The regional superintendent will report directly to the district superintendent and will have the authority to make non-traditional decisions based on the particular needs of the schools served.

In order to align district resources to support student achievement and to provide services closer to the school and community, Guilford County Schools is reorganizing academic services. In November, 2008, as part of the first phase of this reorganization, the Student Support Services and the Exceptional Children departments transitioned to the Academic Services Division, which allowed the departments to work in coordination to improve student achievement.

In July 2009, as part of phase two of this reorganization, the School Support Office and the Instructional Improvement Office will combine to improve responsiveness to parents and the community and decrease confusion about whom to call for various issues. This restructuring will provide schools with one contact person to assist in coaching, troubleshooting, and supervision.

Regionalization will provide the school and community with services that are differentiated, personalized and more efficient. This model will focus on improved customer service and increased community involvement for our schools, parents and community.

Four options were presented for dividing the district into geographical regions.

## Closed Session

*At 7:10 pm, motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Darlene Garrett to go into closed session to preserve the attorney client privilege to discuss personnel matters protected by state law. Motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.*

The board returned to open session at 8:54 p.m.

Chairman Duncan asked if the board would be willing to adjust the agenda and move Item D – Calendar/Inclement Weather Makeup Days before the Budget Update.

*Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Garth Hebert to amend the agenda to hear Item D – Calendar/Inclement Weather before the Budget Update. Motion passes upon unanimous voice vote.*

Board discussion regarding regionalization followed.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Carlvena Foster, to move forward with the superintendent's plan for regionalization. The motion was modified to include the proposed regions/geographical preference of the superintendent.

*A substitute motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Darlene Garrett to approve the regionalization plan and require the superintendent and staff to present the two strongest geographical recommendations to the board for approval. That motion passed by a majority electronic vote of 8-3 as follows: **Ayes** - Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Amos Quick, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** - Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes and Paul Daniels.*

Chairman Duncan expressed concern that the board should support the superintendent with the strategic plan and it is not necessary for the board to vote on each part of the plan as the superintendent has a right to incorporate a different organizational structure. The board should move forward with allowing the superintendent to manage the district as he sees deems appropriate.

*Motion was made by Alan Duncan, seconded by Kris Cook to accept and support the remainder of the strategic plan with a proviso for any budgetary items requiring board approval and to address any issues that need to be addressed. The motion passed by majority electronic vote of 10-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Garth Hebert.*

#### **C. Budget Update**

Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, presented to the board an update on the budget. Superintendent Green began the discussion by informing the board of what will be presented at the joint budget meeting with the county. The 2009-10 budget plan was developed with the request of the county commissioners in mind that there be a zero increase in the budget. The Governor will present her budget by mid-March and the North Carolina House and Senate budgets will follow the Governor's budget. GCS will use NC Department of Public Instructions 2009-2010 state planning allotment projected ADM number of 71,079 students for budget development purposes.

Strategic plan initiatives having 2009-10 launch dates and/or budget implications will be funded through redirections of existing dollars or outside funding. Due to the financial challenges and uncertainties that are impacting budget development, a portion of the schools' 2009-10 staffing allotments and Weighted Student Formula dollars. This strategy will help manage possible future state funding reductions.

#### **D. Calendar/Inclement Weather Make-up Days**

Superintendent Maurice Green and Attorney Jill Wilson led discussion on the inclement weather make-up days. For the 2008-09 school year, the board adopted a calendar that allowed specific days to be designated as make-up days. Attorney Wilson explained to the board that N.C.G.S. §115C-84.2(d) does not concretely answer how school days can be arranged as make up days beyond the school year.

Board discussion followed.

Motion was made by Garth Hebert, seconded by Kris Cooke, that GCS maintain the schedule as outlined by our current calendar. The motion fails by electronic vote of 4-7 as follows: **Ayes** – Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Sandra

*Alexander, Jeff Belton, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes and Carlvena Foster.*

A substitute motion was made by Paul Daniels to take the last three days of Spring Break in lieu of going past the June 10 deadline. The motion was withdrawn.

Chairman Duncan expressed his concern for parents who have made plans for Spring Break and the impact using those days will have on them. The issue that the board faces is what is in the best interest of our students.

A substitute motion was made by Paul Daniels to use April 4, April 25 and May 25 as makeup days. No second, motion dies.

*Motion was made by Alan Duncan, seconded by Sandra Alexander to use Spring Break April 17, 15 and 16 for makeup days as noticed on the calendar. The motion fails by electronic vote of 4-7 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick and Paul Daniels; **Nays** – Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett.*

*Motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Carlvena Foster to reconsider the previous motion to leave the calendar the way it was previously approved. The motion passes upon majority electronic vote of 9-2 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Alan Duncan and Amos Quick.*

*Motion was made by Garth Hebert, seconded by Kris Cooke that the board take no action and leave the calendar as it is presently. The motion passes by majority electronic vote of 8-3 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Sandra Alexander, Alan Duncan and Amos Quick.*

*Motion was made by Alan Duncan, seconded by Amos Quick to seek assistance by local legislators to introduce a bill allowing Guilford County Schools to have control over the academic calendar. The motion passes by majority electronic vote of 9-2 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Garth Hebert and Kris Cooke.*

A substitute motion was made by Paul Daniels to petition DPI to move the testing dates. No second, motion dies.

*Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Amos Quick to ask staff to reconsider the calendar for next year, taking into consideration the concerns with this year's calendar and adjust next year's calendar to include inclement weather days (Spring Break and another days) to occur before June 10. The motion passes by electronic vote of 7-4 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** - Sandra Alexander, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh and Kris Cooke.*

Staff will discuss procedures for the announcement for inclement weather and also make a determination as to whether or not staff has to report to work when classes are canceled for students. The governance committee will also look at our policy regarding staff attendance during inclement weather.

## **Board Discussion**

### **E. Second Reading – Policy KN, Registered Sex Offenders**

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 KN, Registered Sex Offenders.

*Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Jeff Belton, to approve for second reading Policy KN, Registered Sex Offenders. Motion passed by majority electronic vote of 8-3 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Alan Duncan, Amos Quick and Paul Daniels.*

**F. Second Reading – Policy JBCD, Registered Sex Offenders – Students**

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 JBCD, Registered Sex Offenders – Students.

*Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Jeff Belton, to approve for second reading Policy JBCD, Registered Sex Offenders- Students.*

*A substitute motion was made by Alan Duncan, seconded by Paul Daniels, to approve the policy with the change the order of recommendations of the committee so that the student can be on campus with additional supervision or in alternative placement with additional supervision instead of expulsion from the Guilford County Schools as the first choice. Motion passes by majority electronic vote of 8-3 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Alan Duncan, Amos Quick and Paul Daniels.*

**Reports from the Superintendent**

There was agenda item taken off related to schools that relate to non-traditional calendars. Staff wants to review a couple of items related to those items. The superintendent thanked the board for its vote of the strategic plan and the reorganization of academic services.

**Reports from the Chairman**

None

**Board Comments**

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

**Adjournment**

With no further business, at 11:12 p.m., *motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Amos Quick, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*