

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

**Thursday, March 26, 2009**

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Carlvena Foster, Paul Daniels, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Garth Hébert, Amos Quick, Nancy Routh. Also present were Superintendent Maurice Green and Attorney Arthur Bolick. Absent were board members Kris Cooke and Deena Hayes.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Board member Amos Quick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Remembrance and Silence**

Chairman Duncan led the board in a moment of remembrance and silence in honor of three students who tragically lost their lives this school year. Those students were Ambrosia Desena, a sophomore at Northwest High, Christian Hill, a sophomore at Southwest High, and Jason Williamson, a kindergartener at Vandalia Elementary School.

**Recognitions**

**A. 2009 Arts Educator of the Year and Finalists**

The board recognized the 2009 Arts Educator of the Year Lawrence "Andy" Mock, music specialist at Jefferson Elementary, and the two finalists Dena Adams, choral director at Northwest Middle, and Lisa Woods, art teacher at Weaver Academy. Board member Darlene Garrett presented each finalist with a certificate of recognition. Sandra Alexander presented a certificate of recognition to Andy Mock as the 2009 Arts Education Teacher of the Year.

**Public Comments**

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

Bob Iddings, 5171 Carlson Dairy Road, Summerfield, NC 27358  
Anthony Woodyard, 1202 Foxhaven Drive, Greensboro, NC 27455  
Blanca Marino, 3309 Creek Ridge Road, Greensboro, NC 27406  
Kim Spencer, 3821 West Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27407  
Michael Dearman 2309 Drive Kasarda Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406  
Stephanie Dearman, 2309 Kasarda Drive, Greensboro, NC 27406  
Michelle Thigpen, 615 Howard Street, 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.

*Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Carlvena Foster to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*

**Consent Agenda**

Superintendent Maurice Green presented the following consent agenda items:

**A. Personnel Action Reports**

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

**B. 2008-09 Budget Amendments/Transfers Report**

The consent agenda included a recommendation that the board approve the State, Local, Federal, Capital Outlay and After-School Care Enrichment Services (ACES) budget amendments/transfers for 2008-09 school year as follows:

*State Public School Fund Amendment #6* reflects:

- discretionary budget reductions as approved by the Board of Education on December 18, 2008:
  - Classroom Teachers (-\$918,893)
  - Non-Instructional Support Personnel (-\$271,739)
  - Instructional Support (-\$30,523)
  - Career and Technical Education-Months of Employment (-\$302,351)
  - Career and Technical Education-Program Support (-\$1,306)
  - Mentor Positions (-\$842)
  - Teacher Assistants (-\$200,740)
  - Academically/Intellectually Gifted (-\$4,653)
  - Transportation of Pupils (-\$28,605)
  - Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies and Equipment (-\$1,059,000)
  - At-Risk Student Services (-\$16,013)
- adjustments to align categorical allotment budgets with actual expenditures:
  - Non-Contributory Employee Benefits (\$4,044,897)
  - Compensation Bonus (\$232,670)
- the receipt of:
  - reimbursement for new teacher orientation *[All newly certified teachers (local and state) who have never taught before, or taught less than 6 months, are eligible for up to three extra days of employment for orientation and classroom preparation.]* (\$193,109)
  - substitute reimbursement for December 2008 (\$6,655)
  - School Technology Fund interest for November and December 2008 (\$10,045)
  - Children with Special Needs group home funding *[The Exceptional Division reimburses local boards of education for the educational cost of children with disabilities assigned to group homes, foster homes or similar facilities. These funds are based on the availability of state and federal funds.]* (\$235,437)
  - transportation allotment adjustment (\$89,534)
  - highway use tax refund (\$3,000)
- the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

*Local Current Expense Fund Amendment #6* reflects:

- the receipt of:
  - Balance of Teaching American History - Building Bridges Grant (\$48,480)
  - School Impact Grant reimbursement for December 2008 (\$9,350)
  - Donation to the Maintenance department for the custodial equipment repair technician to attend a training session (\$600)
  - Clearwire Wireless Broadband lease payments (\$800)
- the transfers for school allotments, site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

*Federal Grant Fund Amendment #6* reflects:

- the following adjustments due to receipt of initial versus planning allotments:

- Title I - Low Performing Schools (\$-2,610)
- Title II-B Math and Science Partnership (\$-28,181)
- the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

*Capital Outlay Fund Amendment #6 to:*

- allocate the Public School Building Capital Fund budget as approved by the Board of Education on September 23, 2008 (\$4,291,861)
- reflect the receipt of allotment from North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for installment payment for the lease/purchase of replacement school buses (\$77,611)
- allocate the balance of capital outlay budget as approved by the Board of Education on September 23, 2008
- the transfer of available funds within the Eastern High School project from construction to furniture and equipment (\$500,000) and technology (\$500,000)
- the transfer of available funds within the Parkview Elementary School project from construction to technology (\$25,000)
- the transfer of available funds within the Southeast High School project from construction to furniture and equipment (\$30,000)
- the transfer of available funds within the Union Hill Elementary School project from construction to furniture and equipment (\$200,000)
- reflect the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

*After-School Care Enrichment Services (ACES) Fund Amendment #6 reflects:*

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

**C. Randleman Dam Feeder Main Water Easement Request – Sumner Elementary School**

The consent agenda included a recommendation that the board accept compensation from the City of Greensboro in the amount of \$6,900 for the requested permanent utility easement affecting the Sumner Elementary School campus and approve the execution and delivery of an appropriate Deed of Easement prepared by GCS counsel to include the provisions outlined in the attachment.

*Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Sandra Alexander to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote. **Item A** passed upon majority roll-call vote of 6-3 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan, Paul Daniels and Carlvena Foster. **Nays** – Darlene Garrett, Amos Quick and Garth Hebert; **Item B** passed upon majority roll-call vote of 8-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Paul Daniels, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett. **Nays** – Garth Hebert; **Item C** passed by majority roll-call vote of 8-0-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett. **Abstain** – Alan Duncan.*

**Staff Reports**

**A. Construction Update**

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board an update on the 2008 bond projects at Jamestown Middle School and Eastern Guilford High School and other district projects at Pleasant Garden and Union Hill Elementary Schools and Southern Middle School.

**B. 2008 Bond Project/Program Management Support Services**

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board a recommendation that the board authorize staff to negotiate contracts with Arcadis G&M of North Carolina, Inc. to provide Project/Program Management Support Services for 2008 Bond Projects. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Project / Program Management Support Services was posted on July

1, 2008. Two addendums were posted on July 14, 2008. Addendum 1 extended the deadline for submissions from July 17, 2008 until July 24, 2008. Addendum 2 included responses to several questions related to the RFQ. A total of 12 proposals were received on July 24, 2008 from the following companies:

A Brown Construction Group - Summerfield, NC (MBE)  
Arcadis G&M of North Carolina, Inc. - Greensboro, NC  
Bovis Lend Lease - Charlotte, NC  
Bree and Associates - Durham, NC (MBE)  
FB Americas - Miami, FL  
Heery International - Raleigh, NC  
HiCaps - Greensboro, NC  
Hunter Roberts - Charlotte, NC  
Parsons - Charlotte, NC  
Samet Corp./Barton Malow - Greensboro, NC  
School Construction Management - Greensboro, NC  
Southern Management Group - Columbia, SC

After reviewing the qualifications for each of the firms, staff recommended moving forward with contract negotiations with Arcadis G&M of North Carolina, Inc. The cost of these services is included within the budget for each 2008 bond project.

*Motion was made by Alan Duncan, seconded by Nancy Routh, to authorize staff to negotiate contracts with Arcadis G&M of North Carolina, Inc. to provide project/program management services for 2008 bond projects. Staff will negotiate in the most businesslike manner to ensure the greatest possible value to the district and GCS will not eliminate the services of other firms when appropriate. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 6-3 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan and Paul Daniels; **Nays** – Carlvena Foster, Amos Quick and Darlene Garrett.*

*Break 8:17 pm*

*Resume 8:47 pm*

*Chairman Duncan did not return from break*

### **C. Proposed Changes for Newcomers School**

Dr. Beth Folger, chief academic officer, and Jake Henry, Newcomers School principal, presented to the board an overview of the proposed changes for the Newcomers School.

The Newcomers School currently begins the instructional day at 9:30 am and ends at 4:30 pm. The 4:30 pm dismissal time places many of them in a position where they must choose between attending school and working to help support their families. An earlier dismissal time would allow more afternoon and evening hours for the students to hold part-time jobs.

A more traditional schedule would also enable the school to use the transportation hub system which will result in lower transportation costs for Newcomers School. Therefore, beginning in the fall of 2009, the school recommends the instructional day begin at 8:00 am and end at 3:00 pm.

The current year-round calendar was initially proposed because it provides breaks in the school year for academic camps; however, the administration and staff believe a traditional calendar would best meet the needs of the students. Over the past two years, enrollment has increased in late August and throughout September. The year-round calendar has the

students starting the school year before that natural spike in enrollment, so many students miss as much as one month of instruction. This year, between July 23, 2008 (first day for year-round) and August 26, 2008 (first day for traditional) enrollment at Newcomers doubled. By September 15, 2009, enrollment nearly tripled.

Students only attend Newcomers for one year. Therefore, 27 students transitioned to their attendance zone school in January. This became challenging because the year-round semester ended December 18, whereas the semester ended January 27 for schools on a traditional calendar. Because of this gap (December 18 to January 27), students were kept at Newcomers School for an additional three weeks so they could start at their new school at a natural break. Not only did this create scheduling challenges, it was confusing for students and parents since second semester had already begun at Newcomers.

The school serves grades 3-12, and therefore, some families that have students in grades preK-2 at traditional schools are dealing with two school calendars. This can be confusing for families and results in absences on days when the year-round students are in session, but traditional schools are not.

Many high school students attending Newcomers have difficulty meeting graduation requirements. These students often arrive without transcripts from their home country and must enroll as 9th graders. With current graduation requirements, it is not possible for many of these students to complete the required number of credits before turning 21 years old. As a result, they age out of school (over 21) and are then classified as dropouts.

Even though students turning 21 while enrolled at Newcomers would remain counted towards the school's dropout numbers, Newcomers will have documentation and a plan for each student explaining the school's dropout numbers. To allow additional opportunities to meet graduation requirements, Newcomers will offer two core graduation courses during a 28-day summer school session (current School Improvement Plan includes a seat time waiver), attending 7 hours per day. Each course will offer students 100 seat hours (135 is the requirement for block). In order to provide additional opportunities to meet graduation requirements, Newcomers School must follow a traditional academic calendar.

*Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to approve the Newcomers School to operate on a traditional 180-day academic calendar with an instructional day from 8:00 am 3:00 pm and allow over-aged 9<sup>th</sup> graders the option to remain enrolled at the school for more than one year. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote of 8-0.*

#### **D. Proposed Opt-Out Schools**

Dr. Barbara Zwadyk, interim chief curriculum and organizational development officer, presented to the board a recommendation to approve an additional 10 Title I schools as opt-out options for the 2009-10 school year. Don Hare, Kelly Hales, title I, Doyle Craven, student placement, Donna Bell, Planning, Jeff Harris, Betty Anne Chandler also present to answer questions.

A committee consisting of representatives from student assignment, transportation, facilities, and federal programs developed proposed opt-out schools for 2009-10 NCLB sanctioned schools and alternate schools for magnet/year-round programs. Identification of the schools was guided with the best interest of all students in mind. Careful consideration was given to projected available capacity for 2009-10 without the relocation of mobile units and location

requirements for Exceptional Children. GCS currently has 25 Title I schools with opt-out options.

9:13 p.m. Chairman Duncan returns

The board will revisit this item on the April 7, 2009 agenda.

**E. Approval of Proposed 2009-10 Non-Traditional Calendars**

Nora Carr, chief of staff, and Lekan Oguntoyinbo, district relations officer, presented to the board a recommendation to approve the proposed 2009-10 non-traditional calendars.

The following 2009-10 non-traditional calendars were being submitted for approval:

- Extended Year - Brooks Global Studies and Johnson Street Global Studies
- Year-round - Hampton Leadership Academy, GCS Newcomers School\* and Oak Hill Elementary
- Middle Colleges and Academy - The Middle College at Bennett, The Middle College at NC A&T, The Academy at Smith, The Middle College at GTCC-High Point, The Middle College at GTCC-Greensboro and The Middle College at GTCC-Jamestown
- The Early College at Guilford
- Greensboro College Middle College
- Washington Montessori

The proposed 2009-10 non-traditional calendars were developed with input from each school's leadership team and/or staff and have met with approval from the district's transportation department. The Early College at Guilford and Greensboro College Middle College elected to have separate calendars in order to be more closely aligned with the calendars of both of their host colleges.

Schools listed below require calendar waivers that must be approved by both the Guilford County Board of Education and the North Carolina State Board of Education. In order to get the waivers on the state board's May meeting agenda, the waivers must be submitted by April 15. The state has extended the deadline for GCS past the original Nov. 1 due date referenced on the attached waiver forms.

- Brooks Global Studies
- Johnson Street Global Studies
- The Middle College at Bennett
- The Middle College at North Carolina A&T
- The Academy at Smith
- Greensboro College Middle College
- The Early College at Guilford
- Washington Montessori

*Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Carlvena Foster to approve the proposed 2009-2010 non-traditional calendars and calendar waivers as presented by staff. The motion was approved by unanimous electronic vote.*

**F. Revised 2009-10 Academic Calendar**

Nora Carr, chief of staff, Lekan Oguntoyinbo, district relations officer, Doyle Craven, director of

student assignment presented to the board a recommendation to approve the revised 2009-10 academic calendar.

Based on legal and policy issues that arose from the previously approved calendar, Option 1 was produced by administration with input from Mark Jewell, President of Guilford County Association of Educators, as a new option for the 2009-10 traditional calendar.

The administration recommends the revised calendar (option 1), in light of recent legal and policy issues, since it would allow the final school day for students to be June 10 in the event of missing up to seven days of school due to inclement weather. The administration also recommends giving members of the public an opportunity to comment on this option as well as option 2, which was approved by the Board of Education on December 18, 2008.

*Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Carlvena Foster, to approve the revised calendar - option 1, and allow members of the public 11 days to comment on this option as well as option 2. The motion passes by unanimous electronic vote of 9-0.*

#### **G. Strategic Plan: Regionalization (Geographic Regions)**

Lewis Ferebee, instructional improvement officer on special assignment, presented to the board an update on the strategic plan: regionalization/geographic regions. At its meeting on March 10, 2009, the board approved the second phase of the reorganization of academic services and regionalization of the district. Starting July 2009, as part of phase two, the district will decentralize into geographic regions to employ a regional service delivery model. This model will focus on more responsive customer service and increased community involvement for our schools, parents, and community. The board was presented with four options for geographic regions. Subsequently, staff was asked to resubmit two of the strongest options back to the board for approval at a later meeting.

Staff provided a copy of the four options for geographic regions presented at the Board of Education meeting on March 10, 2009. The attachment included the maps, school data and school assignments for the four options for dividing the district into geographic regions.

The administration recommended Options III and IV as the two strongest options for consideration for dividing the district into geographic regions. Given the goal of limiting the division of municipalities, Option I was not recommended for consideration since this option significantly divides the City of High Point. Option II was not recommended for consideration due to fact that Option II is not fully geographically contiguous.

Board discussion followed.

*Motion was made by Paul Daniels, seconded by Nancy Routh, to approve the geographic region for Option IV. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 8-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Paul Daniels, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Garth Hebert.*

#### **H. Budget Update**

Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, presented to the board an update on the budget. Highlights of the Governor's 2009-11 budget proposal include the following:

- Step salary increases for teachers, assistant principals and principals (\$1.4M)
- Freeze on longevity payments for all employees for 2009-10 and 2010-11

- Retiring employees are held harmless from the longevity freeze
- Bonus leave to employees who are not on the teacher salary schedule
- One year moratorium placed on ABC bonuses
- ABCs Accountability System to be restructured
- Local Education Agency Flexibility Reduction (\$7M)
- Non-Instructional Support Personnel (\$486K reduction)
- Central Office Administration (\$161K reduction)
- Textbooks (\$1.9M reduction – delay adoption of math textbooks for grades 6-12)
- Improving Student Accountability (\$2.3M reduction)
- School Resource Officer Allotment Adjustment (\$136K reduction)
- Staff Development (\$210K reduction)
- Finance Officer Staff Development (\$250 reduction)
- School Technology (\$4M reduction)

Senate Bill 287 includes the following increases in fringe benefit costs:

- 7.3% increase in employer's hospitalization insurance cost (\$466K)
- 5% increase in employer's contribution rate for retirement (\$383K)

Approximately \$22M is anticipated in reductions and redirections in our budget for the 2009-10 school year. Possible programs or initiatives that may be eliminated or scaled back include: SpringBoard, Talent Development Reform Model, Teachscape and the adoption of the Health Education textbook. Examples of positions that will be eliminated include: instructional improvement officers, school support officers and executive director and office support positions. These positions will be eliminated to support the reorganization of Academic Services/Regionalization. Board discussion followed.

A budget review session will be held on April 21, 2009 at 11:30 am. The public comments board budget meeting will be held on April 23, 2009.

## **Board Discussion**

### **Second Reading – Policy JCDB, Student Dress Code**

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 JCDB, Student Dress Code.

Board discussion followed. Chairman Duncan suggested that the governance committee review the procedure and consider adding a provision where schools will not change the proposed dress code more often than every three to four years.

*Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Sandra Alexander, to approve for second reading Policy JCDB, Student Dress Code. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 8-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Nancy Routh, Carlvena Foster, Alan Duncan, Paul Daniels and Darlene Garrett; **Nays** – Amos Quick.*

## **Reports from the Superintendent**

None

## **Reports from the Chairman**

None

## **Board Comments**

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

## **Closed Session**

*At 11:21 pm, motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Carlvena Foster 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 attorneys and staff regarding the price and other material term to be included in a proposed contract for the purchase of real property. Motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.*

The board returned to open session at 11:56 p.m.

*Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Nancy Routh that the board authorize the board chairman to exercise its options on property to be used for Jamestown Middle School, owned by Arnold and Loretta Hethcox (201 Arrowood Lane, 0.7789 acres, \$17,000 and 203 Arrowood Lane, 0.4625 acres, \$15,600), Larry and Brenda Craven (205 Arrowood Lane, 0.4625 acres, \$15,600) and Jerry W. and Deborah S. Steele (207 Arrowood Lane, 0.4625 acres, \$15,600), upon fulfillment of the following conditions: successful rezoning of the properties for use as a school and subject to seeking and obtaining the approval of the county commissioners of the prices to be paid for the real property pursuant to N.C.G.S. 115C-426(f). Motion passes by unanimous electronic vote.*

## **Adjournment**

With no further business, at 12:06 p.m., *motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Carlvena Foster, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*