

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

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Carlvena Foster (arrived 6:34 p.m.), Paul Daniels, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert (arrived 6:09 p.m.), Amos Quick (arrived 7:10 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 6:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

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

Recognitions

A. GCS Employee of the Month for April 2009

The board recognized Ma'Lisa Lee, teacher assistant at Gateway Education Center, as the April 2009 Employee of the Month. Board member Nancy Routh presented Ms. Lee with a certificate of recognition. Ms. Lee 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 April 2009

The board recognized Brian Alvstad, volunteer at Florence Elementary, as the April 2009 Volunteer of the Month. Board member Sandra Alexander presented Mr. Alvstad with a certificate of recognition. Mr. Alvstad also received a gift bag and \$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.

Mark Jewell, 210 E. Lindell Road, Greensboro, NC 27403
Anna Swing, 425 Hillcrest Drive, High Point, NC 27262
Dave Owens, 4100 Duffers Lane, Greensboro, NC 27407
Beth Perdue, 4104 Ballard Farm Road, Colfax, NC 27235
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 Deena Hayes 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. Personnel Reports

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

Regional Superintendents named were as follows:

Lewis Ferebee
Angelo Kidd
Phyllis Martin
John Modest
Terry Worrell

Executive Directors for each of the regions are as follows:

Sandy Culmer
John Eldridge
Darcy Kemp
Steve Oates
Tony Watlington

Others named:

Barbara Zwadyk, Chief Curriculum and Instruction Officer
Jocelyn Becoats, PreK-8 Curriculum Officer
Wanda LeGrand, High School Curriculum Officer
Lee Ann Segalla, Executive Director for Advanced Learning

The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consensus.

Staff Reports

A. 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. 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 these schools was guided with the best interest of all students. Careful consideration was given to projected available capacity for 2009-10 without the relocation of mobile units and location requirements for exceptional children. Doyle Craven, director of student assignment, Kelly Hale, director of Title I, and Donna Bell, director of planning, were present to address questions from the board.

Board discussion followed. Chairman Duncan suggested that the board consider putting this item out for public comment for a 21 day period. Board member Kris Cooke suggested that we market our schools and show that there are good things going on at each of our schools.

*Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Garth Hebert to approve an additional 10 Title I schools as opt-outs for the 2009-10 school year. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 8-2-1 as follows: **AYES** – Alan Duncan, Deena Hayes, Darlene Garrett, Nancy Routh, Sandra Alexander, Paul Daniels, Jeff Belton and Garth Hebert; **NAYS** – Kris Cooke and Carlvena Foster; **ABSTAIN** – Amos Quick.*

B. Revised 2009-10 Academic Calendar

Nora Carr, chief of staff, and Lekan Oguntoyinbo, district relations officer, presented to the board a recommendation to approve the revised 2009-10 academic calendar. At its March 26, 2009 meeting, the board approved Option 1 to be posted on the district website for an 11-day public comment period ending on April 6, 2009.

Motion was made by Paul Daniels to approve Option 1 revised with one modification which is to move the February 18 work day to January 4 and approve the calendar with that modification. There was no second. The motion dies.

*Motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Nancy Routh to approve the Option 1 revised 2009-10 academic calendar. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 6-5 as follows: **Ayes** – Nancy Routh, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes and Carlvena Foster; **Nays** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Garth Hebert, Kris Cooke and Darlene Garrett.*

Break 7:53 pm
Resume 8:24 pm

C. 2009-10 Superintendent's Budget Message and Budget Request

Superintendent Maurice Green and Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, presented to the board the superintendent's budget message and budget request. The proposed budget, uses the Governor's budget as a baseline and includes approximately \$21.8 million in cuts and redirections. The changes will help GCS meet an anticipated \$10.3 million reduction in state funding and pay for \$2.3 million in increased personnel costs driven by the Governor's proposed budget. The remaining \$9.2 million in cuts and redirections are being used to align the district's resources with the strategic plan launched in January and support major initiatives that are either currently underway or are scheduled to begin next school year.

The reductions also are needed to comply with the request of Guilford County Board of County Commissioners to present a flat budget in terms of local funding. Approximately \$11.8 million of the \$21.8 million in reductions and redirections in the proposed GCS budget come from central office; the remaining \$10 million are school-based. Central administration makes up approximately 20 percent of the budget while the other 80 percent is school-based.

The proposed budget calls for eliminating about 153 positions, including 63 from central office, primarily in the Academic Services division. The other 90 positions are school-based positions, primarily media assistants. The positions represent a savings of about \$8.7 million that can be used as cuts or redirections. The district hopes to minimize job losses through attrition. As part of the reorganization of Academic Services, GCS is adding 45 positions, including the regional office positions. The changes in Academic Services, including reductions in personnel and some expenses for contracted services, supplies and materials and mileage reimbursement, among others, yield a net savings of approximately \$1.2 million.

The district also proposes withholding about 50 percent or \$5.8 million of the schools' Weighted Student Formula (WSF) dollars as a potential budget cut. The discretionary WSF dollars are used by principals to purchase a variety of items, including classroom materials, software, professional development and some positions. GCS typically withholds about 25 percent of these funds each spring, releasing additional dollars later in the school year as state funding levels are finalized and student enrollments stabilize. The district anticipates some school-based positions may be impacted by the decision to withhold the WSF dollars. GCS will not know how many additional school-based positions may be affected until principals turn in their staffing workbooks later this month.

The proposed budget does not anticipate any increase in student enrollment, due to the economy and the impact of a new state law going into effect this fall that changes the cut-off date for new kindergarten students. GCS expects to see a temporary, one-year drop in kindergarten enrollment. North Carolina students must turn age five by August 31 in order to enroll in kindergarten this year. The previous cut-off date was October 16. Although GCS

anticipates little or no growth in student enrollment overall, this may vary school to school. GCS' projections for student enrollment align with the state's forecast for the district.

Student enrollment projections drive how many positions are allocated to schools. Schools may gain or lose staff positions depending on how much variance there is in student enrollment. GCS uses allotment formulas, such as student-teacher ratios, to determine staffing for schools. By taking a larger percentage of cuts from central administration, GCS officials were able to address the anticipated revenue shortfalls without making any changes to student-teacher ratios, which impact class size. In addition, GCS is using the same formulas as last year to allot staffing for counselors, social workers, assistant principals and teacher assistants. The budget does not take into account any stimulus funding the district may receive. GCS could receive some stabilization funds; and, according to the Council of Great City Schools, an additional \$33.4 million in stimulus dollars for Title I, exceptional children and educational technology, depending on how the state chooses to disburse the funds.

The district is hopeful that the stimulus dollars slated for GCS will provide some budget relief. A plan for using the stimulus dollars will be presented at a later school board meeting once staff has had the opportunity to review the rules and regulations more thoroughly, and once state and federal officials have clarified some contradictory directions. The school board will review and discuss the superintendent's recommendations during a work session that begins at 11:30 a.m. on April 21. The public hearing for the budget is scheduled during the school board's regularly scheduled meeting on April 23. The school board must adopt a proposed budget and present it to the county by May 15.

Closed Session

At 10:38 pm, motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Kris Cooke 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 10:59 p.m.

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.

Adjournment

With no further business, at 11:00 p.m., *motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Paul Daniels, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*