

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

Thursday, May 28, 2009

The Guilford County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 712 North Eugene Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Kris Cooke, Carlvena Foster (arrived 7:13 p.m.), Paul Daniels, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Garth Hébert (arrived 6:16 p.m.), Amos Quick (arrived 6:37 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 6:07 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board member Paul Daniels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Remembrance and Silence

Chairman Duncan led and a moment of silence in honoring the following students who passed away during the month of May: Long A, a student at Eastern High, Sara Wray, a student at Page High, John Vuong, a student at Sedgefield Elementary and Austin Cloninger, a student at Stokesdale Elementary.

Recognitions

A. GCS Alumnus Tony Griffey Honored for Two Grammys

The board recognized GCS alumnus, Tony Griffey, as a two-time Grammy winner and for his contributions to classical music. Mr. Griffey won two Grammy awards on February 8, 2009 for Best Classical Album and Best Opera Recording for his performance on the album, Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny, performing alongside Broadway stars Patti LuPone and Audra McDonald. Griffey, who grew up in High Point, attended Kirkman Park Elementary, Griffin Middle, Andrews High and High Point Central High where he graduated in 1985. Board member Sandra Alexander presented Mr. Griffey with a certificate of recognition.

B. GCS MWBE Coordinator Named HUB Coordinator of the Year

The board recognized Todd Baldwin, MWBE Coordinator for GCS, as a recipient of the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Coordinator of the Year by the United Minority Contractor of North Carolina in April 2009. Derrick Giles presented the award to Mr. Baldwin. Board member Deena Hayes presented Mr. Baldwin with a certificate of recognition.

Public Comments

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

Frank Carroll, 1389 Forsyth Road, Kernersville, NC 27284
Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Drive, Summerfield, NC 27358
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. Personnel action reports will be discussed in closed session and the vote will be presented in open session.

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

A substitute motion was made by Amos Quick, seconded by Garth Hebert, to go into closed session immediately following the consent agenda. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Consent Agenda

Superintendent Maurice Green presented the following consent agenda items:

A. Personnel Action Reports

The consent agenda included personnel actions and addendum 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 #8 reflects:

- the receipt of:
 - substitute reimbursement for January and February, 2009 (\$21,635)
 - School Technology Fund interest for February, 2009 (\$523)
 - Children with Special Needs group home funding [*The Exceptional Children 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.*] (\$125,514)
 - Transportation highway use tax refund (\$36,000)
- adjustments to align categorical allotment budgets with actual expenditures:
 - Non-Contributory Employee Benefits (\$774,537)
- the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

Local Current Expense Fund Amendment #8 reflects:

- the receipt of:
 - Reimbursement for Ready Schools program at Peck Elementary for February, 2009 (\$380)
 - Balance of 2008-09 Smart Start Grant (\$1,513,984)
 - High Schools That Work reimbursement for site visits at Southeast, Southwest and Western high schools and Weaver Academy (\$9,000)
 - School Impact Grant reimbursement for February, 2009 (\$12,144)
 - Microsoft North Carolina Class Action Settlement payment (\$675,938)
 - Wal-Mart Cultural Arts grant (\$1,000)
- the transfers for school allotments, site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

Federal Grant Fund Amendment #8 reflects:

- the following adjustments due to receipt of initial versus planning allotments:
 - Title III - Language Acquisition Grant (\$1,331)
 - ESEA Title I School Improvement (\$4,552)
- the receipt of:
 - IDEA VI-B Handicapped [*The Exceptional Children 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.*] (\$20,451)
- the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

Capital Outlay Fund Amendment #8 to:

- reflect 2007-08 regular capital outlay carryover (\$726,513)
- correct posting error on Amendment #6. Public School Building Capital Fund dollars were added to the budget a second time in error (-\$4,291,861)
- allocate 2008 Bond dollars within projects based on projected expenditures
- reflect the transfers due to site-based requests and year-to-date expenditures

After-School Care Enrichment Services (ACES) Fund Amendment #8 reflects:

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

C. Contract for Transportation – First Student, Inc.

The consent agenda included a recommendation to extend the contract with First Student, Inc. for the 2009-10 school year with a three percent rate increase for services provided. The original bid specifications included an option whereby, if agreeable with both parties, the contract entered into for the 2006-07 school year could be extended for up to four additional 12-month periods. This is the third renewal of this contract with First Student, Inc. First Student, Inc. has provided quality service during the past two years. They have fulfilled all requirements of the specifications for this service. The contract with First Student, Inc. contains an escalation clause which stipulates annual minimum and maximum pricing increase adjustments. The estimated total cost for these services for the 2009-10 school year (with the rate increase) is \$3,770,315.

D. NCDOT Three Party Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement Affecting the New Special Ed West Facility

The consent agenda included a recommendation to approve the execution and delivery of a North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Three Party Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement affecting the new Special Ed West Facility. To provide public water service to the new school, GCS will be required to construct a segment of what is expected to ultimately be a public water main. An 8" water main (PVC and DI) segment will run approximately 900 linear feet within the right-of-way of Arrowood Lane from Hethwood Drive to New School Drive. The remaining water main segment will be within the school property boundary.

Since a portion of the water main will lie within a state maintained road right-of-way area, NCDOT is requiring that Board of Education and the Town of Jamestown (which will maintain the water line within the road right-of-way area) execute a Three Party Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement for the water main portion lying within the right-of-way of Arrowood Lane between Hethwood Drive and New School Drive.

Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Darlene Garrett, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

*Item B passes by majority roll-call vote of 9-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Darlene Garrett, Deena Hayes, Amos Quick and Paul Daniels; **Nays** – Garth Hébert.*

*Item C passes by majority roll-call vote of 8-2 as follows: **Ayes** – Jeff Belton, Garth Hébert, Nancy Routh, Kris Cooke, Alan Duncan, Amos Quick, Darlene Garrett, and Deena Hayes; **Nays** – Sandra Alexander and Paul Daniels*

Item D passes upon unanimous roll-call vote.

At 7:11 p.m., motion was made by Deena Hayes, seconded by Darlene Garrett to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters protected by law. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The board returned to open session at 8:16 p.m.

Motion was made by Darlene Garrett, seconded by Deena Hayes to approve Item A the personnel action report of the consent agenda. Motion passes by unanimous electronic vote of 10-0.

Staff Reports

A. Academic Update: Assessment for Learning Pilot

Dr. Mack McCary, instructional improvement officer for education alliances, presented to the board an update regarding the assessment of a learning pilot supported by the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS). Available virtually were: Ester Coble, principal at The Middle College at Bennett, Eric Hines, The Middle College at NC A&T, Garriott Rose, The Academy at High Point Central and teachers, Justin Crompton, Business Technologies, The Academy at High Point Central High, Jacqueline Mingo, Business Technologies, Middle College at Bennett, students from The Academy at Central, Fatima Wall, Ric-Quanda Pollard, Shelly Burkhart.

Since November 2008, teachers and principals at nine schools have participated in an Assessment for Learning pilot supported by the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS). The purpose of the pilot is to promote the development and use of formative assessments and grading practices to diagnose student understanding, clarify NC Standard Course of Study objectives for students, differentiate tutoring and instruction, increase opportunities for students to receive formative feedback and improve mastery of standards as well as their grades, empower students to analyze and use assessments, and enable “singleton” (no one teaching the same course in their school) teachers to collaborate in a virtual professional learning community with a partner teaching the same course at another school.

Participating schools are:

- Andrews High
- Greensboro College Middle College
- GTCC Middle College – High Point
- Northern High
- Ragsdale High
- The Academy at Central
- The Academy at Smith
- The Middle College at Bennett
- The Middle College at NC A&T

Each of the participating schools has attended two half-day training and dissemination sessions.

Mack McCary led a demonstration that illustrated two developments with powerful implications for future learning.

1. A recorded archive of a collaborative Wimba classroom sharing session among three principals, Esther Coble (The Middle College at Bennett), Eric Hines (The Middle College at NC A&T) and Garriot Rose (The Academy at Central), who discussed progress in using Assessment for Learning practices, illustrating the feasibility of virtual

meetings. The three principals logged in using Wimba during the presentation to comment on their experience; and
2. A recorded archive of students teaching students using Wimba classroom. Students in Justin Crompton's Computer Applications II class at The Academy at Central have been teaching students in Jacqueline Mingo's Computer Applications I class at The Middle College at Bennett. Mr. Crompton and one of his students joined the meeting through Wimba to comment on their experience with this innovation.

The partnership with NCVPS has enabled principals and teachers at the nine pilot schools to begin exploring ways to collaborate in a virtual learning community that promotes Assessment for Learning practices. Also, the GCS Technology Services is now offering Moodle (a free courseware comparable to Blackboard) and Wimba Classroom applications and training to interested schools and departments.

B. Update on Oak Ridge Elementary School

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board an update regarding Oak Ridge Elementary School. Dr. Ward Robinson, medical director Guilford County Department of Public Health, and Angelo Kidd, western regional superintendent, were also present to provide information and answer questions. Facilities staff has worked with consultants, engineers, industrial hygienists, DPI, the health department and others to try and find a solution to the concerns.

The health department reported that they have been working with the district to help find the cause and a remedy for the school. They also advised the school on medical, fungal and environmental pollutants as there are many causes for respiratory systems and they are working diligently to find a solution. They have been in contact with Center for Disease Control.

Through the end of this school year, facilities and staff will clean all carpets with an antimicrobial solution. This summer facilities and staff will install VCT tile in all areas that have carpeting and all mechanical systems will be thoroughly cleaned and inspected. Also, air handlers and duct work will be inspected as well as a commissioning process for the HVAC system will take place

Staff members will also continue to monitor air calculations in each room of the school. The health department is developing a survey to collect medical information. The survey will help health officials understand the cause of the allergic and respiratory illnesses reported by students and staff at the school.

In order to keep parents, employees and community members informed and up-to-date on what is taking place at the school, a Web site has been created. The site will contain background information, report findings as well as links and resources.

Board discussion followed. An update will be given on this item until the issue is resolved.

Amos Quick leaves – 9:35 p.m.

C. Guilford Child Development Services, Inc. Request

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board a request from the Guilford Child Development Services, Inc. Robin Britt, Dr. Chris Payne and Lawrence Aikens were present on behalf of Guilford Child Development Services, Inc.

Guilford Child Development requested that the board of education donate Craven School property, pending the agency receiving \$2M in federal stimulus funds to make repairs to the building for a school readiness facility, which would include a Head Start program. After

Craven Elementary closed in 1986, United Child Development Services used the facility as a child development center from 1987 to 2004. Since then, the facility has been empty.

Board discussion followed.

The district's facilities staff will research options for the property and report those findings to the board at its next meeting.

*Break 10:43 pm
Resume 10:53 pm*

D. Construction Update

Andy LaRowe, director of facilities and construction management, presented to the board an update on the district's 2008 bond construction projects on the following schools: Eastern Guilford High, Jamestown Middle, Ragsdale High, Special Education Center West, Southeast Middle and High Schools, Alamance Elementary, Summerfield Elementary, Southwest High, Southeast Area Elementary, Allen Middle, North Greensboro Area Elementary, Grimsley High, Airport Area High, Northwest High and Middle, Allen Jay Middle, Dudley High, High Point Central High, McLeansville Elementary. Also included were heating and air conditioning and athletic facility projects. Other projects included Union Hill Elementary and Southern Middle School track.

E. City of Greensboro Request for a Permanent Drainage Easement and Temporary Construction Easement at 505 W. Sycamore Street

Leo Bobadilla, chief operations officer, presented to the board follow-up information regarding the City of Greensboro's request for a permanent drainage easement and temporary construction easement at 505 W. Sycamore Street. This item was previously brought to the Board of Education on May 12, 2009 where board members raised several questions and asked staff to work with the City of Greensboro (City) to provide clarification and to bring this back to a future Board meeting. A letter from the City of Greensboro Water Resources Department dated May 13, 2009 was presented which provided responses to the questions raised.

The District received a letter dated April 3, 2009 from the City offering to pay \$47,805 to purchase certain property rights on District property located at 505 W. Sycamore St., subject to approval by the City Council or their designated representative. This work is in conjunction with Guilford County's new jail construction project whereby the City plans to upgrade a portion of its existing downtown storm water drainage system. The City plans to add a 60" storm drain pipe proposes to acquire from the Board of Education a 30' permanent drainage easement and a temporary construction easement. An easement currently divides the property, and this additional easement would partially overlap and generally run parallel to the existing easement.

The City agreed to restore any areas that are disturbed by construction or other activities related to this request at its sole expense. In addition, this property mainly serves as a parking lot for the YMCA under a Shared Use Agreement with the District, and the City also agreed to coordinate this work with the YMCA and the District and to provide any necessary temporary parking for authorized users.

The City informed GCS that they plan to phase this work in order to ensure that roughly one-half of the width of the overall paved parking area will always be useable for vehicular traffic by YMCA members and other authorized users. The City also communicated that they anticipate the construction period for each phase should not exceed two weeks, and the City

also anticipates that construction can commence not later than August 1, 2009 and can be completed by September 1, 2009.

*Motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Jeff Belton, to approve the City of Greensboro's request for a permanent drainage easement and temporary construction easement at 505 W. Sycamore Street. The motion passed upon majority electronic vote of 9-0-1 as follows: **Ayes** – Sandra Alexander, Jeff Belton, Nancy Routh, Garth Hebert, Kris Cooke, Paul Daniels, Deena Hayes, Carlvena Foster and Darlene Garrett; **Abstain** – Alan Duncan.*

F. High School Behavior Improvement Teacher Positions Follow-up Information

Dr. John Morris, chief student services officer, presented to the board information regarding high school behavior improvement teacher positions. This information was a follow-up to the February 10, 2009 board meeting where staff presented a report to the board with respect to how the Behavior Modification Technician positions were being used in the 15 traditional high schools. A spreadsheet outlining additional information requested by the board was presented.

G. Budget Update

Sharon Ozment, chief financial officer, presented to the board a budget update. In April, the governor increased the required reversion for public schools from \$159M to \$200M. This reduction is in addition to the \$58M previously required of school districts. The remaining \$101M of the required reversion is expected to come from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and other State Public School Fund reversions.

The state authorized emergency funding flexibility to allow local education agencies to move funds from other allotted categories in the State Public School Fund to Non-Instructional Support. GCS' share of the current \$41M reversion is \$2,003,718.

Staff recommended using \$541,645.42 in local dollars and \$1,462,072.58 in transfers from various state allotment categories as allowed per the emergency funding flexibility authorized by the State Board of Education to address the required reversion of \$2,003,718 in state funds. In order to maximize the authorized state funding flexibility, the administration also requests the flexibility to adjust these amounts based on the fund balance projections as of the end of May and report any changes in the amounts listed above to the Board of Education at the June 9, 2009 meeting.

Motion was made by Nancy Routh, seconded by Sandra Alexander, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed upon unanimous electronic vote.

Ms. Ozment also reviewed responses to budget questions raised during the continued 2009-10 budget discussion on May 12, 2009. She presented the board with a comparison of the governor's budget, senate budget and current house committee proposal.

Reports from the Superintendent

None

Reports from the Chairman

County commissioners asked for a hold the line budget which is what we presented. The cuts that are being taking place are coming from the state. Revenue raising issues are difficult but we should not settle for the proposition when advocating for our children that there is no revenue generating approaches that can be taken.

Jeff Belton leaves 1:30 p.m.

Board Comments

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

Closed Session

At 12:19 pm, 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 staff and attorney with regards to the terms 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 1:38 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business, at 1:38 p.m., *motion was made by Kris Cooke, seconded by Carlvena Foster, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.*