

Charlotte, North Carolina
June 8, 1999

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on June 8, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Center.

PRESENT: Arthur Griffin, Jr., chairperson, presiding;
John W. Lassiter; Vilma D. Leake;
Jim Puckett; Molly Griffin;
Lindalyn Kakadelis; and Louise Woods

ABSENT: Dr. Rembert and Mr. Dunlap were absent.

Also present at the request of the Board were Eric J. Smith, Superintendent; members of the Executive Staff; James L. Clark, Special Assistant to the Superintendent and Liaison to the Board; and Rhonda R. Duewel, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION BY SOUTH MECKLENBURG HIGH SCHOOL ON *NFL CONFERENCE 2002*

Mr. Lassiter introduced James Chancey, High School Curriculum Coordinator, and Barbara Miller, South Mecklenburg High School NFL sponsor, who announced that South Mecklenburg High and Quail Hollow Middle School will host *The Queen City NFL National Speech and Debate Tournament* which will be held June 16-20, 2002. Approximately, three thousand students from all over the United States and from Alaska to Guam will be participating. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools have eleven fully accredited and affiliated NFL chapters with one thousand students participating yearly.

Mr. Chancey commented that the awarding of the *NFL Conference 2002* and the *National Association of Student Councils' Annual Conference 2000* recognizes the efforts of students and the City of Charlotte as an "up and coming academic centers in the United States with high academic

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MINUTES APPROVED

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achievement.” Student Larisa Yasinovskya and recent graduate Eric Sweeney explained that past NFL members included former presidents, screenstars, politicians, lawyers, doctors and other successful people who participated in various oratorical competitions. She said that South Mecklenburg High was pleased with the award to host the conference because it provides students with the opportunity to “show off the school district and assume a real leadership role in an organization famous for its support of academic excellence.”

PRESENTATION BY PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL ON THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2001

Barbara Nichols, Student Council Sponsor, announced that Providence High School will host the 65th Annual Conference of the *National Association of Student Councils*. Twenty-five hundred student leaders and advisers from the fifty states as well as delegations from Puerto Rico, Guam, Canada, and Australia will be visiting Charlotte June 27 through July 1, 2001, for this conference. Student leaders will be hosted by five hundred Charlotte families who have opened their homes for this event.

Rising juniors Katie Rainwater and Ashley Kiczle highlighted the focus of the conference, “leadership odyssey,” which will promote and build future leadership through networking, seminars and workshops. Guest speakers considered for the 2001 Conference may be former President Jimmy Carter, potential presidential candidate Elizabeth Dole and NBA champion player Michael Jordan. The theme of the conference will be “A Leadership Odyssey: New Centuries and New Challenges.” A team of 16 rising juniors from Providence High are planning the event with the assistance of other Council members from across the state of North Carolina. Among activities scheduled for the event will be the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in Charlotte with the assistance of student council presidents from each state. Other delegates will be sent to other areas in the community for service projects. A business portfolio was offered to the Board who presented a plaque honoring efforts of achievement.

Dr. Smith commented that the challenge and commitment of a school and the school system’s help in bringing a conference of this magnitude to Charlotte is a credit to Providence High School, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, and the entire community and region.

RECOGNITION OF EASTWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION’S PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Ms. Woods announced that Eastway Middle School was awarded the *International Technology Education Association’s Program of Excellence Award*, presented at the ITEA’s annual convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana in March of this year. Cliff Crocker, Career Explorations teacher at Eastway Middle, accepted the award on behalf of the school. Eastway’s portfolio was reviewed and endorsed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and forwarded to the *Program of Excellence* Committee for final approval. Criteria included facilities, program, philosophy, funding, teacher participation at the local, state and national levels, and teacher inservice credits. The Committee made two awards per state, one for the middle schools and one for the high schools. Ms. Woods commented that only one middle school was chosen nationwide for the Award.

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Eastway's program is Exploring Technology Systems, and was developed to provide students not only with basic technology skills, but also knowledge and understanding about what technology is and how it affects people and the environment. The technology lab is a "hands-on" counterpart to academic classes where students are encouraged to apply all the skills learned in all other classes.

RECOGNITION OF TOP ACHIEVEMENT ON THE SAT

Jim Puckett recognized John Mehta and Mark Krasniewski, seniors at Myers Park High School, who made perfect scores on SAT II subject tests. Mark Krasniewski scored a perfect 800 on the Math Level 2 subject test on the SAT II and also scored a perfect 800 on the Math portion of the SAT I. Myers Park Class Valedictorian, Mark will attend Duke University majoring in electrical engineering. Mr. Puckett said that John Mehta scored a perfect 800 on the Writing Subject test on the SAT II and has accepted a scholarship at Cornell University where he will study architecture.

RECOGNITION OF CORINNE ALLEN

Ms. Griffin recognized Corinne Allen, outgoing Executive Director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Education Foundation, and said that for seven year Corinne Allen has served with distinction to bring about positive changes in the community. As a result of her untiring efforts, Charlotte has a new awareness of the needs of students, teachers and families. To use her own words, Ms. Allen has clearly turned "random acts of kindness and stampedes of good intentions" into visionary and focused leadership for the children of this community and for our public schools. Ms. Griffin presented a plaque and gave special thanks to Ms. Allen for her commitment to children and the community.

Ms. Allen acknowledged the vision and leadership of the Board of Education and the Superintendent. She said, "We have the best Superintendent in the country here in Charlotte and we need to do everything we can do to keep Dr. Smith in this community." Ms. Allen said Charlotte needs to increase the support of public education and improve the quality of public education.

RECOGNITION OF MARGARET CARNES

Arthur Griffin recognized Margaret Carnes, outgoing President of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg PTA Executive Council for her outstanding leadership, time, commitment and support to enhance and promote educational opportunities for all children. He said, "Your energy and enthusiasm help us to understand and define what true parent involvement is all about, and you are a shining example of what we all can be."

Ms. Carnes expressed her appreciation to the Board, and commented that "working for our children is just as natural as breathing." She said she appreciated the partnership, mutual respect and the acknowledgement of the important role played by parents.

RECOGNITION OF THE BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR FOR 1998-99

Mr. Griffin recognized the 1998-99 Bus Driver of the Year, Mr. Calvin Grier. Mr. Grier competed with the other Bus Driver of the Month winners demonstrating knowledge of the laws governing school bus operations and displaying the technical skills involved in operating a school bus on Charlotte streets. Mr. Grier's professionalism, knowledge and skills proved the best of the best. Mr. Grier is a full time driver who has driven for five years and transports students for Northridge Middle School, Newell Elementary School and University Meadows Elementary School. Ty Canipe, supervisor, observed that Mr. Grier has been a model driver and an outstanding example for his peers. Mr. Grier states his goal is to provide a safe and secure environment for each child he transports, and feels that he is a crucial part of assisting children in their need for an education. Mr. Grier will receive an award of \$750.00 from the Transportation Department.

RECOGNITION OF NANCY HASTY, THE 1999 *TEACHER ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR*

Ms. Kakadelis recognized Nancy Hasty, teacher assistant at J.H. Gunn Elementary School, who was selected as the *1999 Teacher Assistant of the Year Award* winner. The Teacher Assistant of the Year is presented annually by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Chapter of the North Carolina Association of the Teacher Assistants (NCATA). Nominees are judged by the NCATA Executive Committee and should possess the following qualifications:

- demonstrate a keen interest in the welfare of children
- establish supportive and sympathetic relationships with teachers, students, parents and peers
- seek to broaden his/her talents and abilities through participation in inservice, workshops, courses and/or programs
- seek to accomplish any of the above by volunteering to design, develop and implement special activities in the classroom which will go beyond that normally expected of a teacher assistant

In three years service at J.H. Gunn Elementary, Nancy Hasty has demonstrated that she possesses all the attributes that qualify her for this special award.

RECOGNITION OF JOSEPHINE HOOVER, THE 1999 *HARRIS AWARD TEACHER OF THE YEAR*

Ms. Leake announced that Josephine Hoover, 8th grade teacher at Carmel Middle School, was named *1999 Teacher of the Year* at the Harris Awards' ceremonies on May 26, 1999 at the Charlotte Coliseum Crown Club. As *Teacher of the Year*, Ms. Hoover received \$3,000 and Carmel Middle School received \$500. Ms. Hoover was in competition with five other finalists for the Harris Award, including the following:

Diana Brooks, Exceptional Children's teacher, Vance High School
Myra Diez, Social Studies teacher, Northwest School of the Arts
Patricia Foster, 6th grade Math and Reading teacher, Quail Hollow Middle School
Barbara Miller, Public Speaking teacher, South Mecklenburg High School
Reta Phifer, Elementary Music teacher, Elizabeth Lane Elementary

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Ms. Leake explained that each Charlotte-Mecklenburg school was asked to nominate a teacher who has demonstrated the following qualities: innovation, exemplary and effective teaching techniques, professional leadership, and the ability to inspire students with a love of learning.

Originally established to support and elevate recognition for outstanding CMS teachers, the Harris Awards are presented by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Education Foundation. They are made possible by a grant from the James J. and Angelia M. Harris Foundation. Ms. Hoover will advance to state level competition and the state level winner will advance to the *National Teacher of the Year* competition.

Lisa Stickley, principal at Carmel Middle has said that Ms. Hoover "is the best there is at meeting students where they are academically then taking them further than they ever expected to go in math achievement." "She does not allow students to fail."

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Smith recommended the following principal transfers and appointments: Deborah Mangieri, presently serving as principal at Sedgefield Elementary transferred to Huntersville Elementary; Katherine B. Smith, presently serving as principal at Lincoln Heights Elementary transferred to Albemarle Road Elementary; Cheryl R. Turner presently serving as assistant principal at Olde Providence Elementary appointed as principal at Oakhurst Elementary; Patricia Riska, presently serving as assistant principal at McKee Road Elementary appointed as principal at University Meadows Elementary; Lenora S. Shipp, presently serving as assistant principal at Allenbrook Elementary appointed as principal at Sedgefield Elementary; Craig Witherspoon, presently serving as assistant principal at Landstown Middle in Virginia Beach, VA, appointed as principal at Northridge Middle; Nancy J. Farnsworth, presently serving as principal at Fort Mill Middle appointed as principal at Pinewood Elementary; Nancy Beasley, presently serving as Early Childhood Curriculum Specialist, appointed as principal at Selwyn Elementary; Diane F. Adams, presently serving as principal at Oakhurst Elementary transferred to McKee Road Elementary; James E. Aiken, presently serving as acting principal at Villa Heights Elementary appointed as principal at Villa Heights Elementary; and Shirley A. Tillman, presently serving as assistant principal at Lincoln Heights Elementary appointed as principal at Lincoln Heights Elementary.

On motion by Ms. Kakadelis, seconded by Mr. Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following principal transfers and appointments: Deborah Mangieri, principal at Huntersville Elementary; Katherine B. Smith, principal at Albemarle Road Elementary; Cheryl R. Turner, principal at Oakhurst Elementary; Patricia Riska, principal at University Meadows Elementary; Lenora S. Shipp, principal at Sedgefield Elementary; Craig Witherspoon, principal at Northridge Middle; Nancy J. Farnsworth, principal at Pinewood Elementary; Nancy D. Beasley, principal at Selwyn Elementary; Diane F. Admas, principal at McKee Road Elementary; James E. Aiken, principal at Villa Heights Elementary; and Shirley A. Tillman, principal at Lincoln Heights Elementary.

CONSENT ITEMS

On motion by Mr. Puckett, seconded by Ms. Leake, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda items:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the following minutes:

May 4, 1999	Regular Board Meeting
May 14, 1999	Closed Session (Student Exclusion Appeals)
May 25, 1999	Regular Board Meeting
March 26, 1999	Closed Session (Real Estate)

APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL UPGRADES FOR ALEXANDER GRAHAM, RANDOLPH, QUAIL HOLLOW AND SEDGEFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Contract with ECS, Inc., who submitted the lowest bid for electrical upgrades at Alexander Graham, Randolph, Quail Hollow and Sedgefield Middle School, was approved. The contract in the amount of \$104,600, will be used to provide for electrical upgrades for a secondary computer lab at each of the above schools to accommodate technology improvements. The source of funding will be from the 1997 bonds.

APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL UPGRADES FOR CARMEL, COULWOOD, EASTWAY, J.T. WILLIAMS AND SPAUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Contract with C.H. Buchanan Electric Co., who submitted the lowest bid for electrical upgrades for a secondary computer lab at Carmel, Coulwood, Eastway, J.T. Williams, and Spaugh middle schools to accommodate technology improvements, was approved. The contact is in the amount of \$60,340, and the source of funds will be from the 1996 Bonds.

APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL UPGRADES FOR HAWTHORNE TRADITIONAL, NORTHWEST, RANSON AND SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Contract with W.E.G. Electric, Co., who submitted the lowest bid for electrical upgrades for a secondary computer lab at Hawthorne Traditional, Northwest, Ranson and Smith middle schools to accommodate technology improvements was approved, in the amount of \$117,750. The source of funds will be from the 1996 Bonds.

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APPROVAL OF ASBESTOS ABATEMENT CONTRACT FOR SPAUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Contract with DL Restoration, who submitted the lowest bid for removal of asbestos-containing floor tile and mastic at Spaug Middle School, was approved. The base bid and recommended award was in the amount of \$15,415, and the source of funds will be from the 1996 bonds.

APPROVAL OF ASBESTOS ABATEMENT CONTRACT FOR SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Contract with DL Restoration, who submitted the lowest bid for asbestos abatement at Smith Middle School, was approved. The contract will provide for the removal of asbestos-containing floor tile, mastic, ceiling tile and panels. The base bid and recommended award is in the amount of \$20,735 which will be funded through the 1996 bonds.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR MYERS PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Contract with Dakota Contracting, who submitted the lowest bid for construction at Myers Park High School, was approved. The contract, in the amount of \$73,530, will provide grading, drainage, and erosion control for mobile classroom installation and a future parking area which will be funded through the 1996 bonds.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR McCLINTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Contract with Rea Brothers, Inc., who submitted the lowest bid for construction at McClintock Middle, was approved. The contract will provide kitchen renovations including installation of a dishwasher, lavatory, sink, exhaust fan, and all necessary plumbing and electrical upgrades associated with those installations.

Contractor: Rea Brothers, Inc.

Base Bid	\$67,480	
RECOMMENDED AWARD		<u>\$67,480</u>

Budget

Use of Funds

Recommended Award	\$67,480	
Remaining Construction Budget	2,518,996	
Designer's Fee	211,678	
Program Manager's Fee	183,125	
FF&E/Fees/Surveys/Utilities	<u>735,471</u>	
TOTAL USE		<u>\$3,716,750</u>

Source of Funds

1995 Bonds	\$3,750	
1997 Bonds	<u>\$3,713,000</u>	
TOTAL SOURCE		<u>\$3,716,750</u>

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APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTACT FOR RAMA ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Contract with Jones Grading & Fencing, who submitted the lowest bid to provide underground stormwater detention structure to replace the current open detention pond at Rama Road Elementary School, was approved as follows:

Contractor: Jones Grading & Fencing		
Base Bid	\$82,020	
Alternate #1—Aluminized metal	<u><10,200></u>	
RECOMMENDED AWARD		<u>\$71,820</u>
 <u>Budget</u>		
<u>Use of Funds</u>		
Recommended Award	\$71,820	
Remaining Construction Budget	3,161,014	
Designer's Fee	263,240	
Program Manager's Fee	223,458	
FF&E/Fees/Surveys/Utilities	<u>920,855</u>	
TOTAL USE		<u>\$4,640,387</u>
 <u>Source of Funds</u>		
1995 Bonds	\$100,000	
1996 Bonds	<u>\$4,540,387</u>	
TOTAL SOURCE		<u>\$4,640,387</u>

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR JAMES MARTIN MIDDLE

Contract with Jones Grading & Fencing, who submitted the lowest bid for construction at James Martin Middle School, was approved. The contract will provide for grading and the installation of a storm drain system for the athletic field areas. Also included in the contract is the construction of an ADA accessible asphalt ramp.

Contractor: Jones Grading & Fencing		
Base Bid	\$542,000	
Alternate #1	<u>172,000</u>	
RECOMMENDED AWARD		<u>\$714,000</u>
 <u>Budget</u>		
<u>Use of Funds</u>		
Recommended Award	\$714,000	
Design Fee	878,145	
Construction	17,606,124	
Fees/Surveys/FF&E	<u>2,919,279</u>	
TOTAL USE		<u>\$22,117,548</u>

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Source of Funds

1995 Bonds

\$22,117,548

TOTAL SOURCE

\$22,117,548

APPROVAL OF REQUESTS FOR STUDENT REASSIGNMENT AND RELEASE OF STUDENTS TO OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Transfers within CMS for 186 students (Category I, 1999-2000) were approved. Transfers within CMS for 85 students (Category II, 1999-2000) were denied. Release for 1 student to attend a school in another system in North Carolina was approved. (The names of these students are on file in the Pupil Assignment Office.)

APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING REQUEST FOR "JUSTICE FOR ONE, JUSTICE FOR ALL"

A supplementary funding request for "*Justice for One, Justice for All*" was approved in the amount of \$2,497. The competitive grant, funded by The Jordan Fundamentals will involve 120 West Mecklenburg High 9th grade students enrolled in Economic, Legal and Political System classes. Upon completion of this thematic unit, the students will be able to explain why laws are necessary and how they are enacted, implemented and enforced. The grant will run from September 15, 1999 to September 15, 2000.

APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING REQUEST FOR "MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MY OWN LIFE"

A supplementary funding request for "*Making A Difference In My Own Life*" was approved. The competitive grant in the amount of \$2,500 will be funded by The Jordan Fundamentals and will run from September 15, 1999 to September 15, 2000. This project will involve 100 Dolly Tate Teenage parents program students enrolled in English/Reading classes. This thematic unit is designed to increase students' reading and writing skills and improve self-esteem.

APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING REQUEST FOR *EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM*

A supplementary funding request for the *Even Start Family Literacy Program* in the amount of \$200,000 was approved. The continuation grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Education will run from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. The goals of this program are to:

1. help parents improve their literacy and basic skills
2. help parents become full partners in the education of their children
3. assist children in reaching their full potential as learners
4. assist adults and children demonstrating educational need to achieve the state content standards and state student performance standards

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APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING REQUEST FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL DRUG PREVENTION AND SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM COORDINATORS

A supplementary funding request for *Middle School Drug Prevention and School Safety Program Coordinators* was approved in the amount of \$265,000. The competitive grant funded by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (U.S. Department of Education—Safe and Drug Free Schools Funds) will run from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. The purpose of the grant will be to adopt and carry out a comprehensive drug and violence prevention program for middle school students designed to:

1. prevent the use, possession and distribution of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs by students
2. prevent violence, promote school safety and create a disciplined environment conducive to learning
3. implement activities that promote parent involvement and coordination with community groups and agencies.

APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING REQUEST FOR SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ACT (SADFSCA) PROGRAM 70%

A supplementary funding request for *Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community Act (SADFSCA) Program 70%* was approved. The entitlement grant in the amount of \$413,906 is funded by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (U.S. Department of Education—Safe and Drug Free Schools Funds). The mission of this program is to assist schools in the development of healthy, productive citizens by promoting a non-violent, drug-free lifestyle through prevention and intervention programs and services. This mission is accomplished by building community partnerships, training teachers, counseling students and families, teaching students and referring students to community services. The grant will run from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING REQUEST FOR PROJECT MOST (EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH)

A supplementary funding request for *Project MOST (Education for Homeless Children and Youth)* in the amount of \$40,000 was approved. The continuation grant funded by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction administered through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act—Education for Homeless Children and Youth will run from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. The goals of *Project MOST* are:

1. to ensure stable educational experiences for homeless students
2. to ensure ongoing appropriate education for homeless students
3. assist homeless students in overcoming their special obstacles to learning by providing supplemental support services

APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE FORD FOUNDATION IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

A supplementary funding request for the *Ford Foundation Implementation Grant* was approved. The competitive grant, funded by the Ford Foundation, will amount to \$300,000 for 1999-2000 and

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an additional \$300,000 for the year 2000-2001. The overall goal of this grant is to create a systemic educational reform initiative in the ten West Mecklenburg feeder schools that improves students' academic achievement, and increases their access to, participation and success in higher education by building broad, active community ownership of public schools. The five objectives to achieve this goal are to:

1. ensure that all students gain the necessary skills to complete high school and succeed in higher education
2. raise teacher and community expectations of what all students can achieve and to develop focused community support systems to reinforce these expectations
3. increase the family's role in students' academic achievement
4. expand collaborative efforts to increase student achievement through the implementation of proven pre-K-12 reform initiatives
5. increase students' access to post-secondary education

APPROVAL OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES FOR TENURE, NON-TENURE CONTRACTS AND NON-RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS

Ms. Leake asked for information regarding the additional non-renewal of contracts. Dr. Smith commented that the additions came from one specific school. Ms. Leake said that she wanted assurances that CMS was being supportive of these teachers. Dr. Jenkins said the additions involved four teachers who were added after the State Assistance Team review because the individuals do not meet the requirements for non-renewal of contracts. Dr. Smith commented that teachers at the school had the benefit of the administration, Central Office, and the State Assistance Team and had intense directives given over the course of the school year.

Ms. Woods said she had concerns about teachers which were non-renewed because of State certification problems. She said these are not teachers who have had an inferior evaluation. She said there were over 100 non-renewed teachers because of State certification. Ms. Woods commented that a number of these teachers were in critical areas or were minority teachers, and suggested that the Board provide assistance through the State. For those completing requirements for certification, Ms. Woods suggested that the Board and staff provide encouragement. Dr. Smith commented that teachers are hired by CMS with the understanding that requirements for certification will be fulfilled. Highly skilled, highly qualified teachers with good content knowledge are critical if CMS is to meet goals. Ms. Kakadelis said that she wanted more information on the PRAXIS including the State cut-off points. Ms. Woods said there were many issues and knew there were some incidences which impact the system's ability to secure teachers that are needed to fill classrooms. Ms. Leake said she wanted the public to be assured that CMS has excellent teachers in addition to offering support for new teachers who may lack experience.

The Board approved certified employees for tenure, non-tenure contracts and non-renewal of contracts. Materials related to contracts were reviewed by Board members in the Human Resources Office.

REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

1999 PRELIMINARY END OF GRADE RESULTS

Dr. Paula Potter, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Accountability, reported on the preliminary results of the End of Grade test.

Percent at above grade level	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Grade 3 Reading	61%	63%	70%	72%
Grade 4 Reading	64%			68%
Grade 5 Reading	59%			72%
Grade 6 Reading	65%			66%
Grade 7 Reading	59%			75%
Math				
Grade 3 Math	64%			67%
Grade 4 Math	68%			77%
Grade 5 Math	66%			78%
Grade 6 Math	71%			73%
Grade 7 Math	65%			75%
Grade 8 Math	64%			69%
Writing Assessment				
Grade 4 NC Writing Assessment	65%	54%	54%	55%
Grade 7 NC Writing Assessment	57%	51%	66%	70%
Grade 8 NC Writing Assessment		67%	69%	75%
NC Test of Computer Skills		67%	69%	75%

Ms. Potter commented that Reading scores at the 3rd grade level have increased by 11 points since the baseline was established in 1995-96. Reviewing data in Grades 3-8, increases have been seen at a rate of 11 points in 3rd grade, 4 points in 4th grade, 13 points in the 5th grade, 1 point in 6th grade, 12 points in 7th grade, and 7 points in Grade 8. Relative to EOG Math results, point increases include 3 points in 3rd grade, 9 points in 4th grade, 12 points in 5th grade, 2 points in 6th grade, 10 points in 7th grade, and 5 points in 8th grade. On the 4th grade Writing Assessment, there has been a 1 point gain over the previous year; however a decrease from the baseline of 10 points in 1995-96. At the 7th grade level, there has been a 4 point gain over the previous year and a 13 point gain from the baseline in 1995-96. On the NC Test of Computer Skills there has been an 8 point gain in two years.

Mr. Griffin asked when the final data would be available. Dr. Potter said that on June 30, schools are required to send the best numbers on the tests to the State Department of Public Instruction. During July, the Department will review the data to determine if there is a need for adjustments. On

approximately August 5, the State should be releasing the ABC results. Mr. Griffin commented that it is important that the media has an opportunity to see the data for the entire school population to determine how well a school is doing given the number and type of students in its population.

Ms. Kakadelis asked if the state has changed the number of correct questions needed to achieve a level 3 or 4. Dr. Potter said that everything is converted from a raw score to a scale score, and the scale score is the number that is used to level off the particular levels. These remain constant, and the only difference would be in the raw scores in terms of which forms of the test are used in a year. A number of items on a certain form of a test may vary slightly versus the total number on the test which would place it at a different point on the scale. The number of correct questions, therefore, is relatively unchanged. Ms. Kakadelis asked if there was any outside independent testing organization that looks at the North Carolina test since it is developed, marketed and used only in North Carolina. Dr. Potter said that the question should be asked of the Department of Public Instruction and those individuals would have to talk about their methodology and how it is correlated to other standardized test. Dr. Potter commented that DPI is very professional and she would expect that those comparisons are being made. Ms. Kakadelis requested this information, including the agency used to determine if quality control is being used.

Ms. Griffin commented on the progress and asked for an explanation as to why different forms of the test are given out within the same classroom. Dr. Potter commented that there are "no easy tests," and the reason for the different tests is based on test security reasons.

Ms. Woods said the CMS strides are good; however, she had concerns about children who have not been in school for enough days (106 days or 91 days prior to the test) to be counted properly. Dr. Potter commented that verification is made of qualified students. Ms. Woods asked how CMS gains compare with state gains. Dr. Potter stated that the information was not available at this time. She said the State would not get the information from the districts until June 30. Dr. Potter commented that these are not ABC results and do not factor in student growth.

Mr. Lassiter asked for further information regarding the initials "SS." Dr. Potter explained that "SS" are scale scores or the raw scores (number of questions in the test and the number correct) which are converted over to a scale to allow a comparison between one test and another. This shows a commonality of growth over time. Mr. Lassiter asked for further detail on scale scores and commented that there are wide variations in various schools. He asked about the steps taken when there are significant increases or decreases in scores. Dr. Smith said that a process has been put in place where staff meet with Regional Superintendents and Curriculum and Instruction staff to analyze changes and variations in the scores. He said programmatic issues would be a concern to determine if the curriculum needs to be changed or additional support added. Dr. Smith said it was important to determine if there was a school-wide focus; if there is a significant shift in key personnel; or if there is a principal transition during the year.

Mr. Lassiter said it would help to run the data over four years and place the information on a single spread sheet by school at each grade level. He suggested a random sampling by disaggregating the data by children including projected growth. Mr. Lassiter commented that there are children which have moved within the system, and believed it would be important to disaggregate those children who have been moved and bring them back together to determine the line of growth and success in the system. This will isolate schools, classroom teachers and curriculum staff success. Mr. Lassiter commented that the raw number of math scores had moved significantly higher at a rate of

approximately 3% across all grade levels. With the exception of 7th grade, reading scores increased by only 1% despite the focus on reading, and he said he expected to see the numbers move parallel. Dr. Smith said that last year there were significant gains in reading with a focus in that area, this year there was a focus in math and now it is hoped that there will be a dual focus.

Mr. Griffin commented that CMS is getting close to instructional accountability and the Board will be able to better focus on the budget process.

Mr. Puckett acknowledged Ranson Middle School which has had significant increases, and thought it was important to determine the changes at that school which had an effect on its success. He suggested the importance of assisting the media in understanding scores.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Griffin announced that Marie G. Davis Middle School won second place in the *World Competition for Odyssey of the Mind*. In addition, he expressed his appreciation to Vicki Hamilton for spearheading graduation ceremonies for the area high schools. He thanked the entire school family for their efforts regarding student achievement and issues of safety.

Ms. Kakadelis commented on the graduation ceremonies and the level of efficiency relative to the success of the events. She said she found the graduation at the Metro School particularly moving.

Ms. Griffin said that she attended four graduation ceremonies and was impressed by the quality of the student speeches. She said that Arthur Griffin was leaving immediately for Raleigh to work on the Construction Flexibility Bill which will be considered in Committee. A list of members of the Committee was distributed to members of the Board to allow them to contact those individuals. Ms. Griffin said that she returned from Raleigh after attending Governor Hunt's Task Force on Youth Violence and Safety. She said the members included both quality and diversity, and the Governor had asked for a report in six weeks and action to be taken by the 1999-2000 school year. Ms. Griffin extended her appreciation to the Clerk to the Board who will be taking another position in South Carolina.

Ms. Woods said that she had been to the bus staging area on Hoskins Road which has been built and she wanted staff to ensure that the woods surrounding the facility would remain. She believed there will be a traffic problem and asked the Board to communicate with the City to ensure additional improvements if necessary. Ms. Woods commented on international ceremonies held at Idlewild Elementary and the diverse educational experiences. She encouraged Board members to attend the event next year. Ms. Woods said that she enjoyed the graduation ceremonies particularly at the Morgan School. She said that she believed it was important for the public to attend the court proceedings and address issues.

Ms. Leake distributed pins to Mr. Griffin, the Superintendent and Vice-chair John Lassiter which she received from the Mecklenburg County Family Court Judge and Staff Fellowship which was held in Marshall Park. Other Board members will receive these pins at a later time. Ms. Leake said that she had attended *Right Moves for Youth* ceremonies, and commented on the support and help to assist children to become good citizens and students. She extended her appreciation to

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Dr. Pughsley and Dr. Ralph Taylor for their assistance. Ms. Leake said that she attended five graduations and commented on the retirement of many quality CMS teachers. She asked them to help to support new teachers coming into the system. Ms. Leake asked the Board to support the unsung heroes such as cafeteria workers, bus drivers, etc. She further commented that the public needs to be in court to hear what is being said about children and the quality of education which children will receive.

Mr. Puckett said he also attended a number of graduation ceremonies and hoped all children will have a safe summer holiday.

Mr. Lassiter asked Board members to return their summer calendars to allow for the scheduling of pupil assignment and exclusion appeal hearings.

Dr. Smith said the County Commissioners would perform a straw vote on June 10 regarding the operating budget for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC

W.A. Andy Heath, Jr., concerned citizen, asked the Board to consider including the Highgrove neighborhood in the pupil assignment attendance area for Hawk Ridge Elementary School. He said the neighborhood is a traditional walking neighborhood similar to Myers Park and Dilworth and is located 1.2 miles from the Hawk Ridge School. Students would be able to walk to the school without crossing the street, and Mr. Heath said that he hoped the Board would correct a mistake in pupil assignment. He said when the southern border of the Hawk Ridge attendance zone was drawn, staff did not give consideration to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg thoroughfare plan. The construction of the Audrey Kill thoroughfare will begin next year and will become an obvious southern boundary for Hawk Ridge Elementary. He said the Highgrove neighborhood will contain fewer than 123 house and presently there are only 7 children who would qualify for the elementary school.

Dwayne Collins, concerned citizen and president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg branch of the NAACP, said that the Board voted on equity across the entire school system and believed that equity also needed to be realized in regards to the placement of bus staging areas. He said all the staging areas have been placed in low to middle income areas which are predominately Black. Mr. Collins said the area off of Hoskins Road has historically been the recipients of Charlotte's negative land use and rarely enjoyed the benefits of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's growth. He asked the Board to place the item on the agenda, and vote in favor of stopping construction of the bus staging area.

Annelle Houk, member of the League of Women Voters, commented that she attended court hearings and heard the Superintendent respond to the court regarding his vision of leadership. She said she was proud of his testimony particularly his belief that CMS could educate every child and that if a child comes with a socio-economic disadvantage, the schools should have a responsibility to assist the child towards a bright future.

Arron McKeithan, president of Garden Park Neighborhood Association and representing the neighborhood adjacent to the bus staging area, asked the Board to stop construction on the bus staging area. He said the associations are opposed to the placement of this facility.

Joe Fazzari, concerned citizen, said that he believed the bus staging area provided a negative use of land and believed that residents deserve the right to have the issue on the agenda.

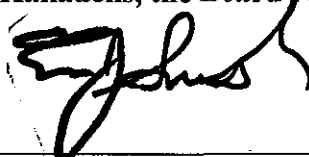
Lisa Rinstrom, chairman, Sierra Club, said the organization believed that to achieve the mission of environmental protection, there must be social justice and human rights. She commented that traditionally communities of color have borne greater health and environmental health burdens than the body at large. Evidence indicates that the absence of environmental justice issues result in the improper siting of municipal landfills, incinerators and hazardous waste treatment facilities which introduce public health threats when disproportionately impact impoverished and minority neighborhoods. Ms. Rinstrom said that these environmental issues have impacted the Westside community which has placed an inordinate strain on the community. She asked the Board to reconsider the choice of location for the site.

Jay Ferguson, member of the Westside Coalition and the NAACP, said that equity starts today and the community should not have wait on the court decision. He said the Board has an opportunity to make a statement about a commitment to equity and urged the Board to take that opportunity.

Mr. McElrath distributed maps and documents related to the bus staging facility and commented on the placement of bus staging facilities in predominately black neighborhoods in areas which have the highest crime and have high toxic areas.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Ms. Leake, seconded by Ms. Kakadelis, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.



Superintendent

Dona Alshook for

Clerk *Rhonda Duewell*

MINUTES APPROVED August 10, 1999