



Minutes Approved
10/12/99

Charlotte, North Carolina

August 24, 1999

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on August 24, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Center. Following the Regular Meeting, the Board held a Closed Session in Room 408 of the Education Center.

PRESENT: Arthur Griffin, Jr., chairperson;
John W. Lassiter; Wilhelmenia Rembert;
Vilma D. Leake; George Dunlap;
Molly Griffin; James H. Puckett;
and Louise Woods

ABSENT: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Also present at the request of the Board were Eric J. Smith, Superintendent; members of the Executive Staff; James L. Clark, Executive Director of Administration; and Carol K. Gerber, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Arthur Griffin, Jr. called the meeting to order and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF PROCLAMATION FOR *AMERICA GOES BACK TO SCHOOL*

Mr. Griffin announced that on September 2, 1999, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, accompanied by Governor Jim Hunt and others will tour three CMS schools, as part of a tour of five southern states, as part of the annual *American Goes Back to School* initiative. Barbara Pellin, Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family and Community Services, invited Board members to accompany Secretary Riley on his CMS visit to Northwest School of the Arts, Double Oaks Pre-K and Family Resource Center and Vance High School, his only stops in North Carolina. Louise Woods suggested that the school system use the Secretary's visit to rally parents, perhaps participating by signing a pledge in support of their child's education. In response to a question from Dr. Leake, Ms. Pellin said that West Charlotte was not included on the Secretary's tour because of time restraints.

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To support the national initiative, the Board unanimously adopted a Proclamation declaring August, September, and October, 1991 *America Goes Back to School* months in the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. (A copy of the original Proclamation is attached to these minutes.)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FORD FOUNDATION GRANT ENTITLED
*COLLABORATING FOR EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP***

Mr. Griffin announced that CMS had received a \$600,000 grant from the Ford Foundation entitled *Collaborating for Education Reform Initiative Partnership*. Beverly Moore, Regional Assistant Superintendent for Quality Assurance, reported that CMS had been one of nine school systems invited to apply for the grant and had received a \$75,000 planning grant from the Foundation a year ago. She introduced representatives from partner organizations in the community, including the following: Judy Allison from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Education Foundation, Dr. Tony Zeiss and Dr. Becky Panietz from Central Piedmont Community College, Dr. Bessie Gage from Johnson C. Smith University, Dr. Mary Lynn Calhoun from UNC-Charlotte, John Dorman from the Public School Forum of North Carolina, and Greg Malhoit from the North Carolina Education and Law Center. Dr. Smith, Superintendent; Dr. James Pughsley, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Susan Purser, Associate Superintendent, and Dr. Paula Potter, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Accountability led the CMS partnership for this important grant. The award will be used in the West Mecklenburg Feeder Area over a two-year period with a goal of raising academic expectations and giving greater access to higher education. Ms. Moore said that five teams, composed of community volunteers and led by Debbie Kingsberry, Valetta Fullwood, Leslie Grice, and Dr. Ruth Green, had developed action plans. These were coordinated by Leslie McCorley; Dr. Carol Newman and Corrine Danzig (sp) were members of the CMS team.

Jim Puckett remarked that the grant is a response to the citizens from the westside of Charlotte who asked for help from the School Board.

ACTION ITEMS

**APPROVAL OF PLAN TO DEVELOP JOINT USE OF GREENVILLE PARK AS
SCHOOL AND PARK SITE**

Greg Clemmer, Associate Superintendent for Operations, announced that the Board and Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department would work to develop a joint use plan for Greenville as the site for both a new school and a park. Wayne West, Director of Park and Recreation for Mecklenburg County, was also present.

Mr. Griffin said that purchase of a Greenville Park site fulfills a promise to build a new school in a central location. Mr. Lassiter remarked that in seven years on the Board this is the first time he has had the opportunity to cast a vote for site in the center city. Mr. Puckett said that the City needs to give CMS a good price for this land.

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Mr. Griffin asked Dr. Smith to put together a summary of present school sites used jointly by CMS and the County, the City, or other community organizations, whether for education, recreational, or religious purposes. Ms. Woods remarked that the new tennis courts at Garinger High have quickly become a center for the community.

On motion by Vilma Leake, seconded by Mr. Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to proceed with discussion with Mecklenburg County towards acquiring land in Greenville Park for joint use as a school and park site.

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

Dr. Smith recommended the appointment of Gloria Miller, as Director of Media Services. Ms. Miller has been serving as Media Programs Specialist for the past sixteen years with CMS and also serves as a member of adjunct faculty at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

On motion by Dr. Leake, seconded by John Lassiter, the Board approved the appointment Gloria Miller as Director of Media Services.

APPROVAL OF THE FY 1999-2000 BUDGET RESOLUTION

On motion by George Dunlap, seconded by Wilhelmenia Rembert, the Board approved the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year 1999-2000, as required by N.C. Public School Law §115C-432, in the amount of \$702,888,095.

Janet Stoner, Budget Director, reported that the funding for the Current Expense, Capital Replacement, After School Enrichment, and Child Nutrition operating budgets for FY 1999-2000 is derived from the following sources: Mecklenburg County: \$207,722,912; State of North Carolina: \$412,652,821; the U.S. Federal Government: \$45,327,279; and other sources \$37,185,083.

Ms. Stoner noted that the Child Nutrition budget reflects a price increase for the current year of twenty-five cents for all lunches. The After School Enrichment Program will not require a price increase for the current year.

Ms. Woods asked for a presentation from the administration to update the Board on the funds that the State is providing to deal with promotion and standards.

APPROVAL OF THE SYSTEMIC PROJECT PLAN FOR THOMASBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On motion by Dr. Leake, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, the Board unanimously approved the systemic project plan for Thomasboro Elementary School. The plan was developed in response to N.C. School Law §115C-105.37(a) that requires an improvement plan to be developed for any school designated as low performing under the School Based Management and Accountability Program. Sponsored by Dr. Pughsley and managed by Beverly Moore, the project will support the district goals of academic achievement, safe and orderly environment, community collaboration, and efficient and effective support operations. Ms. Moore named the following CMS people who serve on the Service Integration Team: Gwen Bradford, Mary Martin, Kathy Moorhead, Barbara Pellin, Jane Rhyne, and Jerry Slotkin. With Mildred Wright as principal, the school will develop a school mission; establish and maintain a safe and orderly environment conducive to teaching and learning; develop, implement and monitor effective teaching practices to ensure the highest quality of instruction, increase student achievement, and maximize use of time; develop a strong system for monitoring student progress and utilize data to plan and adjust instruction; and create a strong home-school-community collaboration. Many members of the Thomasboro staff attended the Board meeting to give enthusiastic support to Ms. Wright and the systemic plan for the school.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Puckett, the Board voted 7-1 to approve the items A through F, including D1-6, on the Consent Agenda. Voting for the motion were Mr. Griffin, Mr. Lassiter, Dr. Rembert, Mr. Puckett, Dr. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, and Ms. Griffin. Voting against the motion was Ms. Woods, who was reluctant to approve parking and driveway improvements at one school when several other schools also need similar improvements.

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY PERSONNEL REPORTS FOR JUNE 1999 AND JULY 1999

The Board approved the Personnel Report of Licensed and Non-Licensed Hires for June, 1999 and July, 1999 as submitted by Barbara Jenkins, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. Copies of the report are on file in the Office of Human Resources.

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY SERVICES TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS SCHOOL VEHICLES

The Board approved the following Resolution authorizing the Director of Supply Services to dispose of surplus school property (vehicles) at public action on Saturday, September 25, 1999, in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes §160A-266-270.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorized the Director of supply Services, according to N.C.G.S. §160A-270, to dispose of surplus school vehicles at a public auction.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the sale of surplus school vehicles and mowing equipment be at the Mecklenburg County Auction on Saturday, September 25, 1999. The public auction shall be conducted according to the attached terms and conditions and shall only consist of the vehicles on the attached surplus property listing.

RESOLVED, FURTHER that the Finance Officer may delegate the authority to transfer titles for the vehicles to an appropriate agent of Mecklenburg County.

APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS FOR JULY, 1999

The Board approved the Capital Project Ordinance Amendments for July, 1999, in accordance with N.C. Public School Law §115C-443. A copy of the Amendments is on file in the Finance Office.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR A SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR MYERS PARK HIGH SCHOOL

The Board approved a construction contract for \$180,624 with Williams Electronic Systems, the lowest bidder for the project, to provide a surveillance system at Myers Park High School. The source of funding is 1993 school bonds.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR LINCOLN HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

The Board approved a construction contract for \$39,600 with Cyclone Roofing, the lowest bidder on the project, to erect two canopies at the student drop-off and pick-up area at Lincoln Heights Elementary. The source of funds is Capital Replacement.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR INDEPENDENCE HIGH

The Board approved a construction contract for \$42,200 with Carolina Courtworks, the lowest bidder on the project. The contract provides for the installation of an acrylic cushion coating system on eight asphalt tennis courts at Independence High. The source of funds is Capital Replacement.

APPROVAL OF EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH BELL SOUTH FOR HARDING HIGH SCHOOL

The Board approved an easement agreement with BellSouth at Harding High. BellSouth will install an interface cabinet at the site of the easement to improve existing service and to provide new service throughout the area. In exchange for a 20'x20' easement, BellSouth will compensate the school system in the amount of \$200.00.

APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH NIBLOCK-RIDGELINE REGARDING THE EXTENSION FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICES TO NEW NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

The Board approved a Water Line and Sewer Line Development Agreement between CMS and the Niblock-Ridgeline, LLC. Niblock-Ridgeline owns or will own property adjacent to the new high school site and will work jointly with the Board of Education and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Department (CMUD) to bring water and sewer services to both properties. A copy of the Agreement is on file in the CMS Building Services Department. It is anticipated that there will be no cost to the school system.

APPROVAL OF JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF PARKING AND DRIVEWAY IMPROVEMENTS AT McKEE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Board approved the joint development of parking and driveway improvement at McKee Road Elementary, at the request of the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department. Cost to the school system is \$83,500 and the source of funding is 1997 bonds.

Ms. Woods, who voted against the approval, asked why a school that already has many amenities was chosen to receive improvements to its parking lot and driveway when other schools also need parking improvements. She cited First Ward Elementary that needs to have its gravel parking lot paved. Jeff Booker, Assistant Superintendent for Building Services, responded that Wayne Weston, Director of the County Park and Recreation Department, had endorsed the project because the Matthews Athletic and Recreation Association (MARA) had pledged the major portion of the funding necessary to increase park facilities adjacent to the school. Mr. Weston had recommended to the Superintendent the shared parking lot/driveway project that would benefit both the school and the park.

Mr. Lassiter further noted that MARA was a private athletic association that served many children who live in an area far greater than just the Town of Matthews. In addition, he said, the entire project for the park is more than \$340,000, with the CMS portion being \$85,000. Ms. Woods said that \$85,000 could also be used to provide for playground equipment at a school.

Mr. Lassiter and Ms. Woods asked for a status report on playground equipment at all elementary schools.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION LEADERS

The Board approved expenses for Board member(s) to attend the Fourth Annual National Conference for Education Leaders, September 17-18, 1999 in Orlando, Florida, in accordance with Board Policy BID.

Ms. Woods questioned whether the Board members ought to receive reimbursements for all conferences, rather than those sponsored only by the National School Boards Associations or the North Carolina School Boards Association. Mr. Dunlap said that the Board ought to respect individuality. Molly Griffin said that she favored individual travel allowances for each Board member. In response to all the comments, Mr. Griffin said that he would send Board members a concept paper on Board travel.

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

The Board approved the reassignment of 258 students (Category I), denied the reassignment of 44 students (Category II), and approved the applications of three students for release to other school systems within North Carolina.

REPORT ON THE VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Patricia Sullivan, lead teacher, technical high school, introduced members of a steering committee for the new high school who presented to the Board information showing the interrelation of design of the school and its curriculum. A goal of the steering committee is that one of the career clusters will call out to the individual students. The committee stated that academics would not be put aside and that after high school, students would be able to enter a two-year or four-year college, a technical school, or the world of work.

Dan Fields with the architectural firm of Schenkel and Schultz said that in the beginning the architects had met with a business advisory group. Tim McMullin of McMullin & Associates, Architects, said that curriculum needs have been the driving force of the architectural design, that the plans are flexible and evolving, and that they would showcase highly visible career areas. He said that the plans would allow for interaction with the

business sector. He also stressed the integrity of core academics but he added that the design would go beyond the traditional academic environment to reflect a work environment. To meet these needs, the architects have worked with a core for the cafeteria, the media, and athletics; another core for academic areas; career clusters; and corridors connecting all centers.

Gregory Hart, who has served on the technical high school planning commission since 1996, brought up the idea that the term "vocational technical" implies and dual mission that might possibly be misinterpreted. He suggested that the name of the school ought to stress its technical orientation and base. He also said that the committee felt it might be impractical at this time to have an athletic program, that students would be involved with work related activities after school. He recommended that the students who wanted to compete in athletics be permitted to join the athletic program at Harding High.

Ms. Sullivan recognized Bob Freedman from BellSouth for his energy and devotion to the technical high school project.

She invited Board members to the ground-breaking ceremony on Sunday, October 17, 1999 at the school site on Freedom Drive at the corner of Allegheny Street.

Mr. Griffin responded to the presentation by recalling that his own high school, Second Ward, was supposed to have become a technical high school back in the 1960s. Instead, it was demolished. He said that the topic of athletics would be discussed in greater detail at another meeting. He commented further that the Board would name the school at the appropriate time.

Mr. Dunlap said that while he appreciated the efforts of the advisory group, he felt they were perhaps missing some historical factors. He cited the problems that occurred when the students at Northwest School for the Arts were permitted to join the athletic program at West Charlotte. He reminded everyone that bond money was to be spent as promised; he said that if AP students work and do sports, technical students could do the same. In addition, he remarked that it has been a long time since a new school facility had been built near in an area where a large portion of the Afro-American community lives.

Ms. Woods thanked those who have been working on the new school. She suggested that the decision be made now about whether to have two medical magnets, splitting the county into attendance areas for each school, or to devise a different magnet for Garinger High, which could suffer attendance loss when the new technical high school opens.

Dr. Leake said that she supported Mr. Dunlap's comments. She said that while the school was promised to the black community, it would be a school for the whole community; it should, therefore, have academic, athletic and technical programs.

Mr. Puckett said that he hoped the school's ability to attract students will become a threat to all existing high schools. He applauded the career curriculum, but he suggested that a course in work ethics be added. He encouraged the committee members to keep up their good work.

Regarding the possible misunderstanding of the word vocational, Mr. Lassiter said that Mr. Hart had brought an important thought process to the Board. He said that a school conceived in 1965 would not suit its students in 2000. He said that the Board should continue to look at the kind of student the school would attract and that perhaps a majority of the students would not participate in athletics. He said that "a school like all the others' won't get us where we want to be.

Responding to Mr. Lassiter's comments, Mr. Dunlap said that we have several unique schools. Regarding the athletic program and the curriculum for the new technical high school, he said that "we ought to know what we're breaking ground on." He stressed that these issues ought to be discussed prior to the October 17 ground-breaking ceremony.

REPORT ON *RIGHT MOVES FOR YOUTH*

Officer B.T. Leak, from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department updated the Board about *Right Moves for Youth*, a non-profit organization that motivates at-risk youth to stay in school, get an education, and lead productive lives. Officer Leak is program director for the 1999-2000 school year. He said that over 5,000 students participated in the RMFY club activities last year. This year a new programs will be added to focus on students below the high school level who seem to have a high risk of involvement with guns. These students will be taken to hospitals and the law enforcement center to witness the consequences of pulling a trigger. They will also partake in conflict resolution sessions, which might be held at the Education Center. Plans are also underway for a summer camp.

In response to questions from Ms. Woods, Officer Leake said that parental involvement is encouraged with annual RMFY family nights. He added that a parent must sign a permission slip before a student joins a club. He also reported that all middle and elementary schools have RMFY clubs.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Dunlap, asking about a library book questioned by a parent, was told by Mr. Griffin that the issue was not one of policy but one for the administration.

Mr. Lassiter reported that the Board Facility and Budget Committee would meet on September 1, 1999 at 4:30 in Room 408. He said that Board members interested in computer hardware and software would find this meeting of interest.

Dr. Leake said that she had attended a scrimmage football game between Harding High and West Mecklenburg High. She commented on the sad loss of a child at Lincoln Heights Elementary and the fact that the death occurred on the principal's first day at the school.

Dr. Rembert reported that she had accepted a book on behalf of the school system entitled *Extraordinary Girls*. This large book that shows diversity among girls throughout the world has been placed in the libraries of all CMS elementary schools by the Charlotte Women's Political Caucus. She thanked the Women's Political Caucus for this outstanding contribution.

Ms. Griffin said that the Board Legislative Committee meeting, scheduled for September 1, had been cancelled.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Smith said that he was gathering data for his annual evaluation with the Board members.

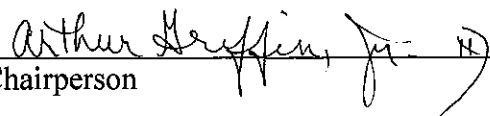
The Superintendent said that he was pleased by the focus of all employees on the first day of school and that the 1999-2000 school year had had a good beginning. He said that he would have enrollment figures for the Board shortly after the 10th day of school.

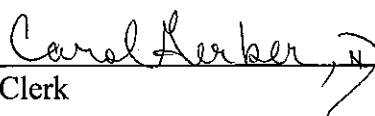
VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

At 8:20 p.m., on motion by Mr. Dunlap, seconded by Mr. Puckett, the Board voted to go into Closed Session, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with counsel concerning Hoke County Board of Education v. State of North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

Following the Closed Session, Dr. Leake moved that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dunlap and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.


Chairperson


Clerk

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