



Charlotte, North Carolina
October 26, 1999

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on October 26, 1999, beginning 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,
James H. Puckett, Vilma D. Leake,
George Dunlap, Molly Griffin,
Louise Woods, Lindalyn Kakadelis

ABSENT: No Board member was absent.

Also present at the request of the Board were Eric J. Smith, Superintendent; Dr. James L. Pughsley, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Susan R. Purser, Associate Superintendent for Education Services; Greg Clemmer, Associate Superintendent for Operations; members of Senior 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.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items were placed before the Board at this meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

On motion by George Dunlap, seconded by Lindalyn Kakadelis, the Board voted unanimously to approve in one vote the following items on the Consent Agenda:

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY PERSONNEL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 1999

The Board approved the Personnel Report of Licensed and Non-licensed Hires for September, 1999. A copy of the report is on file in the Office of Human Resources.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

The Board approved a summary financial statement for September 30, 1999, as required by § 115C-436 of the North Carolina School Budget and Fiscal Control Act. Janet Stoner, Finance Officer, included with the statements two graphs: one representing General Fund Cumulative Revenue by month and the other representing General Fund Expenditures as a percent of budget expended through the date of the statements. Copies of the report are on file in the Finance Office.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

The Board approved Budget Amendments for September, 1999, as required by the FY 1999-2000 Budget Resolution, Section IV (A), (S), and (C) as adopted by the Board of Education on August 24, 1999.

APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCES, SEPTEMBER, 1999

The Board approved Capital Project Ordinance Amendments for September, 1999, as required by North Carolina Public School Law § 115C-443.

APPROVAL OF SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AT OAKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Board approved a site access agreement with Blue Ridge Environmental Services at Oakdale Elementary School. Blue Ridge Environmental Services is in the process of performing environmental work for Oakdale Hardware which is across the street from Oakdale Elementary School. In order to comply with regulations of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the company is required to install two ground water monitoring wells on the school site.

APPROVAL OF EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH BELL SOUTH AT WINDING SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Board approved an easement agreement with BellSouth at Winding Springs Elementary School in order to erect and maintain a telephone box that will serve a subdivision adjacent to the school.

APPROVAL OF HVAC CONTRACT FOR THOMASBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Board approved a contract for \$74,481 with Steele's Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., for the installation of HVAC units in six classrooms at Thomasboro Elementary School. Source of funds is Capital Replacement.

APPROVAL OF HVAC CONTRACT FOR DILWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Board approved a contract for \$33,298 with Mechanical Systems to provide de-humidification capabilities to the existing HVAC system at Dilworth Elementary School. The source of funds is Capital Replacement.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED DESIGN FOR CONTRACT FOR NEW SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Board approved an amendment to the design contract for the New South Elementary School because the name of the company doing the design work has changed. Previously, the company name was Millennium 3, and the company's name has now been changed to Anthony V. Hunt & Associates Architects. The design contract of \$420,325 was previously approved by the Board of Education on April 27, 1999, and the source of funding is 1997 Bonds.

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

The Board approved the requests for transfer of 29 students (Category I); and denied the requests for transfer for eight student (Category II). There were no requests to transfer to other school systems within North Carolina.

APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH MECKLENBURG COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE REGARDING THE GREENVILLE PARK SITE

The Board approved a Development and Cooperation Agreement with Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte regarding the Greenville Park Site. A copy of the Agreement is on file in the Board Office and the CMS Office of Building Services. The Board of Education has already approved locating a school at Greenville Park. The land is currently owned by the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The Agreement has been approved by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners. It is anticipated that the City Council will vote in November for approval of the Agreement.

Wilhelmenia Rembert entered the Board Meeting at this time.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

The Superintendent called upon Dr. Anne Udall, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, to present a report on the Science Curriculum K-12. Dr. Udall said that CMS has been piloting the new state curriculum, expected to be approved this fall, which increases the student's hands-on approach and relates life and facts. She outlined the following grades and programs:

- K-2 His/Her World, Living and Non-living, Change
- 3-5 Patterns and Systems, Analyzing Systems, Energy Interaction
- 6-8 Patterns and Cycles, Interactions and Limits, Constancy and Change
- 9-12 Earth/Environmental, Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science, Physics, AP/IB

She called upon Donne Brearley, Science Curriculum Specialist K-5, and Ethlyn Sweet, Science Resource Teacher, to describe the new elementary program. Ms. Sweet explained that for 3rd grade students, CMS is currently using science kits for units on "Plants, Heat and Light, Soil, and Objects in the Sky." For example, she said students use hand-held microscopes to examine soil. They make compost piles and write in science logs to verify their findings. Ms. Brearley said that the vigor of the science curriculum across the district is increasing. At the middle school level, students may take high school courses. Jill Ray, science teacher at McClintock Middle School, said that the curriculum with its lab work is motivational, the environmental aspect has relevance for the students, and the program of problem-solving challenges all ability levels. Students Brittany Lewis and Kurt White spoke about the critical thinking they use in science class and about working with lab partners. Ms. Brearley said that the Science Olympiad Team, with its bottle rockets and dropping eggs from buildings, generates enthusiasm. Eleven middle schools, all twelve high schools and the Management Schools had Science Olympiad Teams in 1999. She concluded her presentation by saying, "Learning science is something that students do. Science is a verb."

Board Members Questions and Comments

In response to a question from Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Brearley said that the state curriculum is aligned with the national program. She added that the curriculum is more concise and has more depth. Mr. Dunlap asked how CMS scores compare to the national. Ms. Brearley said that CMS had a strong standing at the 4th grade level but the middle school program needs to be more rigorous.

Ms. Kakadelis asked if NC State Standards for science existed in one document because she had seen Virginia and Arizona standards. She also asked where the resource centers would be located. Dr. Udall responded that 3rd graders get the kits and the teachers are trained to use them. She said it would take two years to implement the program across the district.

Molly Griffin said she hoped the environmental science program was not taking the place of chemistry and physics.

Ms. Woods said that she was excited about the integration of science with reading and writing and hoped that enough books about science were being placed in media centers. Dr. Udall said that Dr. Purser and Gloria Miller were looking at strengthening the media centers. She added that the science kits have books. Ms. Woods asked if substitutes are provided so that teachers can have training. Dr. Udall said that training is done in the summer or after school and commented that excited teachers are motivated to participate in training.

REPORT ON THE TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Dr. Smith called upon Dr. Udall to present a review of what has happened in the Talent Development (TD) Program K-12 since the Board adopted Vision 2000. Dr. Udall introduced Mary Martin, Elementary Curriculum Coordinating Director; Terri Mozingo, Middle School Curriculum Coordinating Director, and Jimmy Chancey, High School Curriculum Coordinating Director.

Ms. Martin said that since Vision 2000, CMS has increased service to its most gifted children and increased efforts to serve under-identified populations. She said that the current focus is to expand the Catalyst Program in which the TD specialist and the classroom teacher co-teach all the children in one classroom. Curriculum between general and gifted education is connected; instructional responsibility is shared; and the delivery model is consistent across the district. Both the teacher and the TD specialist are responsible for seeing that children learn. Roslyn Lackey, principal at University Park Elementary School, and Janet Wade, parent volunteer at Sharon Elementary School, gave testimony to the effectiveness of the Catalyst Program. Ms. Lackey said that teachers use the TD strategies even when the TD specialist is not in the classroom. Ms. Wade said the Catalyst Program benefits those who are not actually in the TD program. It benefits the gifted student as well who might be challenged in a pullout TD program but bored the rest of the week.

Speaking about the middle school TD program, Ms. Mozingo said that every middle school now has one full-time TD specialist. The current focus is to create rigor, challenge and acceleration for all students. There is monthly training for catalyst teachers and instructional facilitators. Classical literature, grammar and humanity of language have enriched the Language Arts Program. Math programs are provided for some students two and three grade levels above their chronological grade. TD enrichment strategies are used in middle grade social studies classes. Deborah Hoger, TD Specialist at Coulwood Middle School, uses catalyst strategies with all classroom teachers including how to lead Socratic seminars. Faye Lemmon, an instructional facilitator, said all children need acceleration, and teachers must convince all students they can achieve.

According to Dr. Udall, the TD program in our high schools has been on "auto pilot" for the past several years. However, staff is now coordinating the AP and IB offerings and

training, and also analyzing the high school courses for vigor and curriculum development. There is more parent involvement. TD is not a separate program in high school.

Per Dr. Udall, the future of the Talent Development Program lies in the following statement – “Vision 2000 presents a comprehensive and effective design that will empower CMS to further develop a content rich educational process which provides opportunities and resources for gifted learners.”

REPORT ON STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS

The Superintendent called upon Dr. Udall to discuss with the Board the implications of the new North Carolina Student Accountability Standards that will provide guidance for promotion at grades 3,5, and 8 as well as for high school graduation. The standards, also called Gateways, will ensure that students are working at grade level in reading, writing and mathematics before being promoted to the next grade level. The grade 5 standards will be implemented in the 2000-01 school year; standards for grades 3 and 8 will be implemented in 2001-02; graduation standards will go into effect for the graduating class of 2003.

Dr. Udall's report contained the following main points:

Adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly on April 1, 1999, the law is a major initiative with far-reaching impact.

“Our aim must be that all students have the reading and the mathematics skills critical for participating in and benefiting from high school curricula in core academic and vocational areas.”

“North Carolina public school students now are required to meet statewide standards for promotion from grades 3,5, and 8, and high school graduation. The standards, also called Gateways, will ensure that students are working at grade level in reading, writing and mathematics before being promoted to the next grade.”

“For high school graduation, students will need a passing score on a new exit exam of essential skills.”

If a student scores below a Level III on the End-of-Grade (EOG) tests, there will be an opportunity for retest; “focused intervention” will occur during the summer; review committees and/or additional EOGs will be scheduled. The principal will make the final decision on promotion; retained students will have personalized education plans.

The new legislation will impact CMS's extended year including establishing “focused intervention” during summer months.

Using results from 1998 EOGs, administrators have calculated the number of CMS students who would have been retained. To prevent large number of students from being retained, CMS is already paying close attention to student needs and identifying Level I and Level II students. Before the 2000-01 school year begins, strong intervention and prevention programs will be in place at all schools.

Four work teams, called Standards and Promotion Action Teams (SPAT), have been meeting since May. They are developing and will implement a new policy and accompanying regulations regarding promotion and retention; curriculum for summer programs; curriculum guidelines for school intervention and prevention focus; logistics, especially record-keeping and new forms; parent/community communications. SPAT work teams will be set up to work on the four areas.

Dr. Udall noted that state and local funding will be used in the CMS response to the new accountability law. She announced that the State Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will hold an informational meeting for parents on November 16, 1999 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Myers Park High School.

Comments from Board members on the State Student Accountability Standards

Mr. Griffin said he wanted a strong intervention plan for students. Dr. Udall responded that all schools were already working on this. She said that consistency and guidelines are also being addressed.

In response to a question from Mr. Pucket, Jerry Slotkin, Director of Instructional Accountability for Elementary Students, said based upon 1999 testing, approximately 38% of CMS students would need intervention. Mr. Puckett asked if parents would have input into the decision about retention. Dr. Udall responded that parents, teachers and the student can advocate but the principal would make the final decision. She commented that DPI would require a report from all principals regarding the reasoning behind a student passing and/or failing.

In response to questions from Mr. Dunlap, Dr. Udall said surveys of other NC school systems have policies and regulations stating when a student is retained, he must not have the same teacher again. Under the new state law, all retained students will have an Individual Educational Learning Program.

Ms. Kakadelis stressed the importance of getting adequate and clearly expressed information to parents, especially those parents of 1st, 3rd, 5th and 8th graders. She suggested using CMS Channel 21 as well as written notice for conveying information to parents. She also noted that in another North Carolina district, when the EOG tests were given twice, the results of the second testing, held eight days after the first, were much higher. Ms. Kakadelis also asked if a student would be retained if he failed in only one of the three areas. Dr. Udall responded the current promotion policy is vague. Ms.

Kakadelis asked how the state money would be allocated; Ms. Winner responded the money would follow the lower scores.

Ms. Molly Griffin asked about the results of the testing done in 2nd grade last year. Mr. Slotkin said the results had gone to DPI who had requested the testing. Dr. Smith indicated he would bring those scores to the Board.

In response to a question from Ms. Woods, Dr. Udall said that parents had been invited to serve on the accountability work teams. Noting that ESL students require six years before they “think” a new language, Ms. Woods expressed her concern about retention of ESL students. Dr. Smith indicated he would bring a report forward to the Board on that subject. Dr. Udall said class size would be reduced for Level I and Level II students and there would be an in-school remediation. Dr. Smith said there would be enormous impact if the school system is not successful.

Dr. Leak expressed concern for the teachers and asked if they would be held accountable or be punished for lack of success in a classroom. Dr. Udall responded the law doesn't target teachers whose students are not successful. The law puts the emphasis on the student and parent. Information must be shared immediately with parents so they will know who is responsible and what is involved.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Molly Griffin attended the Council for Children Luncheon. The Dolly Award was presented to Barb Pellin, Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family & Community Services. Ms. Griffin commented the Legislative Committee needs to meet to discuss taxing authority.

Lindalyn Kakadelis was proud to announce that Barb Pellin had also won the Unsung Hero Award from Leadership Charlotte. The “Best Friends” Program is hosting a gathering on Saturday, September 25.

John Lassiter announced the Finance & Facilities Committee would be meeting on Wednesday, October 27. The United Way Drive has concluded with CMS contributions totaling \$407,000. Our goal was \$360,000. Members of the Board of Education were 100% in their giving. The Board received a plaque from Gloria Pace King of the United Way Organization.

Dr. Vilma Leake visited both McKee Road and Elizabeth Lane Elementary Schools as they were recognized by the state. Students were well behaved at both schools. She also attended a meeting held by the National Board Certified Teachers. These teachers need to be in the classroom with our most needy children Dr. Leake stated.

Ms. Louise Woods stated the Policy Committee has been meeting on a regular basis and there is much work to be done. Idlewild Elementary School had a fund-raiser which she

attended. This school has a vision of providing community resources and the community they serve understands their vision.

Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert stated that if we grandfather students, we must be fair to all students.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

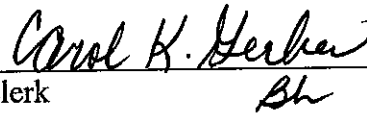
Dr. Smith had no report tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3), the Board of Education adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on motion by Dr. Vilma Leake and seconded by Louise Woods. The Board members proceeded to Room 408 to hold a Closed Session pertaining to legal matters.



Chairperson


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Clerk