



Charlotte, North Carolina  
February 22, 2000

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on February 22, 2000 at 6:15 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Center. The meeting was televised by CMS TV - Channel 21.

**PRESENT:** Arthur Griffin, Jr., Chairperson;  
John W. Lassiter, Vice Chairperson;  
Wilhelmenia I. Rembert, Member at Large  
James H. Puckett (District 1); Vilma D. Leake (District 2);  
George Dunlap (District 3); Molly Griffin (District 4);  
Louise Woods (District 5); and Lindalyn Kakadelis (District 6)

**ABSENT:** No Board member was absent.

Also present at the request of the Board were Eric J. Smith, Superintendent; James L. Pughsley, Deputy Superintendent; Greg Clemmer, Associate Superintendent for Operations; other members of the Executive Staff; James L. Clark, Executive Director of Administration; Leslie Winner, General Counsel to the Board; and Carol K. Gerber, Clerk.

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### RECOGNITION OF JANUARY BUS DRIVER OF THE MONTH

On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Leake recognized Shaunda Randolph as the Bus Driver of the Month for January. Ms. Randolph has been a bus driver in the Garinger Area since 1991. Cecil Mitchell, Transportation Specialist for the area said that Ms. Randolph is "dependable, dedicated, polite, trustworthy, and has a love for children. As Bus Driver of the

**MINUTES APPROVED** 3/14/00

Month, Ms. Randolph will receive a \$100 prize and will be eligible to compete for the title of Bus Driver of the Year, to be awarded in May.

**RECOGNITION OF THE SEMI-FINALISTS FOR THE 2000 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP, THE NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AND THE NATIONAL HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP**

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Lassiter recognized the semi-finalists for the 2000 National Merit Scholarship, the semi-finalists for the National Achievement Program Scholarship, and a semi-finalist for the National Hispanic Recognition Scholarship. Prior to the Board Meeting, these students and their parents had been honored at reception hosted by the Board of Education at the Government Center. Chairperson Griffin and Parks Helms, Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, had extended congratulations and awarded Certificates of Outstanding Achievement to the following students:

**Students from East Mecklenburg High**

Tyler K. Bletsch	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Andres Colon	National Hispanic Recognition Program
Jared H. Duke	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Harish K. Jairam	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Diane E. Rose	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Carrie F. Shepard	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Andrea J. Walker	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

**Students from Harding High**

Rashuana N. Brannon	Achievement Program Semi-Finalist
Conrad Z. Carlin	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Erik R. Johnson	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Lori B. Peacock	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Byron Sanders	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Candance Wilson	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

**Students from Independence High**

Vivian O. Agbegha	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Andrew A. Anderson	Achievement Program Semi-Finalist
LaTannia D. Ellerbe	Achievement Program Semi-Finalist
Jeffrey C. Marus	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Sophia E. Matthews	Achievement Program Semi-Finalist
Denise M. Parrott	Achievement Program Semi-Finalist
Natalie M. Scurry	Achievement Program Semi-Finalist
Nicholas D. Williams	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

**Students from Myers Park High**

Stephanie C. Boor	Achievement Program Semi-Finalists
Bridget B. Fitzgerald	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Camilla S. Grenadine	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Adam Nash	Achievement Program Semi-Finalist
Shaun N. Pack	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist
Emily P. Walters	National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

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Students from North Mecklenburg High

Markham Anderson  
Nora S. Carroll  
Kaysi Clark  
David Donovan  
Cathea C. Woodley

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
Achievement Program Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

Students from Northwest School of the Arts

Angela G. Cassette  
Mark D. Hall

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

Students from Providence High School

Dayna L. Dorsey  
Claudia Eybl  
Elizabeth A. Hinshaw  
Jeffrey W. Hoh  
Kimberly D. Johns  
Cynthia W. Liu  
Cynthia Wei Tyng Liu  
Danielle S. Walker

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
Achievement Program Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

Students from South Mecklenburg High

Amy S. Love  
Shell A. Thaxton

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

Students from Vance High

Matthew S. Bunn  
Michael Dorfman  
Traci L. Fulkerson  
Emily K. Higgins  
Blake Theriot  
David A. Wills  
Stephan D. Wilson

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

Students from West Charlotte High

April D. Bethea  
Sarah C. Tab  
Sheldon H. Weldon  
Katherine M. Wilhelm

Achievement Program Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist  
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist

At the Board meeting all the students who had reached the semi-finals in the national scholarship awards were congratulated by the Board members.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **APPROVED APPOINTMENT OF FRANCES HAITHCOCK AS ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR EDUCATION SERVICES**

On motion by Mr. Dunlap, seconded by Mr. Lassiter, the Board voted 8 to 0, with one abstention, to approve the appointment of Frances Haithcock, as Associate Superintendent for Education Services. Voting for the motion were Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Griffin, Dr. Rembert, Mr. Puckett, Ms. Woods, Ms. Molly Griffin, and Ms. Kakadelis. Dr. Leake

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abstained from the vote, commenting that she hoped the administration would promote from within CMS when another administrative opening occurs.

Dr. Smith said that Dr. Haithcock has served as Deputy Superintendent for Educational Programs in Broward County Schools, Fort Lauderdale, Florida since 1994. Prior to that she was Associate Superintendent for Instruction and an area superintendent. She began her career in education as a social studies teachers, then served in consecutive positions as guidance counselor, director of guidance, and high school principal at schools in Broward County.

### **APPROVED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2000)**

**Ms. Molly Griffin moved that the Board approve certain Legislative Priorities for the North Carolina General Assembly (2000), as recommended by the Board Legislative Committee and the Superintendent. Dr. Rembert seconded the motion. Ms. Griffin amended her motion to include the words *early intervention, prevention*, in section 2. b. of the Legislative Priorities.**

Mr. Puckett asked for a division of the question. There were no objections to his request, so Chairperson Griffin asked Ms. Molly Griffin to read each item separately before the vote on it.

#### **The Board voted unanimously to approve Legislative Priority 1: Teacher Compensation**

- Fund final installment of Excellent School's Act salary scale to raise NC teacher salaries to the national average.

#### **The Board voted unanimously to approve Legislative Priority 2, parts a and b: Student Achievement.**

- a. Provide funding to implement pilot project using disaggregated data for ABCs bonuses.
- b. Supply adequate funding for *early intervention, prevention, and* remediation in preparation for implementation of Performance Based Promotion standards.

#### **The Board voted unanimously to approve all parts of Legislative Priority 3: Funding for Students with Special Needs.**

- a. Provide funding to lower to the class size for students eligible to receive subsidized lunch and those performing below grade level.
- b. Raise the level of funding for exceptional children to 2.3 times that for regular education.
- c. Provide adequate funding to teach students with Limited English Proficiency.

#### **The Board voted unanimously to approve Legislative Priority 4: Kindergarten Readiness**

- Provide funding for Bright Beginnings pre-K program.

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**The Board voted unanimously to approve Legislative Priority 5: Instructional Technology**

- Fully fund the state Instructional Technology Plan.

**The Board voted 8 to 1 to approve Legislative Priority 6 (a): Education Funding Accountability. Voting for the motion were Chairperson Griffin, Mr. Lassiter, Dr. Rembert, Dr. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Woods, Ms. Molly Griffin, and Ms. Kakadelis. Mr. Puckett voted against the motion.**

- a. Grant taxing authority to local boards of education so that there will be a single entity responsible for funding and providing public education.

**The Board voted unanimously to approve Legislative Priority 6(b): Education Funding Accountability**

- b. Increase sales tax by 1 cent, to be used for school construction and renovation.

**The Board voted 7-2 to endorse the NCSBA Legislative Agenda. Voting for the motion were Chairperson Griffin, Mr. Lassiter, Dr. Rembert, Dr. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Woods, and Ms. Molly Griffin. Voting against the endorsement were Mr. Puckett and Ms. Kakadelis.**

The NCSBA Legislative Agenda endorsed by the Board reads as follows:

1. Provide a dedicated revenue stream for school construction
2. Change funding formula so LEAs do not lose money when new charters are started.
3. Allow LEAs to seek State Board waivers from any law from which charters are exempt.
4. Raise salaries of the following:
  - Central office personnel
  - Non-certified personnel
  - Principals/ Assistant Principals
  - Substitutes who have A certificates (to 75% of first year teacher's salary)
  - Fund final installment of Excellent Schools Act
5. Fully fund Instructional Technology Plan
6. Increase EC funding from 1.9 times regular education to 2.3 times to cover actual costs and remove or raise 12.5% cap
7. Increase funding for Supplies, Textbooks, and Equipment
8. Increase funding for LEP students
9. Increase funding for remediation
10. Increase funding for alternative schools
11. Fund public school pre-kindergarten programs for all students
12. Oppose state funding for tuition tax credits or vouchers

**INITIAL REPORT FROM STUDENT ASSIGNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:  
CONFORMANCE OF DECEMBER 16 (1999) STUDENT ASSIGNMENT PLAN  
WITH GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Mr. Griffin introduced Anthony Fox, Chairman of the Student Assignment Oversight Committee, who had been invited to present to the Board the committee's initial reactions to the December 16, 1999 Student Assignment Plan and its [1] conformity with the Board's Guiding Principles for Student Assignment (adopted January 11, 2000).

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Fox commented that this report was not an end product and that the work of the committee would include three additional parts:

2) By the time of the March 28 Board meeting, the committee will have further identified conformity of the Plan with the Guiding Principles and, where possible, suggest solutions where a lack of conformity is apparent.

3) At the April 28 Board meeting, the committee will review the Superintendent's recommendations for achieving equity and make recommendations.

4) Ongoing, the committee will monitor the Plan to ensure compliance with the prevailing Court orders to ensure that the tenets of the Guiding Principles are met, and to ensure success for all students.

Using a power point presentation, Mr. Fox said that the committee's general reaction to the Plan and the Guiding Principles included following main ideas:

- Fairness in student assignment cannot be achieved without achieving equity.
- Most everything the committee discusses seems to lead to discussions on equity. Equity issues overshadow most every other issue.
- The committee is building on its diversity to assess the conformity of the Plan to the Guiding Principles.

For each of the seven Guiding Principles, Mr. Fox gave the committee's initial findings. For reference, a copy of principles are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Principle 1 - Support for choice, stability, continuity of educational opportunity, and proximity: The committee had mixed reactions as to whether the Plan supports this principle. The committee felt the wording seemed vague, merely calling for support rather than provision; moreover the Plan would support Choice, Stability, Continuity and Proximity only "whenever feasible." For example, with the assumption that stability is the number of times a student changes schools, the committee felt that choice erodes stability. Proximity and family choice are not adhered to "whenever feasible" in certain Westside choice zones with a high amount of priority schools. Questions remain about Principle 1, including the definition of stability - staff and/or school stability; and the prioritization of the sub-priorities. Additionally, the committee wonders which principle should prevail when Guiding Principles collide.

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Principle 2 – Utilization: General conformity with Guiding Principles but potential exists for wide discrepancy and uncertainty once choices are made. The Plan is so choice-focused, the committee feels, that the commitment to utilization could be compromised. Also, the Plan does not articulate contingencies to avoid underutilization and overcrowding in areas with pockets of unexpected growth; where actuals in magnet selections are lower or higher than projected; and where many families opt out of high poverty area schools.

Principle 3 – Boundaries for Home School Areas: The Plan generally meets this Guiding Principle. The committee raised one concern: most middle schools are split between two or three separate high schools, thereby not providing continuity.

Principle 4 – Diversity: The committee believes that the Plan generally does not support this principle, and it has “serious concerns that the established ‘home school areas’ increase isolation and high concentrations of low-income students.” Additionally, choice is a two-edged sword. Choice can provide better educational opportunities and reduce neighborhood stratification. Choice can provide exodus and further isolate low-income students in under-achieving schools. Family choice may not produce a diverse learning environment. More legally-allowable criteria could be used to foster socio-economic diversity throughout the system. The plan and principles do not appear to address isolation of students other than low-income students. The committee has a “lingering question” about Principle 4 because it has two sentences with two seemingly different ideas. The committee suggests splitting Principle 4 into two different principles.

Principle 5 – Transportation: The Plan generally meets the tenets of this principle.

Principle 6 – Targeted Schools: The Plan does not meet the tenets of this principle because it does not guarantee equity. It needs to ensure focus on stability of faculty and staff, programs, and school operations. Stability cannot be realized with continuous in/out mobility of students. The exercise of choice without caps may compromise stability of area home schools. A particular concern is the potential impact on stability of high poverty area home schools. Efforts must include quantifiable measures of resources, academic achievement, and other outcome.

Principle 7 – Construction, Expansion, Renovation: The Committee felt it needed further time for study of this principle before rendering an opinion.

Chairperson Griffin thanked Mr. Fox and the committee members, many of whom were in attendance and were introduced at the Board meeting. Mr. Griffin noted that 40 hours times 23 committee members totaled an extraordinary number of hours that the Student Assignment Oversight Committee has worked in a relatively short time. He commended them for their work and encouraged the committee to make suggestions where it finds lack of continuity with the Guiding Principles.

The Board took no action on the report at this meeting.

## CONSENT ITEMS APPROVED IN ONE MOTION

On motion by Mr. Puckett, seconded by Ms. Woods, all Board members present voted to approve in one motion all of the items on the Consent Agenda. (Dr. Rembert was not in the Board Room at the time of the vote.)

### APPROVED MONTHLY PERSONNEL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2000

The Board approved the monthly Personnel Report of Licensed and Non-Licensed Hires for the period of January 2000.

### APPROVED MINUTES

The Board approved the following minutes:

Closed Session	January 4, 2000
Special Board Meeting	February 1, 2000
Closed Session (retreat)	February 4, 2000
Regular Board Meeting	February 8, 2000

### APPROVED COMPUTERIZED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR BUILDING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Board approved a contract for an estimated \$200,000 for the purchase and implementation of a computerized maintenance management system in support of Building Services initiative and the Superintendent's Fourth Goal of effective and efficient support operations, as follows:

Contractors:

Software and technical support		
Datastream Systems, Inc.	\$114,887	
Hardware		
Copucom	40,803	
Inacom	10,000	
Pomeroy	5,000	
Dale	17,000	
Alphanumeric	5,000	
Training/Travel	<u>7,300</u>	
Recommended Award		<u>\$200,000</u>

The source of funding is Maintenance Budget initiative.



**APPROVED SITE IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT FOR OLYMPIC HIGH SCHOOL**

The Board awarded a contract for \$146,000 to Crowder Construction Company, the lowest bidder, for resurfacing and installation of an acrylic cushion coating system on eight tennis courts at Olympic High School. Source of funding is 1993 Bonds.

**APPROVED ACCESS EASEMENT AT NORTHRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Board approved an access easement for Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) at Northridge Middle School. CPCC had requested that CMS relocate an unused access point off of W.T. Harris Boulevard, so that COCC would have better access to its sites. With the easement, CMS would retain the right to utilize the new access point through the CPCC property in the event we need it for future use. There are no fiscal implications for this easement.

**APPROVED SEWER LINE EXTENSION FOR NEW NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (E-97-01)**

The Board approved a contract for \$19,800 with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department (CMUD) to extend a sewer line 600' along Grier Road to the site of the new northeast elementary school. Under the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities 50/50 Extension Plan, CMS pays for half of the cost and CMUD the other half, the total cost of the extension being \$39,600. Source of funding is 1997 bonds. The budget for the entire project is as follows:

Budget

<u>Use of funds</u>	
Approved award	\$ 19,800
Previous sitework	189,935
Designer's fee	366,500
Program Manager's fee	562,047
FF&E fees/surveys/utilities	<u>9,168,718</u>
Total Use	\$10,307,000

**APPROVED ADDITIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR DRUID HILLS, ASHLEY PARK, OAKLAWN, THOMASBORO, AND WESTERLY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, WITHIN THE 1996-1997 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

The Board approved additional services to the existing design contracts for Druid Hills, Ashley Park, Oaklawn, Thomasboro, and Westerly Hills

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**Elementary School required to carry out the additional work in the 1999 Certificates of Participation (COPS)/Equity – Phase 1 Capital Improvement Program, as described below:**

<b>Renovation/Expansion</b>	<b>Designer</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Oaklawn Elementary	Hayes Seay Mattern & Mattern	\$197,613
Westerly Hills Elementary	AMI/McMillan	205,920
Thomasboro Elementary	AMI/McMillan	349,408
Ashley Park Elementary	Bryant Baker	356,809

**Replacement of Existing School:**

Druid Hills Elementary	Hayes Seay Mattern & Mattern	<u>412,767</u>
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Total Recommended Award \$1,522,517

**APPROVED DESIGN SERVICES FOR GARINGER HIGH SCHOOL**

The Board approved a contract with Adams Group Architects for design services for Garinger High for the scope included in the 1997 Bonds and 1999 Certificate of Participation/Equity – Phase I Capital Improvement Program. The design services are not to exceed \$700,000. The total budget for the project is as follows: Budget

<u>Use of Funds</u>		
Recommended award	\$ 700,000	
Program Manager's fee	409,356	
FF&E/fees/surveys/utilities	<u>4,490,644</u>	
Total Use		\$5,600,000

<u>Source of Funds</u>	
1997 Bonds	\$5,600,000

**APPROVED ABBESTOS REMOVAL CONTRACT FOR DEVONSHIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The Board approved a contract for \$115,710 with GM Enterprises, the lowest bidder, for the removal of asbestos-containing floor tile and mastic, ceiling tile panels, and insulation throughout Building A at Devonshire Elementary School.

**APPROVED CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS FOR  
JANAURY 31, 2000**

**The Board approved the Capital Project Ordinance Amendments for January 2000, as required by N.C. Public School Law §115-C-443. A copy of the capital project amendments for January is on file in the CMS Finance Office.**

**APPROVED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR JANUARY 31, 2000**

**The Board approved the Monthly Financial Statement for the month ending January 31, 2000, in accordance with §115-C-436 of the North Carolina School Budget and Fiscal Control Act. A copy of the monthly statement for January is on file in the CMS Finance Office.**

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

**The Board approved the requests for reassignment of 16 students in Category I and denied the requests of 14 students in Category II. There were no requests to transfer to other school systems in North Carolina.**

The Consent Agenda items conclude at this point.

**REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

**REPORT ON THE NEW TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Dr. Smith called upon Jeff Booker, Assistant Superintendent for Building Services, to give a report on the status of the new technical high school, which now has a completion date of June, 2002. Mr. Booker introduced Bill Sutherland and Dan Fields, architects with Schenkel Shultz architectural firm. Mr. Fields said that design for the new technical high school began with the 235,000 square feet designed for Butler High. To that was added 72,000, making a total of 307,000 square feet for the technical high school. An additional 12,000 square feet was added to the library to provide for a County public library.

Mr. Fields said that the design of the high school was developed after the curriculum had been formulated, following the dictum, "curriculum drives design." He pointed out six clusters, which are areas of study concentration provided in addition to the regular high school curriculum: Transportation (originally a part of manufacturing but pulled out of it), Construction, Environmental Science, Health Science, Manufacturing, and Computer Science. A copy of the architectural design is hereby attached and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Booker said that the design was the result of two years of work, including listening to the community about the need for both a comprehensive high school and a

vocational/technical school. He said that bids will also be taken for an alternative business/conference center.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION OF NEW TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

In answer to a question, Mr. Dunlap was told that the Manufacturing Cluster would be located on both the first and second floors.

Dr. Rembert re-entered the meeting at this time.

Dr. Leake said that the building of the new technical high school would restore trust with the general public, who has been asking for a technical high school for thirty years. She was assured by Mr. Booker that tennis courts, a track, a stadium, and ball fields would be built on site.

Ms. Molly Griffin asked for more information about the conference center. Mr. Fields said that it was planned to seat 100 people and would provide a place for interaction with the business community.

Mr. Puckett asked how the land across the street would be used. Mr. Booker explained that it was adjacent to land owned by Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) and a County park.

Mr. Lassiter questioned future expansion possibilities if the stadium and ballfields were to be built on site. Mr. Fields pointed out an existing space on the site plan that could accommodate a two-story building in the future.

Ms. Woods asked if she could assume that the County was providing funding for the library. Mr. Booker explained that the County funding was \$1.2 million for this library project, and that CMS media center people were still working with the County's library staff on functional design for the joint library project.

Ms. Woods reminded the public that Garinger High currently has a health care magnet. She also reminded the administration that when the health care magnet is moved to the new technical high school, another, equally strong magnet needs to be placed at Garinger High.

### **NEW POLICIES AND A POLICY REVISION INTRODUCED**

As chairman of the Board Policy Committee, Ms. Woods introduced two new policies and one revised policy.

## **FIRST READING ON PROPOSED, NEW POLICY ON ROYALTIES FROM COPYRIGHTS, INVENTIONS AND PATENTS**

The Board held a First Reading of a proposed, new policy governing royalties from the sale of copyrighted materials, inventions and patents that result from products produced by employees of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS/NEPN Code: DFE).

Dr. Smith advised CMS employees that the proposed policy would be worth reading. He said that marketability questions are increasingly asked.

Mr. Lassiter suggested that the language in paragraphs 2 and 3 be "tightened up." He said he would prefer "refer back to the Superintendent," instead of "preferably in advance." He said that in property law, royalties belong to CMS. He asked for an accounting of this, suggesting an annual basis. He said that he sees CMS material that has not been copyrighted but is being used by another organization.

As a member of the Board Policy Committee, Dr. Rembert said that she appreciated the Board's comments, but she emphasized that the intent of the school system is to encourage creativity and the Board and administration want the staff to participate in the rewards. She said that an innovation shared with others helps students everywhere.

The proposed policy will be posted in all schools for comment by CMS employees and the general public. After the required days of public notice, the proposed policy, with any revisions, will return to the Board for consideration and approval.

## **FIRST READING ON PROPOSED, NEW POLICY ON TRADE-IN OR EXCHANGES OF EQUIPMENT**

The Board held a first reading of a proposed, new policy that would allow outdated equipment to be traded in or exchanged, instead of being sold (CMS/NEPN Code: DHBA). Ms. Woods commented that this policy is straight forward.

The proposed policy will be posted in all schools for comment by CMS employees and the general public. After the required days of public notice, the proposed policy, with any revisions, will return to the Board for consideration and approval.

## **FIRST READING ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FROM CMS HIGH SCHOOLS**

The Board held a first reading of proposed, revisions to the policy governing graduation requirements for CMS high schools (CMS/NEPN Code: IKF). Anne Udall, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, said that the proposed revised policy reflected the new State requirements and provided an increase in electives, following a national trend

to increase high school graduation requirements. The CMS proposal would require students to earn 26 credits before graduation, beginning in 2004, rather than the current total of 20.

#### Proposed Graduation Requirements

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Units</u>
English	4
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Health/Physical Education	1
Applied Communications/ Senior Exit Project	1
Arts Education	1
Electives	10

Dr. Venton Bell, principal of West Charlotte High School and chairman of the high school principals committee who worked on the graduation requirement revisions, gave further explanation of the proposed changes: the applied economics course would be dropped and its curriculum made a part of a 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation course and history courses. Three units for math - the same number of courses - would require the inclusion of Algebra I, as mandated by new North Carolina State requirements. Three science units must include a physical science, chemistry or physics, plus environmental studies. Physical education/health requirements were to be reduced to 1, instead of the previous 1.5.

The Senior Exit Project, now part of English 12, would be called Applied Communications and be part of the Work Force Development Department. It would be required of all students.

The one credit in Arts Education could be any of the performing arts - band, chorus, theater - or art, drawing, photography, or a course in art history.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Jimmy Chancey, Coordinating High School Director, as well as Dr. Smith, Dr. Udall, and Dr. Bell, answered questions from the Board members about the proposed changes in high school graduation requirements.

**Mr. Dunlap** expressed concern about the dropping of the ½ unit for health because its curriculum deals with the issues of HIV, STD, human sexuality and drug education. Dr. Bell explained that these topics would become part of the curriculum in Freshman Focus and biology. Mr. Chancey added that the 9<sup>th</sup> grade biology sends a strong message on such topics.

Surprised that Freshman Focus was not a required course, **Mr. Lassiter** said that when students are required to take the course in the second semester, it is a waste of time.

**Mr. Lassiter** asked about foreign languages; **Mr. Chancey** said that the University of North Carolina system prefers that a student have two years of a foreign language but it is not a requirement for entry into university. **Mr. Lassiter** asked that the committee re-think the foreign language requirement, saying that it is useful for all students, whether college or work bound. **Mr. Lassiter** said that he was not satisfied with merely meeting State standards and advised the curriculum committee to look at competitive high schools nationwide.

**Dr. Leake** said that she would like to see graduation requirements from other school districts. In addition, she commented on the Senior Exit Project, saying that it is unfortunately not what it was supposed to be – a project in which the students must prove they can speak, present, and write well. She commented that parents often do the work the students should be doing.

Mentioning that obesity is a major concern in the U.S. today, **Dr. Leake** questioned having a physical education requirement only in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. She agreed with **Mr. Lassiter**, and comments made by the Deputy Secretary of Education recently, about the importance of foreign language.

**Ms. Woods**, chairperson of the Board Policy Committee, said a committee of 15 – principals, parents, and community members – had worked for a year on the proposed changes in high school graduation requirements. She said that some districts require 28 credits and that CMS could have gone to 27. She said that environmental science courses had been piloted in several high schools and that CMS students could also take the course for credit in middle school. She said that she supports foreign languages but not instead of an arts program. Addressing **Ms. Woods'** concern for children with exceptionalities, **Mr. Chancey** said that the occupational diploma is primarily for Exceptional Children.

**Ms. Kakadelis** said that she was pleased that the Senior Exit Project would be taken out of Senior English. Questioning the goal of the project, “fraternity among all seniors,” she asked to see data on the Senior Exit Project. She said that while some project topics were good, others were “atrocious.” **Mr. Chancey** responded that the concept of research is introduced in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. **Ms. Kakadelis** said that she wanted to see a course description of Applied Communications/Senior Exit Project. She also said that the Board needed to see the regulations for a proposed policy before they vote on it. **Mr. Puckett** asked if the Senior Exit Project is State mandated.

**Ms. Kakadelis** advocated increasing the arts education budget, which is presently only \$1.98 per student.

Agreeing with **Ms. Kakadelis**, **Ms. Molly Griffin** said that more funding is needed for the arts. Additionally, she said that two of the electives ought to be a foreign language requirement.

**Mr. Griffin** said there would be a work session on graduation requirements before the first Regular Board Meeting in March. He said that in the interim staff would be available to answer Board members' questions.

The proposed policy will be posted in all schools for comment by CMS employees and the general public. After the required days of public notice, the proposed policy, with any revisions, will return to the Board for consideration and approval.

## **REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Griffin** announced that the Education Summit had been re-scheduled for Sunday, March 5, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Convention Center. He urged Board members and students to register by calling the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Education Foundation, sponsors of the public event.

**Dr. Leake** said that she had been visiting in the schools and meeting with teachers. She said she would share with the Superintendent some District 2 concerns. She asked that the administration respond to all letters received, especially from staff members.

**Dr. Leake** said that she would like for the Board to recognize at a televised, Regular Meeting the Myers Park High students and principal who were responsible for organizing the 11,000 volunteer hours.

**Mr. Dunlap** said that he would be participating Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in the Black History Bowl at Derita Elementary School; he invited other Board members to attend.

**Mr. Lassiter** reviewed upcoming meetings for the Budget and Finance committees of the Board, the County, and the City to be held on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>; Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>; and a Joint Luncheon Meeting regarding "Center City 2010" on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He said these meetings are open to all.

**Dr. Rembert** reported that she had attended the CMS Arts and Science Fund Raising Celebration; she praised CMS employees for raising more than \$130,000 for this year's campaign.

**Ms. Woods** reported that the students at Idlewild Elementary were excited about their trip to Washington, DC next week.

Dr. Rembert left the meeting at this time.

**Ms. Molly Griffin** described the excellence of the writing workshop at Druid Hills Elementary last week. She also invited Dr. Smith to visit Charlotte's new Museum of History, where she serves on the Board.

**Mr. Dunlap** asked for a report on the bus facility on Craig Avenue.



## **REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

The Superintendent had no additional report at this meeting.

## **FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

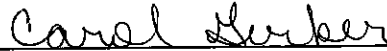
The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Center. It will be preceded by a Dinner/Work Session at 5:00 p.m. in Room 118 in the Education Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Dunlap, seconded by Ms. Molly Griffin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 8:45 p.m.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson



\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

## **Student Assignment Guiding Principles**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education adopts the following Student Assignment Guiding Principles to promote student achievement and success:

1. A student assignment plan will be established to support family choice, stability, continuity of educational opportunity, and proximity, whenever feasible.
2. The student assignment plan will avoid, to the extent feasible, any overcrowding or underutilization of school facilities that may have a negative impact on the delivery of instructional programs.
3. Home school areas will, insofar as feasible, conform to natural boundaries, recognize neighborhood identities, and maintain continuity of peer relationships.
4. Choice preferences and home school areas will be established to reduce isolation related to high concentrations of low income students and isolation related to students' academic performance, to the extent feasible. A diverse learning environment with regard to ethnicity, nationality, and culture will be promoted through family choice, to the extent legally allowable.
5. Home school areas will be established, to the extent feasible, so that the community will equitably share benefits and burdens related to student transportation.
6. In order to prevent an increase in the number of schools with high concentrations of low income students, efforts will be made to assure the stability of schools that have higher than the district average of low income students but which are not designated by the Superintendent as "targeted" schools.
7. New school construction, expansions, and renovations will be carried out in such a way to support the above principles with consideration given to the impact upon other community services.

Adopted by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education January 11, 2000

