



Charlotte, North Carolina  
March 14, 2000

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on March 14, 2000 at 6:20 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; Leslie Winner and Kevin Bringewatt, Board Attorneys; 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.

### **REPORT ON CHARLOTTE CHAMBER ADVANTAGE CAROLINA FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE #1: *CMS PARTNER FOR SCHOOL REFORM***

Mr. Griffin introduced McKay Belk, president of the Charlotte Chamber, who has been working with Advantage Carolina Flagship Initiative #1: *CMS Partner for School Reform*. Mr. Belk credited Howard Haworth, Chairman of Initiative #1, for outstanding leadership of the project.

**MINUTES APPROVED** 3/28/00

Mr. Haworth was unable to attend the Board meeting because of a prior commitment at the Children's Defense Fund National Board Meeting.

To report on *An Education Syllabus: The Course to be Taken for Success in Public Education*, Mr. Belk gave a power point presentation. He emphasized that the Chamber's initiatives were not intended to be dictatorial but were areas where the Chamber felt it could assist the school system with support and implementation. His presentation included the following main ideas:

1. Provide an education for every student, including full funding for Bright Beginnings and attracting and retained teachers in shortage areas, such as foreign language and mathematics.
2. Provide adequate facilities for all students, including more stable funding, and report twice yearly to the community on the status of construction projects, their future uses, and their funding.
3. Provide great teachers and support professional development opportunities. The Chamber could help in recruiting, Mr. Belk said.
4. Focus on prevention and remediation, including a lower pupil/teacher ratio for targeted schools.
5. Expand use of "best practices," programs that have worked well.
6. Increase business involvement in schools by developing a pervasive mentoring program for targeted schools and expanding business/school partnerships.
7. Provide candor, clarity and context in communications.
8. Make the case for adequate funding and give fiscal accountability:
  - Provide a forum to discuss alternative/additional funding sources.
  - Encourage assessment of the management structure for effective business operations
  - Mobilize the community to support school operating and capital budgets.
9. Improve parent involvement in schools, using CHALK – Creating High Achievement Levels for all Kids, initiated by the Education Foundation.

Mr. Belk recognized the Chamber committees which participated in the study: Equity/Curriculum, chaired by Margaret Carnes; Education Public Policy, chaired by Ernie Dehnert; Committee on Teachers, chaired by Lat Purser; Parent Involvement, chaired by Paula Fraher; Financial and Business Issues, chaired by Ede Graves and Webb Clements; Partnerships, chaired by Sue Breckenridge. He asked the Board to endorse the nine initiatives.

#### **BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE CHAMBER'S NINE INITIATIVES**

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Chairperson Griffin praised the Chamber's involvement in education, saying that he welcomed the partnership with business. The school system needs the support of the total community, he said.

**On motion by Ms. Woods, seconded by Mr. Lassiter, all Board members present voted to endorse the nine initiatives presented in the report from the Charlotte Chamber. Voting for the motion were Mr. Griffin, Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Puckett, Dr. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Woods, Ms. Griffin, and Ms. Kakadelis. Dr. Rembert was not present at the time of the vote.**

Several Board members offered individual comments at this time. Ms. Woods suggested a Chamber field trip to see "best practices" in action. Mr. Lassiter said that he was deeply appreciative of the Chamber's work under the leadership of Mr. Haworth. Dr. Leake suggested that the Chamber get businesses to offer rent support for new, young teachers and donate shirts for bus drivers. She also asked the Chamber to think about diversity. Mr. Belk responded that social equity and diversity were themes throughout all nine initiatives. Mr. Puckett noted that the Chamber had looked not only at CMS but at other school systems as well.

Mr. Griffin recognized and thanked Carroll Grey, President of the Charlotte Chamber and Kit Cramer, Director of Public Affairs, who were also in the audience.

#### **QUARTERLY REPORT BY THE BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Griffin introduced Ken Harris, chairman of the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC), whose members include Glenn Agnew, Almeda Rippy, Ed Kania, Sal Della Villa, Sue Peck, Chip Boorman, Ray Ardizzone, and Jerry Vaughan.

Mr. Agnew, substituting for Sue Peck, said that the purposes of the Bond Oversight Committee were to assess capital projects, make recommendations to the Superintendent and the Board of Education, and facilitate the exchange of information with the public. He said that the 1996-97 Bonds were passed to meet both critical and growth and that the Committee had been involved with these bonds from the beginning: participating in the selection of Bovis Construction Corp. as projects manager; being part of the selection process for architectural and design teams; reviewing staff reorganization for the Building Services Department; visiting sites; participating in principal orientation sessions, and promoting the CIP with the public.

Mr. Agnew said that the CIPs had five phases spread out over six years. He reported that the first phase (3 years long) includes 23 renovation, 7 design, 16 new construction projects, all of which are in process. He said the 1997 bonds would fund 46 renovations and 10 new schools and that sites for all 10 schools had been acquired.

Mr. Boorman elaborated that, with the addition of COPs funds, CMS had aggressive goals and timelines. Issues related to projects include funds for equity, alternative delivery systems, alternative financing, and maintenance of capital projects once they are complete. He praised the

use of "swing space" at Albemarle Road Middle where, by using 15 mobile classrooms during the school year, the project will be completed by the summer of 2000, instead of 2001.

For future work of the Committee, Mr. Boorman listed the following:

- Monitor the design/build process
- Enhance communications with the public
- Avoid duplicating efforts of the Chamber but work in conjunction with them.
- Obtain feedback as the schools are being built and when the project is finished.

He said that the Committee would continue to report on a regular basis. The Board thanked the members Bond Oversight Committee – all citizen volunteers - for their effective work.

### **FOLLOW-UP BOARD DISCUSSION TO BOC'S REPORT**

Board members discussed the merits of making repairs versus improvements that would bring equity to a school building. Ms. Woods was concerned about cost saving. Mr. Boorman said that more applicable would be the term "opportunity lost." He used as example a school where classrooms located in three out buildings had critical needs; rather than repair them, he advocated an equity investment to tear down the out buildings and rebuild the classrooms as part of the main building.

Mr. Lassiter raised the question of accountability; Mr. Boorman said that the funds earmarked for each school were spent there. Ms. Kakadelis talked about scope versus dollar amount. Mr. Boorman suggested that money leftover from the projects in Phase I be put back into the whole CIP and used for other projects.

Dr. Rembert entered the meeting at this time.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **APPROVED AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF CHARLOTTE CONCERNING SITE FOR NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR GREENVILLE PARK**

Mr. Bringewatt explained that because the Greenville Park Site is currently owned by Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte and the portion of the site currently owned by Mecklenburg County is subject to a restriction limiting the use of the property as a park, an Agreement with the City is necessary in order to build a school.

A copy of the Agreement is on file in the office of the Board Attorney. The main points of the Agreement include the following:

- a) Conveyance of sufficient land from the City to the County (because the school will be financed with COPs), and modification of the restrictions to allow a school on the site at no cost to the Board of Education or to the County.

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- b) Architectural and Site Layout Review and Approval by the City and the County of the Design of the School;
- c) Joint Use of the school facilities (generally consistent with the joint use arrangements for the gymnasiums at Bruns Avenue);
- d) Reversion of the approximately 1 acre of land, currently owned by the City, to the City if the site is not built in accordance with the approved plans or if the school is no longer used for a school; and
- e) Agreement that the reviews and approvals will be accomplished in an expeditious manner so that the school can be opened in August 2001.

Dr. Leake expressed her concern that the community had not been sufficiently involved. Mr. Griffin said that those involved in the planning had heard from the community, for example, addressing the request that enough space be left for playgrounds.

**Mr. Lassiter moved that the Board approve the *Greenville Park Site Joint Use and Development Agreement* with Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte substantially in the form presented and to authorize and direct the Chairman and the Superintendent to execute and deliver the agreement with any changes they may deem necessary and appropriate. The motion was seconded by Ms. Woods, and the Board voted 8 to 1 to approve the motion. Voting for the motion were Mr. Lassiter, Ms. Woods, Mr. Griffin, Dr. Rembert, Mr. Puckett, Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Molly Griffin, and Ms. Kakadelis. Dr. Leake voted against the motion.**

#### **APPROVED DESIGN/BUILD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT(S) FOR NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT TRYON AND CRAIGHEAD**

**Ms. Molly Griffin moved that the Board approve the Design/Build construction contract(s) for \$8,680,500 with Beam Construction Co. and Boney Architects for the New Elementary School at North Tryon/West Craighead. Ms. Kakadelis seconded the motion.**

Mr. Louis Mosley, Program Director for Bovis Construction Corp., which provides construction management services to CMS, said that the North Carolina General Assembly had passed House Bill 840, the legislation enabling the school system to contract on a "design/build" basis with a general contractor and an architectural firm who would work together on the project. He said that five such design/build teams had been invited to bid on two elementary school projects – at Greenville Park and at Craighead/Tryon Street. Three design/build teams submitted bids for

Greenville Park; and four submitted bids for the Craighead site. Mr. Mosley said that, by law, the decision must be based on price, schedule, and quality.

Dr. Rembert, who had attended the design/build presentation, questioned if the recommended team had been the best in all categories. Mr. Mosley responded that although their price was \$100,000 more, the design was the best in relation to the site. He added that the team had experience working together, that it had previously done construction projects for CMS, and that it self-performed the shell of the building.

In response to a question from Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Mosley related that the design proposed by the #2 bidder had been evaluated 4<sup>th</sup> [with one being the highest], as related to curriculum and provided the least desirable solution to the community.

Mr. Puckett said that he favored Design/Build because it provided the best chance of meeting a tight schedule. Ms. Molly Griffin said that she would rely on the judgment of professionals. Ms. Kakadelis pointed out that the Board needed to act immediately so that the new elementary school would be ready for school opening in August, 2001.

Dr. Rembert said that she could not support the recommendation because of the high price and other factors. Mr. Lassiter asked what those other factors were and was told "believability and diversity in participation."

**The Board voted to approve Ms. Griffin's to award the Design/Build contract to Beam Construction Co. and Boney Architects, by a vote of 5 to 3, with one abstention. Voting for the motion were Ms. Molly Griffin, Ms. Kakadelis, Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Puckett, and Ms. Woods. Mr. Griffin, Dr. Rembert, and Dr. Leake voted against the motion, and Mr. Dunlap abstained from the vote.**

The total budget for the project is as follows:

<u>Use of Funds</u>		
Recommended Award	\$8,680,500	
FF&E/Fees/Surveys/Utilities	<u>2,319,500</u>	
Total Use		<u>\$11,000,000</u>
 <u>Source of Funds</u>		
1999 Certificate of Participation	<u>\$11,000,000</u>	
Total Source		<u>\$11,000,000</u>

**APPROVED DESIGN/BUILD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT(S) FOR NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR GREENVILLE PARK**

**Mr. Puckett moved that the Board approve the Design/Build construction contract(s) for \$9,169,900 with The Haskell Co. with Martin Boal Anthony Johnson, for the New Elementary School for Greenville Park. Ms. Molly Griffin seconded the motion.**

Mr. Griffin questioned the use of a half brick. Mr. Mosley responded that the building would have a full brick look and that the quality of construction, using concrete panels, was actually

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better because there would be less opportunity for cracks and leaks. Such construction was not a compromise, he said, and had been used in a number of states, including North Carolina. Dr. Leake expressed doubt about the quality of construction. Mr. Puckett said this kind of construction is what most industry uses today. He advocated using the recommendations of Bovis Construction Co., hired by the Board to give consulting services. Responding to a question from Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Woods pointed out that while this contract would cost \$250,000 more than that of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place bidder, it was actually a better price because the company would contract to take all the risk with the soil. Mr. Mosley said that The Haskell Co. was a leader in this building process and that the architect had great experience with CMS projects.

Mr. Lassiter recalled that the use of pre-cast concrete was suggested as early as 1993. Mr. Booker said that at that time pre-cast concrete was cost prohibitive and there were not enough supplier.

**The Board voted to approve Mr. Puckett's motion to award the Design/Build contract for a new elementary school at Greenville Park to The Haskell Company with Martin Boal Anthony Johnson, by a vote of 5 to 3, with one abstention. Voting for the motion were Mr. Puckett, Ms. Molly Griffin, Mr. Lassiter, Ms. Woods, and Ms. Kakadelis. Mr. Griffin, Dr. Rembert, and Dr. Leake voted against the motion, and Mr. Dunlap abstained from the vote.**

The total budget for the project is as follows:

<u>Use of Funds</u>		
Recommended Award	\$9,169,900	
FF&E/Fees/Surveys/Utilities	<u>1,830,100</u>	
Total Use		<u>\$11,000,000</u>
 <u>Source of Funds</u>		
1999 Certificate of Participation	<u>\$11,000,000</u>	
Total Source		<u>\$11,000,000</u>

**APPROVED RESOLUTION, LEASE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FOR COPs FUNDING**

Mr. Bringewatt explained that this Resolution would enable the closing of the initial \$25,000,000 of funding from Certificates of Participation ("COPs") with Mecklenburg County. The closing is scheduled for April 6, 2000. Mr. Bringewatt further explained that there would be a Deed of Trust for \$25 million on the property, which Mecklenburg County would continue to own and lease to CMS. The Board of Education would have the administrative authority to build and operate a school on the property.

Mr. Bringewatt assured Mr. Dunlap that no leasing fee would be charged by the County. Dr. Leake asked for clarification of the document, and Mr. Griffin assured her that this particular funding had already been approved by the County and that the Resolution covered what the Board had requested.

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**Mr. Lassiter moved that the Board approve the Resolution Requesting the County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina, to Acquire Certain Property for Use by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and Approval of a Proposed Agreement Concerning Certain School Projects and Lease, Approval of Certain other Documents and Actions Relating Thereto and Authorizing Other Official Action in Connection Therewith. Mr. Puckett seconded the motion, and the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the motion, with one abstention. Voting for the motion were Mr. Griffin, Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Puckett, Dr. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Woods, and Ms. Kakadelis. Ms. Molly Griffin abstained from the vote because of possible conflict of interest. Dr. Rembert was out of the room at the time of the voting.**

A copy of the Resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**RECEIVED AS INFORMATION DRAFT RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDING FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Board received as information a copy of a draft resolution requesting additional funding for inner city schools from the County Commissioners. The resolution will be returned to the Board for consideration at its next Regular Meeting.

**APPROVED FEE INCREASE FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

Barbara Pellin, Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family & Community Services, said that rising costs necessitate periodic fee increases to support this self-sustaining enterprise program. Current fee levels have been in effect for three years, and it is projected that the proposed, higher fees will be adequate for three more years.

For middle school trial programs only, the administration also requested a raise of the daily fee from \$10 to \$12.

**On motion by Ms. Molly Griffin, seconded by Ms. Woods, the Board unanimously approved a fee increase for the After-School Enrichment Program, as set forth in the following chart:**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Child in Family</b>	<b>Fees for 2000-2001</b>
After School	1 <sup>st</sup> Child	\$47.00/week
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Child	\$45.00/week
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Child	\$40.00/week
Before School	Before School only	\$22.00/week
	ASEP and BSC	\$15.00/week
Winter/Spring Break	1 <sup>st</sup> Child	\$18.00/week
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Child	\$16.00/week
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Child	\$16.00/week



Intersession		\$83.00/week
Middle School	After School	\$12.00/week
Summer Enrichment Day Camp	Each Child	2000: \$105/week 20001: \$110/week

The Board recessed for ten-minutes at this time.

**CONSENT ITEMS APPROVED IN ONE MOTION**

**On motion by Ms. Woods, seconded by Dr. Rembert, all Board members present voted to approve in one motion the items on the Consent Agenda. Voting for the motion were Mr. Griffin, Dr. Rembert, Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Woods, and Ms. Molly Griffin. Absent from the room at the time of the vote were Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Puckett, Dr. Leake, and Ms. Kakadelis.**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

The Board approved the following minutes:

February 15, 2000	Closed Session (Panel for Exclusion Appeals)
February 22, 2000	Regular Meeting
March 3, 2000	Closed Session (Panel for Student Assignment Appeals)

**APPROVED SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR HORNETS NEST ELEMENTARY**

The Board approved a contract with ASAP Contractors, the lowest bidder, for \$15,185 for site improvements to the cafeteria loading and dumpster area at Hornets Nest Elementary School. Source of funds is Capital Replacement.

**APPROVED CONTRACT FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT AMAY JAMES MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

The Board approved a contract with Mecklenburg Roofing, the lowest bidder, for \$65,500, for roof replacement at Amay James Montessori School. Included in the bid are two alternates, \$1,500 for a 20-year warranty and \$250 for a fume recovery system. Source of funds is Capital Replacement.

**APPROVED CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR COULWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Board approved construction contracts for a 12-classroom addition along with associated mechanical, electrical, and plumbing tie-ins to existing systems at Coulwood Middle School.

General contractor:	Sealand Contractors	
	Base Bid	\$1,502,000
	Alternate A-1	6,400
	Alternate A-2	19,000
	Alternate A-3	5,300
	Alternate A-4	2,800
	Alternate SA-1	<u>0</u>
	Recommended Award	\$1,535,500

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Plumbing Contractor: Castor Plumbing		
Base Bid	137,432	
Alternate SA-2	<u>0</u>	
Recommended Award		137,432

Mechanical Contractor: LT Mechanical		
Base Bid	322,707	
Alternate SA-1	<u>0</u>	
Recommended Award		322,707

Electrical Contractor: W.E.G. Electric		
Base Bid	157,500	
Alternate E-1	<u>500</u>	
Recommended Award		<u>158,000</u>

Total Recommended Award		<u>\$2,153,639</u>
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Summary of Alternates:

- A-1 Sound isolation partition walls along classroom adjacent to gym
- A-2 New site perimeter fencing
- A-3 Door hardware replacement at gymnasium
- A-4 Masonry repair on existing face brick walls
- E-1 Electrical device relocation at sound isolation partition walls
- SA-1 Schedule alternate for early completion

Budget:

<u>Use of Funds</u>		
Recommended Award	\$2,153,639	
Designer's Fee	165,000	
Program Manager's Fee	147,960	
FF&E/Fees/Surveys/Utilities	<u>533,401</u>	
Total Use		<u>\$3,000,000</u>

The total source of funds is 1997 Bonds.

**APPROVED CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL**

Approved construction contracts with the lowest base bidders for a new two-story classroom building with associated site improvements for the first phase of construction at Independence High School, as follows:.

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Construction at Independence High School (continued)

General contractor: Welliver McGuire, Inc.  
Base Bid \$2,381,000  
Alternate A-1 6,500  
Alternate A-2 2,000  
Alternate A-3 2,400  
Recommended Award \$2,391,900

Plumbing Contractor: Williams Mechanical, Inc.  
Base Bid 269,450  
Recommended Award 269,450

Mechanical Contractor: Cam-Ful Industries, Inc.  
Base Bid 687,400  
Recommended Award 687,4000

Electrical Contractor: Sentry Electric and Controls, Inc.  
Base Bid 369,540  
Recommended Award 369,540

Total Recommended Award \$3,718,290

Summary of Alternates:

- A-1 USGA Learning Wall
- A-2 20-year NDL Roof Warranty
- A-3 LCN & Von Duprin Hardware

Budget for the Project:

Use of Funds  
Recommended Award \$2,718,2909  
Designer's Fee 891,800  
Program Manager's Fee 704,593  
FF&E/Fees/Surveys/Utilities 8,371,460  
Total Use \$13,686,143

Total Source of funds is 1997 Bonds.

**APPROVED AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERINTENDENT AND DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON, TO AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR RANSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent in consultation with the Board Chairperson or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson, to award construction contracts for Ranson Middle School.

The contracts will provide a 12-classroom addition, cafeteria addition, kitchen expansion, and general, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing renovations to existing facility. The bids will be received on March 14, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. and require a 72-hour withdrawal period, in order to increase lead-time for summer 2000 installation. The project will be submitted for information and ratification at the next Regular Meeting.

**Budget for the Project:**

<u>Use of Funds</u>		
Recommended Award (Estimate)	\$5,200,000	
Designer's Fee	301,995	
Program Manager's Fee	360,639	
FF&E/Fees/Surveys/Utilities	<u>1,397,366</u>	
Total Use		<u>\$ 7,290,000</u>
 <u>Source of Funds</u>		
1996 Bonds	\$4,930,000	
1997 Bonds	<u>2,360,000</u>	
Total Source		<u>\$ 7,290,000</u>

**APPROVED AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERINTENDENT AND DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON, TO AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Board approved authorization for the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent in consultation with the Board Chairperson or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson, to award construction contracts for Wilson Middle School.

The contracts will provide general, electrical, mechanical and plumbing services throughout the existing school, a cafeteria expansion, new kitchen equipment, ADA modifications and site improvements. The bids will be received on March 14, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. and require a 72-hour withdrawal period, in order to increase lead-time for summer 2000 installation. The project will be submitted for information and ratification at the next Regular Meeting.

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Total Budget for the Project:

<u>Use of Funds</u>	
Recommended Award (Estimate)	\$3,100,000
Designer's Fee	267,804
Program Manager's Fee	216,352
FF&E/Fees/Surveys/Utilities	<u>782,844</u>
Total Use	<u>\$4,367,000</u>

Total source of funds is 1996 Bonds.

**APPROVED THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENT REASSIGNMENT REQUESTS**

**The Board approved the requests for reassignment of 38 students in Category I and denied the requests of 7 students in Category II.** There were no requests to transfer to other school systems in North Carolina.

The Consent Items conclude at this point.

**REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

**REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT ON CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION 2000-2001 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

Superintendent Smith presented to the Board his Budget Recommendations for the 2000-2001 School Year. A copy of his open letter to the community is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Commenting on the proposed Budget 2000-2001, Dr. Smith said that the CMS administration had looked to Price-Waterhouse-Coopers for guidance on the budget process and that the 2000-2001 was almost zero-based, each principal having been asked to evaluate everything. In addition to providing for growth and equity, two other major factors have influenced the proposal, he said: the State mandate that social promotion end and the fact that CMS will be declared "unitary" at some point. Several pages from the *Executive Summary* of the proposed budget, dated March 14, 2000 have been attached to and made a part of these minutes. In addition, copies of the entire *Budget Recommendations* may be requested and obtained from the CMS Finance Department. Copies are also available of the *Executive Summary* and the *2000-2001 Betterment Request*.

	County Appropriations		State Revenues		Total Revenues	
	Dollars	% Increase Previous Year	Dollars	% Increase Previous	Dollars	% By Year
Proposed						
2000-01	\$246,675,591	19.9%	\$438,369,026	5.1%	\$722,500,148	7.1%
1999-00	207,453,912	11.3%	417,021,032	9.5%	674,338,180	10.1%
1998-90	186,453,912	16.7%	380,999,612	12.1%	612,383,343	14.4%
1997-98	159,715,038	14.1%	307,794,763	10.5%	535,093,970	11.4%
1996-97	140,000,000	8.2%	307,794,763	8.3%	480,180,758	8.4
1995-96	129,424,700	4.1%	284,230,793	3.6%	443,076,779	4.8%

The Board will hold work sessions on the budget on March 21, March 23, and March 28; the Board will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget on March 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Center.

### **REPORT ON PROPOSED POLICY ON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Anne Udall, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, said that with the changes made since the original proposal was made, this presentation would constitute a First Reading. Catherine Munn, Regional Assistant Superintendent for Quality Assurance, said that next year all CMS high schools will follow an "A/B Day" schedule, which allows students to take four courses on one day and four courses on the second day. With this schedule, students can earn up to 8 credits a year, for a total of 32. She said that high school principals were in support of the change. The new requirements in the graduation proposal include the following:

- An additional Unit in Mathematics
- A required 4<sup>th</sup> Unit in Science or Social Studies
- Second language Requirement
- An additional Half Unit in Health/PE
- Career/Technical Requirements
- An Arts Education Requirement
- Applied Communication/Senior Exit Requirement
- Computer Skills Test (required by State of North Carolina)
- Essential Skills Test (required by State of North Carolina)

**Summary of Graduation Requirements**

<u>Current</u>		<u>Proposed</u>	
English	4	English	4
Mathematics	3	Mathematics	4
Science	3	Science	3*
Social Studies	3.5	Social Studies	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Language	0	2 <sup>nd</sup> Language	0-1-2
Career/technical	0	Career/Technical	0-1-2
Arts Education	0	Arts Education	1
Applied Comm/		Applied Comm/	
Senior Exit Project	0	Senior Exit Project	1
Electives	<u>5</u>	Electives	<u>6-5-5*</u>
TOTAL	20	TOTAL	28

**BOARD DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Ms. Kakadelis asked for more information about the college/tech prep path. She suggested that if a student had the necessary skills, he/she could opt out of the senior exit project. She also suggested that the new graduation requirements be sent to the School Leadership Teams for their review.

Ms. Molly Griffin asked for more information about the science requirements. Ms. Munn said that electives included other science courses, such as botany.

Dr. Leake was concerned that industrial arts/shop course requirements had been eliminated; many potential drop-out students, she said, need a hand-on approach to learning.

Ms. Woods asked for clarification on the Senior Exit Project, especially regarding communication skills. She expressed concern for students who take advanced math courses in middle school but fail Calculus II just before graduation. Ms. Woods asked for sample schedules.

Mr. Lassiter asked for information about the content and intent of Applied Communications. He said he did not want this course to become a study hall. He suggested that the administration talk to the best students and their parents and learn their opinions about curriculum - present and future - so as not to rush into potential, unknown defects imbedded in the revised graduation requirements.

Dr. Rembert inquired about the inclusion of geography. She emphasized that a 2<sup>nd</sup> language should be taught earlier rather than later.

Mr. Puckett said he favored the strengthening of all courses.



## **REPORT ON PROPOSED POLICY ON SCREENING VOLUNTEERS**

The Board held a First Reading on a proposed, new policy: Screening Volunteers” CMS/NEPN Cod: IJOCA. The object of the screening is to protect the children, ensuring that students are safe in the school environment. The level of screening would be dependent upon the task assigned to a volunteer, the degree of supervision of the volunteer, and the nature of the volunteer’s contact with students. The final paragraph of the proposed policy states:

*The Board of Education expects individual schools to use responsible, reasonable methods to screen volunteers who will be working directly with children. The Superintendent will develop regulations to provide guidelines for such screening.*

Mr. Lassiter said that such a policy is necessary but that the proposed policy was overly broad, that the Board needed to give more direction, not leaving regulations to the discretion of the administration.

The proposed policy will be posted in the schools and for the general public for the required number of days, reviewed, and returned to the Board for a Second Reading and subsequent vote.

## **REPORT ON NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR CAREER EXPOSITION 2000**

Janet Huber, CMS Director of Guidance and Counseling, reported that the region’s seventh National College Fair will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2000, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Charlotte Convention Center. Middle and high school students and their parents will have the opportunity to attend the College Fair, which is hosted by CMS and the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC). It will feature over 170 colleges and universities from across the nation. Ms. Huber said that last year more than 8,000 people attended. She noted that a career corner has been added to this year’s Fair.

## **REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The following persons addressed the Board:

**Sherry Suttles**, introduced a group of six students from Martin Middle School and Northwest School of the Arts who are members of the “White Coat Society for Leadership.” They described their club and their goal of traveling to Africa in the summer of 2000.

**Barbara Ziegler**, Executive Director of the Teen Health Connection, which is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, reported on the study the Teen Health Connection has completed, a community initiative entitled “Smart Choices... Safe Lives” to promote youth development and prevent youth violence in Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, NC. She said that the report was available on disk and at the Connection’s website. She said that the Teen Health Connection is pro-active and that more than 150 people had attended its study conference.

**Stephen Meachum**, a concerned parent, spoke about the unfairness of the appeal process for student assignment.

**Dave Krausse**, parent at Elizabeth Lane Elementary, spoke in opposition to the school's taking 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on a field trip to Discovery Place to view the exhibit on race relations because of the strong and abusive language students used during role playing interacting with the exhibit.

**James Ramsey**, speaking on behalf of 100 Black Men, said that there is over-emphasis on student assignment in the community. He said that ensuring equity is the real issue. He expressed the group's concern about majority poverty schools and stressed the importance of equity in teaching staffs, discipline, materials, curriculum and care for promotion. He also said that the number of minority students experiencing out-of-school suspension is disproportionate.

**Dr. Peter Hindel**, parent at Elizabeth Lane Elementary, spoke in support of the Face-to-Face exhibit at Discovery Place regarding prejudice and the betterment of race relations. He said that the material had been drawn from students, aged 7 to 10, in Chicago. He acknowledged the strong language used but said there were multiple opportunities for benefit.

**Christine Huff**, an ESL teacher at First Ward Elementary, also spoke in support of the Face-to-Face exhibit at Discovery Place. She said that the exhibit evokes feelings of empathy and that is just a beginning for further character building. She advocated more character education.

**Serina Edwards**, parent at First Ward Elementary, spoke in support of the Face-to-Face exhibit at Discovery Place. She said that many children have seen these situations, and role playing helps them respond in a non-violent way.

**Dr. Ricky Woods**, a Baptist minister, said that he was concerned about the lack of computer technology in some schools. He suggested that CMS have a more defined computer curriculum.

**Greg Metcalf**, member of the PTA sub-committee on diversity at Elizabeth Lane Elementary, spoke in support of the Face-to-Face exhibit at Discovery Place. He said that the PTA had funded the trip to Discovery Place, that parents had been given choice in whether their child should attend, and that the students had been accompanied by a teacher who had received orientation to the exhibit prior to the visit.

**Frank Creft**, parent on the School Leadership Team at Elizabeth Lane Elementary, spoke in support of the Face-to-Face exhibit at Discovery Place. He said that the Leadership Team had made diversity a priority in its 4-year Plan and has sponsored activities that have brought various ethnic groups into the school.

## **REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Griffin requested that the Board members hold their reports until the next Regular Meeting.

## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent had no further report at this time

## FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Center, preceded by a Work Session/Dinner Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

The Board will also hold a Work Session on the Budget on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room followed by a Special Board Meeting/Public Hearing on the Budget at 6:00 p.m.

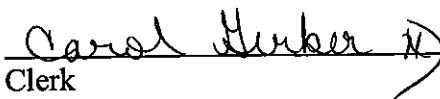
On Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> the Board will hold a Work Session/Lunch Meeting on the Budget in the Board Room, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

**On motion by Mr. Dunlap, seconded by Dr. Rembert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 12:15 a.m. (on March 15<sup>th</sup>) and go into Closed Session to consult with the Board Attorney regarding Julia Schroeder v. CMBOE, in accordance with §143-318.11(a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statutes, and to discuss the acquisition of real property in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes §143-318.11(a)(3).**



Chairperson



Clerk

March 14, 2000  
Regular Board Meeting