



Charlotte, North Carolina  
September 12, 2000

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on September 12, 2000, beginning at 6:10 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. The meeting was televised on CMS 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); Louise Woods (District 4);  
Molly Griffin (District 5); Lindalyn Kakadelis (District 6)

**ABSENT:** No Board members were absent.

Also present at the request of the Board were Eric J. Smith, Superintendent; James L. Pughsley, Deputy Superintendent; Frances Haithcock, Associate Superintendent for Education Services; members of Senior Staff; James L. Clark, Executive Director of Administration; Leslie Winner, Board Attorney; and Carole Hamrick, Manager School Board Services, serving as Clerk.

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

There was a public hearing scheduled on the proposed policy BG, School Board Policy Process, but no one from the community was present to address the Board on this policy. Mr. Griffin suggested to Board members that, if they had any comments or suggestions on this proposed policy, they should contact Ms. Woods or members of the Policy Committee prior to the next Board meeting as the proposed policy will be adopted at that time.

**MINUTES APPROVED** 9/26/00

Mr. Griffin recognized Ms. Molly Griffin for recognition of the Public Information Department as recipient of the National School Public Relations Association 2000 Publications and Electronic Media Contest Award of Excellence. Jerri Haigler received the award for the Public Information Department and thanked the Board of Education for continued support of their department. Ms. Woods commented that John Deem should be congratulated, too, for his efforts while he was employed by CMS.

Mr. Griffin then recognized Dr. Eric Smith, Superintendent, as Regional Superintendent of the Year for the Southwest Education Alliance. The alliance, which represents fourteen school districts in the area, serves to facilitate quality education through collaborative efforts between school systems and other organizations, agencies, and government institutions. Dr. Smith's nomination was made by Cabarrus County Superintendent Harold Winkler and was voted unanimously by the entire alliance membership. Dr. Smith was recognized for:

- His outstanding leadership
- His vision for the instructional program in CMS
- His ability to tackle tough issues
- His involvement of parents and staff in decision-making, and
- His support of education causes outside of CMS

As Regional Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Smith will be recognized at the Southwest Education Alliance's conference on "Closing the Achievement Gap" in Boone, NC, on October 18. Dr. Mike Ward, state superintendent of the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), will present a plaque to Dr. Smith. He will also compete in the NC Association of School Administrators Superintendent of the Year Award. The winner of this competition will be entered into the 2001 National Superintendent of the Year sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Smith responded by thanking Board members and staff for their continued support.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Approval of Administrative Personnel

On motion by Dr. Rembert and seconded by Ms. Kakadelis, the Board unanimously approved, by those present, the following administrative appointments:

Tekle Ayano as Director of Instructional Accountability. Dr. Ayano is currently a research analyst in the Instructional Accountability Department. He has also served as a program evaluator in the Kansas City schools; a consultant for TDR, WHO, in Geneva, Switzerland; a consultant for the World Bank in Washington, DC; and various other positions.

Elizabeth Parker Anderson as Director of Instructional Accountability. Dr. Anderson is currently an accountability analyst in the Instructional Accountability Department. She

has also served as a lead Student Services Specialist (SSS) for CMS; SSS at Highland and Devonshire Elementary Schools; a professional affiliate at UNC Charlotte; and various other positions.

Patricia Annette Underhill as Director of Instructional Accountability. Ms. Underhill is currently an Education Associate III at the South Carolina Department of Education. She has also served as a graduate assistant at the University of South Carolina; taught in various schools in South Carolina and Texas; and various other positions.

Ms. Kakadelis requested an organizational chart with names on it in conjunction with their titles. Dr. Smith responded that would be supplied.

#### Approval of waiver for Midwood High School

On motion by Mr. Lassiter and seconded by Dr. Rembert, the Board voted unanimously, by those present, to approve an off-cycle testing waiver for Midwood High School. Dr. Smith explained this is an annual request that CMS makes to NCDPI which will allow students at Midwood to take the End-of-Course tests when they have mastered the course content. Ms. Woods requested to see the waiting list for Midwood High School, commenting on its popularity. She suggested that perhaps other high schools could house such a program because of interest from the community.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

On motion by Mr. Dunlap and seconded by Ms. Woods, the Board unanimously approved, by those present, the following Consent Items:

#### Minutes

- Closed Session August 31, 2000
- Closed Session August 22, 2000
- Regular Meeting August 22, 2000
- Closed Session August 14, 2000
- Work Session August 10, 2000
- Closed Session August 3, 2000 (2 sets)
- Closed Session August 2, 2000
- Closed Session July 27, 2000
- Closed Session July 26, 2000 (3 sets)
- Closed Session July 24, 2000 (2 sets)
- Closed Session July 19, 2000 (3 sets)
- Closed Session April 26, 2000
- Closed Session December 15, 1999
- Special Board Meeting December 6, 1999
- Special Meeting/Public Hearing December 2, 1999
- Special Meeting December 1, 1999
- Closed Session November 16, 1999

- Special Meeting/Public Hearing November 19, 1999
- Closed Session November 9, 1999
- Regular Meeting October 26, 1999

Mr. Lassiter thanked the Clerk for the number of minutes presented.

#### Construction Items

- Construction contracts for the New Vocational/Technical High School – Total use of funds is \$40,345,699. Source of funds is 1997 & 1991 Bonds, and Mecklenburg County Library Funds, in the amount of \$40,345,699.
- Easement agreement with Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection for Winterfield Elementary School – The Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection has received a grant to treat storm water runoff in the Edwards Branch watershed. They are requesting an easement at Winterfield Elementary to install a grassed swale that will allow storm water runoff from the parking area to infiltrate the ground, thus removing pollutants, before entering the creek.
- Contract for minor roof repairs and maintenance for Hawthorne Middle School – Contract will provide for minor roof repairs and maintenance at Hawthorne Middle School roof Sector “B”. Total use of funds is \$24,700. Source of funds is Maintenance Funds in the amount of \$24,700.

#### Student Reassignment

The Board approved 205 student reassignment requests in Category I. The Board denied 41 student reassignment requests in Category II. There were no requests for release of students to other school districts.

### **REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### Report on AP/IB Testing and SAT Testing Results

Dr. Smith called upon Dr. Susan Agruso, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Accountability, for a presentation on the results of the AP/IB programs and the SAT testing. Highlights of the 1999-2000 SAT results are as follows:

- Average score of 989, up 4 points over last year, compared to 988 for NC and 1019 for US.
- Top 10% of graduating class of 2000 scored 1202 compared to 1175 for NC and 1197 for US.
- 40% increase in the number of students taking the SAT since 1994.
- Demographically, 843 African-American students took the SATs in CMS as compared to 835 in NC and 860 in US. 1060 white students took the SATs in CMS as compared to 1035 in NC and 1058 nationally. 975 female students took the SATs in CMS as compared to 976 in NC and 1002 nationally. 1006 male students took the SATs in CMS as compared to 1005 in NC and 1040 nationally.

Highlights for the 1999-2000 AP/IB Participation Rates are as follows:

From 1998-99 to 1999-00, there has been:

- An increase in completion rate from 41.7% to 44.2%.
- A 23% increase in the percentage of African-American students completing at least one course, from 20.7% to 25.5%.
- A 21% increase in the percentage of students from other racial/ethnic groups completing at least one AP/IB course.
- An increase of 66% in the percentage of free/reduced price lunch students completing at least one course, from 12.7% to 21.1%.
- From 1998-99 to 1999-00, there has been a reduction in the gap between African-American and white students from 33.8 to 28.7. The gap between free/reduced price lunch students and paid students from 34.6 to 26.9.
- 41% of students taking the tests scored a 3 or better.
- Since 1991-92, CMS has had an increase of 111% in enrollment in AP courses; an increase in the enrollment of African-American students; and an increase of 186% in the number of AP exams taken.
- 70 CMS students earned the AP diploma in 1999-00.
- In 1999-00, 69% of students earned the IB diploma.

Dr. Smith commented these are very impressive numbers but there is still work to be done. Concentration needs to be on teacher training, retention and the curriculum. There is the need, he said, to increase access to the AP/IB programs without lowering the expectations of the programs. Demand and rigor are high and output should continue to be high, he stated.

#### **Board Members Questions and Comments**

Mr. Griffin commented that CMS appears to be doing better with struggling students. Dr. Rembert asked how the student participation in AP compares to the total enrollment increase that CMS has experienced. Dr. Smith responded it is a 10% increase. Mr. Puckett questioned the 21% drop in the number of African-American students scoring 3 or better on the AP tests. Dr. Agruso replied this is being researched and Instructional Accountability is working with Barb Pellin's area to focus on strategies for high school counselors.

Dr. Leake entered the Board meeting at this time.

Ms. Kakadelis requested a list of AP classes in each high school. She also requested that the charts go back 4-5 years for comparison sake. Ms. Kakadelis also asked what SAT preparation and staff development does CMS provide for teachers. Dr. Smith responded this information would be provided. Mr. Lassiter requested a breakdown of AP/IB performance by high school. Dr. Agruso responded this would be provided. Ms. Woods pointed out that 44% of the nation's students took the SATs, 64% of students in NC took the SATs, and 73% of CMS students took the SATs. We should be proud of our scores, she stated, and the numbers of our students taking the test. Dr. Leake agreed with Ms.

Woods and pointed out that our reporting shows we test more students than other areas of the state and nation do.

### Joint Resolution Promoting and Enhancing Joint Planning and Joint Use Policy and Process

In presenting the above joint resolution between the Board of Education, Board of County Commissioners, City Council, Central Piedmont Community College and the Public Library, Dr. Smith commented on the commitment of the above entities to joint planning. The resolution, which will be adopted at the September 26<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting, will direct the above entities to have their individual departments/agencies to biennially update the department's ten-year facility master plan which will: serve as the foundation for development of their long range capital needs and CIP; identify potential joint use opportunities; support adopted land use plans; and integrate the departmental planning process into a comprehensive and strategic City/County planning process.

### **Board Members Questions and Comments**

Mr. Griffin requested a listing of the joint projects. He also recognized Dick Black of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission and Eric Becoats, CMS Chief Officer Demographics and Planning. Ms. Kakadelis and Ms. Woods commented on the significance of this cooperative effort among all entities. Mr. Becoats stated that CMS is in the process of updating the 10-year master plan as one agency of the whole in terms of the joint planning entities. Dr. Leake expressed concern on the different methods used for planning by each entity. She is especially concerned about the financial differences. Dr. Smith responded that joint planning among the entities should help with the financial surprises. Mr. Puckett commented that the six adjacent towns to Charlotte are not mentioned in the joint planning process. Mr. Black responded that the six towns are a part of the Joint Use Task Force but suggested expansion to include the six adjacent towns in the joint resolution is a viable option. Mr. Dunlap commented that the six towns should have input but that no one entity should be included in the veto process. Ms. Kakadelis commented it is important to involve the six towns. The challenge, she said, would be to have the same cooperation from the City Council as other projects are suggested.

### Report on recommendation that the Board approve amendments to the June 1, 2000 Resolution on Student Assignment

Dr. Smith reported on the recommendation that the Board's June 1, 2000 Resolution on Student Assignment be amended by adding a new paragraph II H. as follows: The Montessori magnet program currently at Billingsville Elementary School will be moved to the new Grier Road elementary school. The Board requests that the Superintendent bring to them a recommendation for the use of Highland Elementary School once it is renovated as a magnet program that is instructionally sound and is consistent with the needs of the Highland community. Dr. Smith commented that CMS does not have

adequate funding to bring Highland to the standards necessary for a Montessori program. He is suggesting that the permanent Montessori program be kept at the Grier Road elementary school and not moved to Highland Elementary School. Dr. Smith stated that staff will work with the Board and the community on a viable program for Highland Elementary School once renovations are completed. Highland will be renovated during the 2001-02 school year and reopen at the beginning of the 2002-03 school year. He also stated the foreign language programs would remain at Reid Park, Sedgefield, and Bruns Avenue elementary schools, and at Smith Middle School. Renovations at Sedgefield Middle School, Dr. Smith said, revealed some structural problems. Staff is working with a group of parents to finalize recommendations of the Language Immersion Program and will bring those suggestions to the Board at their September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Board Members Questions and Comments**

Mr. Dunlap has concerns about changing the population of the Grier Road school site after telling the community that their passage of the 1997 Bonds would fund a neighborhood school, not a Montessori program. He suggested relocating the Montessori program to another location and leaving the Grier Road site as a neighborhood school. Ms. Woods commented that CMS needs a viable program at Highland Elementary School for that community as well as at Chantilly Elementary School. She also said that the parents at Billingsville Elementary School want to stay at the Grier Road site once they are reassigned. Ms. Woods asked Mr. Becoats for follow-up information on Briarwood Elementary School and the changing community around that school. Ms. Molly Griffin commented that it was creative thinking to place the Montessori program at Highland Elementary School but, since staff has determined that would not be feasible, a viable program must be placed at Highland. Ms. Kakadelis asked about the Montessori program at Park Road. She also requested information on the number of students in the Billingsville program this year and the cost per student for that program. Mr. Lassiter commented the Montessori program needs to be supported. He also stated that, when the Grier Road site was built with 1997 Bond monies and built as a neighborhood school, the current student assignment plan was not considered since it did not exist at that time. Mr. Lassiter requested capacity and growth projections in 1997 as compared to the current projections for the Grier Road site. Mr. Puckett commented that he agrees with Mr. Dunlap – CMS needs to be consistent with the Grier Road school site. Ms. Woods asked if the Montessori program at Park Road would have space for all families in that community who want to attend the program. If not, and they are zoned to Billingsville, would CMS provide transportation, she asked.

### **Report on recommendation that the Board grant the Superintendent the authority to alter the timeline for construction projects as setout in the 120-day Management Plan**

Dr. Smith commented that on August 11, 1998, the Board approved the 120-day Management Plan for the 1996 and 1997 Bond programs which included 5 phases for construction of projects utilizing those funds. Since then, the Board of County Commissioners has approved \$50 million of school renovation and construction projects using COPs and has approved a capital outlay ordinance for another \$113 million. Many

of the schools to be renovated will use funds from a combination of the 1996 and 1997 Bonds and the subsequent county funding. In order to proceed with the renovation projects expediently and efficiently, Dr. Smith needs the authority to alter the phases for initiating construction projects that were set out in the 120-day Management Plan. Dr. Smith commented that some projects are moving quicker while others are taking longer to complete. He will, of course, consult with the Board before any changes are made, but the new process would allow staff to move projects along.

### **Board Members Questions and Comments**

Mr. Griffin recommended that a matrix be devised that would contain constraints and a formula for Dr. Smith and staff to move upon. He requested that Dr. Smith and staff inform the Board what information should be included in the matrix. Ms. Kakadelis commented that Board members need to always be informed and Dr. Smith agreed.

### **Report on recommendations for approval of use of 1997 Bond funds to build an elementary school in the south on the property owned by the Board on Providence Road at Country Lane**

Dr. Smith said the 1997 Bond monies were intended to build an elementary school at Endhaven Lane but he and staff are now suggesting that these monies be used to build an elementary school at Country Lane to ease the overcrowding at McKee Road Elementary School. Dr. Smith commented on the extraordinary efforts of staff and parents at McKee Road in dealing with the overcrowding situations there. When the 2000 Bonds are passed, money would then be available to build the elementary school at Endhaven Lane.

### **Board Members Questions and Comments**

Mr. Dunlap stated he had concerns about changing the purpose of 1997 Bond monies from Endhaven Lane to Country Lane. He stated that CMS should build schools where we told voters we were going to build them. He stated this is not the time to shift monies and test the trust of the community. Dr. Leake reiterated what Mr. Dunlap said – CMS needs to live up to what we said were going to do with 1997 Bond monies. Ms. Woods stated that the Board committed to a site in the south area of Charlotte in the 1997 Bond monies but did not commit to a specific site. Ms. Kakadelis stated the Board is incumbent to place a school where the need is the greatest and that Bond monies are for a general site – not a specific address. Mr. Puckett said that the Board should consider the timelines. The current Endhaven Lane site is already six months into the site development phase and the Country Lane site is not. He has concerns about changing the site at this time of development. Mr. Lassiter commented that when the Superintendent cites a critical situation, such as now exists at McKee Road Elementary School, the Board needs to act on the situation promptly.

### **Report from Board Members**



Dr. Leake reported that she had attended a meeting of the AARA and shared information regarding the 2000 Bond Program with that group. They are very supportive of CMS and the Bond Program. She also visited a middle school and was very impressed with the cleanliness of the facility and the academics in the classrooms she observed. Dr. Leake also commented on the shortage of teachers. She is interested in having Dr. Pughsley and Lisa Oates give a report on the teacher retention program they are working on. She suggested reactivating the Future Teachers of Tomorrow group. Dr. Leake also requested a report on multi-cultural education and asked who was in charge of that program.

Dr. Rembert reminded Board members of the Curriculum Committee Meeting on Thursday, September 21. She also asked about the ability of different community groups assisting students with testing. Groups have had some difficulty, she stated, accessing staff to get information on how they can help students at risk on the EOG testing and state standards. She also spoke before the 100 Black Men Mentoring Program at Cochrane and was very impressed with this group and their strong relationship with CMS and the community.

Ms. Kakadelis emphasized the PTA Council meeting on Thursday evening, September 14, at the Education Center, to discuss writing assessments. She also reminded the Board of the September 20<sup>th</sup> National See You at the Pole Day. This is where students will be gathering at the flag poles to pray for their schools.

Ms. Woods reminded Board members of their United Way (UW) pledges. She also requested a list of schools where UW projects have been occurring. She has been very pleased with the support she has found in the community for the Bond Program. She reminded the Board of the Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> Bond Kick-off at Piedmont Middle School at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Lassiter commented on studies he had seen which substantiate high school students have difficulty concentrating early in the morning. He suggested a pilot program to study the effects of a shift from the early morning high school starting times to later in the morning. There is some value, he said, in how we look at school beginning times.

### **Report from the Superintendent**

Dr. Smith had no report.

### **Requests from the Public**

There was general discussion about the 5-minute time limit for groups speaking as compared to the 3-minute time limit for individual speakers. Mr. Griffin asked the Policy Committee to address this issue.

P.J. Isaac, PTA president from Billingsville Elementary School, addressed the Board on the proposed pupil assignment plan at the Grier Road school site.

Elizabeth Grillo, speaking on behalf of the Historic North Charlotte Neighborhood Association, stressed the need for a vital program at Highland Elementary School. She suggested an arts magnet for that school.

Dorne Pentes also spoke on the need for a vital program at Highland Elementary School.

Ellen Chelms spoke about the Southeast Origami Festival beginning on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

James Lee spoke on the Billingsville Montessori Program and the change for the community when that program is moved to the Grier Road site.

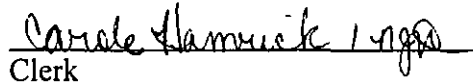
### **Adjournment**

On motion by Mr. Puckett and seconded by Ms. Molly Griffin, the Board adjourned to Room 408 to go into Closed Session pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with counsel concerning a possible claim against the BOE; and pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(5) to instruct the Board's staff concerning contracts for the acquisition of real property; and pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss matters concerning personnel. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



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Chairperson



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Clerk