

Charlotte, North Carolina
September 26, 2000

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on September 26, 2000 at 6:00 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); Louise Woods (District 4);
Molly Griffin (District 5); Lindalyn Kakadelis (District 6)

ABSENT: There were no Board members 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, Greg Clemmer, Associate Superintendent for Operations, other members of Senior Staff, Leslie Winner, General Counsel to the Board, and Carole Hamrick, Manager of Board Services, serving as Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Personnel

Mr. Griffin called upon Dr. Smith for presentation of the appointment of administrative personnel. Dr. Smith recommended Mr. Alvin Griffin as Director of Graphic Productions. Mr. Griffin graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas, Virginia, in 1976. He is currently the Director of Printing Services at Winthrop University where he has been employed since 1993. Prior to that, he was a printing services supervisor in Prince William County Schools in Manassas, Virginia. **On motion by Mr. Lassiter and seconded by Dr. Rembert, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Griffin as Director of Graphic Productions.**

MINUTES APPROVED 10/10/2000

Dr. Smith also informed the Board of his decision to re-assign Ms. Delores Lee, principal at Cochrane Middle School, as principal at West Charlotte High School, and Ms. Catherine Burgin, assistant principal at Cochrane Middle School, as acting principal at Cochrane Middle School.

Proposed Policy BG, School Board Policy Process

The School Board Policy Process, Policy BG, is a revision of the current policy and sets forth the process by which policies and regulations are initiated and adopted. Ms. Woods pointed out that the regulations for this particular policy were included in the Board packet. The Policy Committee helped to define the regulations and Board members should be sure to review the regulations in terms of what the Board of Education does to initiate policy. Mr. Lassiter asked Ms. Woods if the regulations spoke directly to the policies included in the Policy Manual. Ms. Woods indicated they did. She also indicated that the Superintendent and staff are in charge of creating the regulations for each policy adopted by the Board of Education. Mr. Dunlap commented that all nine Board members initiate policy that is not necessarily contained in the Policy Manual. Ms. Woods replied that the School Board Policy Process is merely a process and does not circumvent the authority of the School Board to initiate policy. **On motion by Ms. Woods, and seconded by Mr. Dunlap, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Policy BG, School Board Policy Process.**

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

On motion by Ms. Woods, and seconded by Dr. Rembert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Joint Resolution Promoting and Enhancing Joint Planning and Joint Use Policy and Process. The purpose of this resolution is to encourage joint planning and joint use with City and County agencies and to coordinate long range facility plans with these entities. A copy of the resolution is made a part of these minutes.

Amendment for June 1st Resolution on Student Assignment

Mr. Griffin called upon Dr. Smith for this particular item. The Superintendent recommended that the Board's June 1, 200 Resolution on Student Assignment be amended by adding a new paragraph II.H. as follows:

The Montessori magnet program currently housed at Billingsville Elementary School will remain at the new Grier Road elementary school. The Board requests that the Superintendent bring to the Board a recommendation for the use of Highland Elementary School after it is renovated as a magnet program that is instructionally sound and is consistent with the needs of the Highland neighborhood. A second recommendation by the Superintendent would be to move the Montessori program from Billingsville Elementary School to the Grier Road elementary school site in 2001-02 until adequate

renovations can be done at Highland Elementary School. Once renovations are completed, the Montessori program would move to Highland and the Grier Road elementary school would be put to another use.

The Superintendent also recommends that the Board's June 1, 2000 Resolution on Student Assignment be further amended by adding a new paragraph II.I. as follows:

The Language Immersion magnet program for grades 6-8 will remain at Smith Middle School until Sedgefield Middle School is sufficiently renovated to accommodate those students. The Language Immersion magnet program for grades k-5 will be located at Sedgefield Middle School. Once renovations are completed, the k-5 French, German and Japanese students will go to Sedgefield Middle School and would become a K-8 school. The k-5 Spanish students will remain at Collinswood Elementary School.

Sedgefield Middle School Recommendation

Mr. Griffin recommended dividing the issues and considering the Sedgefield Middle School recommendation first. **On motion by Mr. Lassiter, seconded by Mr. Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to divide the issues and consider the Sedgefield Middle School recommendation first.** Ms. Griffin stated that the decision for use of Sedgefield Middle School as a K-8 school did meet the consensus of parents. The end-of-grade testing scores indicated that sound educational practices are being taught at that school. **On motion by Mr. Lassiter, seconded by Ms. Griffin, the Sedgefield Middle School recommendation was unanimously approved.**

Billingsville Montessori Program

Mr. Puckett made a friendly motion that, rather than permanently leaving the Montessori program at the Grier Road elementary school, finding an alternate site location. To permanently leave the Montessori program at Grier Road, Mr. Puckett stated, is not in keeping with promises made for use of Bond monies for that site.

Dr. Leake expressed her concern at having poverty schools at Cotswold and Eastover. Parents have said they want to stay at Billingsville. Dr. Leake stated she could not support moving children to a site for a short period of time and not using the Bond monies as we had indicated we would use them. She said it is a matter of trust between the Board of Education and the community that we use the monies as we indicated we would.

Dr. Smith discussed school capacities as an issue in changing the Student Assignment Plan at this particular time. He also indicated he had received from staff a 40-page document listing the issues before the school district as we prepare to open school for the 2001-02 school year. There is no time, he said, to reopen Student Assignment. He reminded the Board of Education they had previously approved moving the Montessori program to Highland Elementary School, and had approved the Grier Road elementary school site as a swing space school. He suggested that the Board approve leaving the

Montessori program permanently at the Grier Road elementary school site or giving staff enough time to complete renovations at Highland Elementary School and then move the Montessori program to that location.

Mr. Dunlap commented that later this evening the Board would be considering the placement of a school from one site to another. He further commented that if this move is good for one portion of the county, it is certainly good for another area of the county. He stated that the Board had heard the word "continuity" for students a great deal and that is what the Montessori parents want for their children. He questioned how this could be done without affecting the capacity at both Cotswold and Eastover elementary schools. He stated that we might say we have capacity limits at schools but we continuously exceed those capacity numbers. Bond monies, he stated, would increase the capacity at Billingsville to 800 seats. Grandfathering, he further stated, would allow children to stay at Cotswold and Eastover and allow Billingsville the capacity to operate both the Montessori program and the Choice Program. **Mr. Dunlap offered a substitute motion to allow the Montessori program to remain at Billingsville. This motion was seconded by Dr. Leake.**

Dr. Smith said the above motion would place Billingsville at 137% capacity and Cotswold at 97% capacity. He also reminded the Board there is not a guaranteed right to attend school where students are presently assigned. It is a very complex issue to house two programs at one location when the school is over capacity.

Dr. Rembert asked about the capacity for placement of mobile units at Billingsville and if this had ever been considered. She also asked about the costs for the renovations at Highland Elementary School. Dr. Smith responded that currently \$2.5 million is budgeted for renovations at Highland but that the Bonds will add an additional \$5 million. Dr. Rembert replied that she is not in favor of moving the Montessori program to the Grier Road elementary site on a permanent basis.

Ms. Woods informed Dr. Smith that she had contacted staff about the use of mobile units at Billingsville and had been told that one mobile could be located there comfortably, perhaps two, but certainly no more than two.

Dr. Smith pointed out that to leave the Montessori program at Billingsville and house two programs there would have that school at 200 students over capacity. Two mobile units would only accommodate 40 students.

Ms. Woods replied that the Board must do the right thing for children. She is concerned about the children in the Grier Heights neighborhood. Ms. Woods stated that Cotswold must begin their first year as a magnet program with 135 seats. This would enable those children in the area, and at Eastover, to have a good opportunity to attend their school of choice. Parents are entitled to have a system of choices as the Board had indicated they would have, Ms. Woods said. The system must provide space for children that is educationally sound. Ms. Woods expressed concerns about having the Montessori program and the Choice program there because of the educational soundness of housing

two programs at Billingsville. The Grier Road site, per Ms. Woods, is not a convenient location for most of the Montessori program parents. She also expressed concern about the stability for students only remaining at the Grier Road site for two years before being moved to a permanent site.

Mr. Griffin commented that he could support the substitute motion. If we are going to have choice work, he said, we could see if it would work at Billingsville. The Board does not want to impact student success by placing them in over-crowded situations for a long period of time, Mr. Griffin stated. There is a great need to look at overall stability.

Mr. Lassiter commented that he understood Mr. Dunlap's motion but it is not feasible to allow the Montessori program to remain at Billingsville and also allow students in the Choice Program to select that school to attend. The issue, according to Mr. Lassiter, is one of capacity of the Billingsville site. The school cannot withstand housing both programs as that would have them at 200 students over capacity. And housing the Montessori students there will still require moving them at some point for anticipated renovations, he said. Mr. Lassiter agreed with Dr. Smith that the Board does not want to re-engage in the student assignment process. Mr. Lassiter indicated there is a need to do a space analysis to see if there is physical evidence that Billingsville could house both programs.

Dr. Smith again cautioned the Board against this action. To house both programs there would cause a significant number of at-risk children further harm. Last year, he stated, the free/reduced children in the Montessori program scored some 20 points lower than the system average on their EOGs. The school district cannot put that many children in one school and expect to get any positive results, he stated. There were no signs of academic success last year with low income students or African American students at Billingsville. He cautioned the Board to weigh carefully housing the Choice program and the Montessori program together. Dr. Smith said this would be a mistake.

Ms. Griffin stated that parents she has been in contact with don't think it is possible to operate both programs, particularly in an overcrowded situation. She asked if it would be possible to operate two programs at the Grier Road site.

Ms. Kakadelis commented on the difficult nature of this decision. She suggested making the Grier Road site a magnet program. She also supports the plans for Highland Elementary School. She questioned how the Board could vote against programs that are academically sound. Ms. Kakadelis requested a copy of capacity numbers that had been provided for Mr. Dunlap. Dr. Smith indicated those would be provided for all Board members.

Mr. Puckett stated that it makes him very nervous when the Superintendent gives his recommendation and best advice, and the Board does not appear to take his advice. Mr. Puckett indicated that he would pay heed to the recommendation of the Superintendent. He would be willing to extend the presence of the Montessori program at Grier Road for an additional time. Mr. Puckett stated he favored moving the Montessori program to

Highland, too, as this would be an excellent location for them. Mr. Puckett said he trusted the judgement of the Superintendent.

Dr. Leake commented that if she thought two programs at Billingsville would not be successful, she would not consider leaving the Montessori program at Billingsville. She stated that we have other schools in the district housing two programs and they are successful. Dr. Leake stated she was very concerned about the poor performance of students in this program, as Dr. Smith had indicated, and questioned why the school district had not done something about this. She also commented that trailers are placed all over the school district and, if they could be placed at Billingsville, they should be placed there in order to accommodate more children. She further stated that we are helping children to fail if we do not help them to be successful.

Dr. Smith replied that the school district has intervened at Billingsville. The district will be looking very closely at this school's performance in the EOGs next year. If the children in the Montessori program are not successful next year, the system will need to further look at that particular program.

Ms. Woods asked about the projected students at Billingsville for next year. Dr. Smith replied that current projections show 485 students in the Montessori program and 252 students are projected in the home school choice. This would mean 100-125 students, at the very least, over projection, and perhaps upwards to 200.

Ms. Woods stated that the Board must deal with the realities of the situation and not what we would like to do. She stated again that she would not support any decision that does not include the 135 magnet seats at Cotswold. She further stated that a move to Grier Road would not support expansion of the Montessori program.

Mr. Dunlap commented that he would not propose something for the Board to consider if he did not believe it was feasible for the Board to do so. He asked if, based on capacity numbers, could children from both programs be housed at Billingsville. He commented that the student assignment plan intentionally placed all of these children at Billingsville. Ms. Woods requested a copy of the capacity numbers that had been provided to Mr. Dunlap. **Mr. Dunlap moved that the issue of Billingsville be deferred until there was adequate information provided to staff in order to make a decision about this matter. Mr. Lassiter seconded the motion.**

On motion by Mr. Puckett, seconded by Ms. Kakadelis, the Board voted unanimously to suspend Roberts' Rules of Order to allow the Superintendent to address the Board.

Dr. Smith told the Board that preparations were already under way for parents to complete their choice applications. Notification for parents is to be completed by January 15, 2001. The school district cannot delay this process in order for schools to open on time in August 2001. Dr. Smith reminded the Board that this issue was brought to them two weeks ago, thus giving the Board two weeks for questions and possible resolutions.

Dr. Smith indicated that the district is running on the absolute edge to get schools opened in time for the 2001 school year. The district cannot accommodate another two to four week delay. He reiterated the capacity at Billingsville is 550 and cautioned against delay or deferral of this decision.

Mr. Griffin indicated that the delay on the decision would only be until the October 10th Board meeting or at a special called meeting. **The motion to defer the decision to no later than October 10th passed by a 5-4 vote.**

Granting approval to the Superintendent for alteration of the timeline for construction projects as set forth in the 120-day Management Plan

Per Dr. Smith the above approval would enable the Superintendent and staff to allow adjustments of construction projects as necessary. Projects at Highland and Sedgefield are currently on hold. The Grier Road site is ahead of schedule. Dr. Smith indicated that the procedure would be to notify the Board when timelines for construction projects needed to be changed. Many of the schools to be renovated will use funds from a combination of the 1996 and 1997 Bonds and subsequent county funding. Per Dr. Smith, in order to proceed with renovation projects expediently and efficiently, the approval needs to be given to the Superintendent for authority to alter the phases for initiating construction projects as was set out in the 120-day Management Plan.

Ms. Woods commented that she understands and supports the ability of the Superintendent to look at timeline considerations and report the information to the Board. She does feel, however, that there is significant interest in the community for the Board to be accountable and responsible for decisions made. She asked for a definition of the significant decisions that should be entrusted to the authority of the Board. Ms. Woods also requested additional information on what the decisions would include should authority be given to the Superintendent. Ms. Woods is supportive of taking this issue to the Bond Oversight Committee since they are the group appointed by the Board to look at situations such as this.

Dr. Leake stated the Ms. Woods had echoed her sentiments. The County Commission has asked the Board, Dr. Leake said, to be accountable for projects and encouraged the Board to do their job as elected officials.

Mr. Dunlap stated he doesn't approve giving the Superintendent authority to make these decisions. He wants to make sure that funds are not an issue or spent without approval from the Board. He further stated that he has a problem moving money from one project to another and reminded the Board that they cannot count on Bond monies at this point since the Bonds have not been passed. Dr. Smith replied that this authority does not involve any funding issues – just scheduling issues.

Dr. Rembert stated that she would support the Superintendent on timeline issues and asked what the issue is. Dr. Smith replied that the issue is one of delay. Dr. Rembert reminded the Board that the community holds the Board accountable for projects.

Mr. Puckett commented that the district does employ Bovis Land Lease for construction management projects. They are the ones who recommend changes to the Superintendent. The Board must not stop construction, Mr. Puckett stated.

Mr. Dunlap asked the Superintendent if he would bring all recommendations for scheduling issues to the Board. Dr. Smith replied that he would and that shifting of construction projects occurs on a weekly basis.

Ms. Griffin stated that the district is in a crisis situation and we cannot afford time losses. She further stated that she trusts the Superintendent to make those decisions wisely to enable the construction process to move along quickly.

Ms. Woods presented a friendly amendment. She recommended giving the Superintendent authority for no more than a 6-month change in the projected timeline of completed projects. If it is more than six months past the completion date that the Board has given to the public, the Board would have to approve. If it is less than six months, the Superintendent would keep the Board informed but proceed. Her friendly amendment received no support from Board members.

Ms. Kakadelis stated the Board should give the Superintendent the flexibility he has requested. The Board can always bring back for a vote any items that are not handled correctly, she said.

Dr. Smith responded that the school district is trying to achieve flexibility for construction projects.

Mr. Lassiter stated that he appreciated the level of control that some of the Board members were looking for but the Superintendent will keep the Board informed. Mr. Lassiter commented he supports letting the Superintendent have the authority to proceed. Mr. Puckett agreed with Mr. Lassiter. Dr. Smith, Mr. Puckett stated, understands the process and will always keep the Board informed. The Superintendent needs to be able to manage the school system.

Dr. Leake asked what would change the current process if the Board gives this authority to the Superintendent. Dr. Smith replied that authorization would give the school district the speed needed to achieve flexibility for construction projects. The Board would continue to be informed but this would give the school district the continuous process that they need, Dr. Smith said.

On motion by Mr. Puckett, and seconded by Mr. Lassiter, the Board passed by a vote of 5-4 to grant approval for Dr. Smith to alter the timeline for construction projects as set forth in the 120-day Management Plan.

Use of 1997 Bond funds to build an elementary school in the south on the property the Board owns on Providence Road at Country Lane

Per Dr. Smith, the Board currently owns property for two new elementary schools in the southern portion of the county, one on Endhaven Lane (acquired with 1997 Bond funds) and one on Providence Road at Country Lane (acquired with land banking funds). The 1997 Bond funds include an amount sufficient to build a school on one of these parcels and funding to build the other one is included in the 2000 Bond referendum. Current utilization of surrounding schools shows that the Providence Road school should be developed first, thus relieving overcrowding at McKee Road Elementary School.

Dr. Rembert asked the Superintendent if he was asking the Board to suspend efforts to build an elementary school at the Endhaven Lane site and change the use of Bond funds to another location; Dr. Smith replied that was correct. Dr. Rembert asked the Superintendent if there was sufficient funding available for the elementary school at Country Lane; Dr. Smith replied there is. Dr. Rembert asked the Superintendent if staff knew what the cost for site preparation would be for the Country Lane site; Dr. Smith replied that is not known at this point. Once the Board grants authority to begin construction at the Country Lane site, Dr. Smith said the site preparation work would begin. \$1.2 million was spent on the site preparation for Hawk Ridge Elementary School. The Board decided to opt out of the property at Cindy Lane because of the prohibitive cost estimated for site preparation there.

Ms. Griffin stated she had heard from several community members regarding the topography and safety issues. She further stated she is satisfied with the response from the Superintendent indicating there is sufficient funding for locating an elementary school at this site. Her main concerns are the access to the school and safety issues. She asked the Superintendent if the safety issues have been addressed. Dr. Smith said his discussions with Kevin Bringewatt, Board attorney, indicate the safety issues can be resolved. Ms. Griffin commented that this is a very busy area of Providence Road and she wants the community to know that the Board is very sensitive to the safety issues for children.

Mr. Griffin echoed Ms. Griffin's comments regarding safety. The 1997 Bond monies and the upcoming Bond referendum will address the needs for school locations in the southern part of the county. The design phase will resolve the safety issues and will involve the Department of Transportation's input, too.

Dr. Smith reminded the Board that money is not currently available to provide schools at both southern locations. Hopefully, the upcoming Bond referendum will provide the additional funds needed for building the second elementary school.

Mr. Dunlap stated that, initially, he was opposed to the Country Lane site because of its location on Providence Road. Either site would meet the specifications of the Bond monies. He, too, has heard about safety concerns for the Country Lane site. If the site preparation for this site is estimated at \$1 million, and we've already done the site preparation at the Endhaven Lane site, the Board has the potential of saving the additional \$1 million at the Country Lane site if the site at Endhaven Lane is used. He

questioned why the Board would spend an additional \$1 million if we are not even sure the land at Country Lane would be suitable for building a school there. Would it not make more sense to put the school where we've already started the site preparation work, he questioned. He suggested the Board needs to have consistency when locations for schools are selected.

Ms. Woods discussed this issue in terms of safety and costs. She said she trusts the Superintendent and staff to keep the total cost of the Country Lane project the same as the Endhaven Lane project. If that is not the case, then we should not do the project at Country Lane. The need is greater at the Country Lane area as staff has suggested. An additional issue, Ms. Woods stated, is how the project at Country Lane would impact other projects. Dr. Smith replied that the Country Lane project would maintain the same schedule as the Endhaven Lane project and would open the fall of 2002.

Mr. Puckett stated he is comfortable that this is not a reallocation of monies but cautioned the Board to be careful of setting any precedents with this action. He said this school would support the needs in the southern area of the county. The Board, he said, probably should have purchased the property at Country Lane first and reminded the Board that site preparation would have to take place at this site at some point anyway. He will support the resolution in terms of relieving the overcrowding at McKee Road Elementary School.

Mr. Lassiter said that even though the Board did not have a projected cost of the site preparation work at the Country Lane site, the site is buildable. The site contains 25 acres which is 10 acres more than the Endhaven Lane site, thus providing a larger site for an elementary school. Providence Lane has been re-routed and there are now two stop signs making traffic flow better. The design phase has to be accomplished in either case. The Bond referendum will initiate the funding for the school site at Endhaven Lane. Several discussions with the family selling the Country Lane property caused the delay in purchase of this property.

Ms. Kakadelis said that Mr. Lassiter's summary of the facts was excellent. The Board is going to build both schools but building the Country Lane site first will give relief to the overcrowding at McKee Road Elementary School where 31 mobile units are currently located.

Mr. Griffin stated there are some safety issues at the Country Lane site and he is not clear on what the Department of Transportation will do about these issues. There are some topographical issues, too, he said. He reminded the Board there were some of these same issues at Hawk Ridge and the Board made that site work under similar circumstances. There are access issues for both the Endhaven Lane and Country Lane sites. Mr. Griffin asked if there would be any cost to the school district for road work at the Country Lane site. Dr. Smith replied there would not be. Mr. Lassiter said there would be access straight through the property at Country Lane.

Dr. Rembert asked what we now know that we did not know when the project was begun at the Endhaven Lane site. Dr. Smith replied the growth at McKee Road was an unknown factor as well as acquisition of the Country Lane site.

Dr. Leake asked if the project at Country Lane would affect any current projects and when would the elementary school at this location open. Dr. Smith replied it would not affect any ongoing projects and the school would open in the fall of 2002. Dr. Leake asked about the timeline for the opening of the Technical/Vocational High School. Dr. Smith replied that school is slated to open in 2003 but the district is trying to open that school in 2002. These two schools, however, should not be tied together, he stated. Dr. Leake encouraged giving the same emphasis to the Greenville elementary school site as the district is giving to schools in the southern area of the county.

On motion by Mr. Lassiter, seconded by Ms. Kakadelis, the Board voted 5-3-1 to approve use of 1997 Bond funds to build an elementary school in the south on the property the Board owns on Providence Road at Country Lane.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lassiter moved that the consent agenda be approved; Mr. Puckett seconded.

Dr. Leake had concerns regarding the reassignment process. She questioned why we are giving an opportunity to some parents to transfer their students now in the reassignment process while not providing the same opportunities to all families. Her concern is that we are allowing children to go to school where they want to go rather than honoring their school assignment.

Approval of Minutes

The following minutes were approved:

- September 12, 2000 Closed Session
- September 12, 200 Regular Meeting
- September 1, 2000 Closed Session
- August 10, 2000 Special Meeting/Work Session
- August 8, 2000 Regular Meeting
- November 11, 1999 Special Meeting/Public Hearing

Approval of Construction Items

1. Site work contract for Carmel Middle School in the amount of \$18,585 using Capital Replacement Funds was approved. The contract will provide for resurfacing of the cafeteria service area and the installation of new fencing around the dumpster for Carmel Middle School.

2. Construction contracts for Druid Hills Elementary School in the amount of \$12,007,000 using 1996 and 1997 Bond monies was approved. The contracts will provide construction services for a new elementary school facility.
3. Additional construction services for Myers Park High School in the amount of \$14,823,707 using 1997 Bond monies, 1997 Inadequate Facilities monies, 1997 Plumbing Replacement monies, and 1993 Bond monies was approved. These additional services will provide for removal of rock and unsuitable soils over and above the contract allowance.

Approval of Student Reassignment Requests

The Board approved requests for student reassignment for 62 students in Category I; denied requests for student reassignment for 16 students in Category II; and approved 1 request for student reassignment in Category III.

Approval of depositories/signature authorization

The Board approved the signature or facsimile signature of Sheila W. Shirley, Chief Finance Officer, on the bank accounts for the Board of Education.

The Board approved the Consent Agenda by a vote of 8-0-1.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Kakadelis reported she had attended the Education Leaders Conference and had interesting information on teacher retention that she would share with Board members.

Ms. Woods reminded the Policy Committee of the called meeting on Friday, September 29, at 9:30 a.m. She attended the NCSBA district meeting and encouraged fellow Board members to attend these local conferences. She shared information on the workshop she attended regarding closing the achievement gap. CMS, she stated, is required to have a committee addressing this issue and requested information on what the school district plans to do in regards to establishing such a committee. She will send a copy of the information to the Superintendent. She concluded by saying the Board had spent sufficient time talking about students in overcrowded situations and, particularly, overcrowding of students in high-poverty areas, and now needed to move forward with recommendations on addressing this issue.

Mr. Griffin asked Ms. Woods to go through the appropriate process to establish an Ethics Policy. Ms. Woods asked that Board members get information on this potential policy to her by Friday.

Dr. Leake publicly expressed appreciation to Mrs. Ripey for serving on the Bond committee and encouraged the Board members and community to support Mrs. Ripey with their prayers and thoughts.

Mr. Puckett thanked Mr. Kania for his service to the Bond committee as well. He also commented on the potential Ethics Policy and said that information from the County should have already been sent to Board members. The City and County have an Ethics Policy and he feels the school system should adopt one as well.

Mr. Dunlap requested information on the Ethics Policy and stated the Board should adopt such a policy as is relevant to the needs of the Board.

Mr. Griffin told Board members to contact Ms. Woods and follow through appropriately with the policy process.

Dr. Rembert stated she had no problem with an Ethics Policy; she is governed by professional ethics.

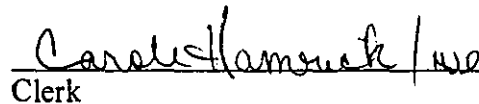
ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Dunlap, seconded by Dr. Rembert, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting and, pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(6), to move into Closed Session to discuss a matter related to personnel evaluation.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Chairman



Clerk