

Charlotte, North Carolina  
February 27, 2001

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on February 27, at 7:00 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); and Lindalyn Kakadelis (District 6)

**ABSENT:**

Also present at the request of the Board were Eric J. Smith, Superintendent; James L. Pughsley, Deputy Superintendent; Frances Haithcock, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services; Greg Clemmer, Associate Superintendent for Operations; other members of the Senior Staff; Maurice Green, General Counsel to the Board; and Levones Chisholm, serving as Clerk.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Griffin, called the meeting to order and asked that the Board and members of the audience join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Rembert who recognized and congratulated the winners for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Art and Writing Contest. First Place Writing Award Winners were Patrick Sabally, a third grader from Clear Creek Elementary School; Tamyra Burns, a fifth grader from Briarwood Elementary School; Jamie Holt, a seventh grader from Alexander Graham Middle School; and Jenny Minchew, an eleventh grader from Providence High School. First Place Art Award Winners were Kristen Caldwell, a third grader from Park Road Elementary School; Cedric Steele, a fifth grader from Hornets Nest Elementary School; Taris Williams, a seventh grader from Cochrane Middle School; and Kevin Chheda, a twelfth grader from South Mecklenburg High School.

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Leake who presented the 2000-01 Outstanding First Year Teacher Awards, a program that recognizes first-year teachers who have performed in an outstanding manner during their first year of teaching. The elementary school level

winner, Jennifer Wallace, a teacher at Bruns Avenue Elementary School; middle school level winner, Christopher St. Claire, a teacher at Northridge Middle School; and high school level winner, Susan Letvin, a teacher at George T. Lewis Academic Center.

Board member, Mr. Robert W. Simmons, then recognized Jean Beacham as the winner of the North Carolina Technology Education High School Teacher of Excellence Award. Ms. Beacham has taught at James Martin Middle School for the past three years and has a Master's Degree in Education in guidance and counseling. Also recognized was Mr. Gary Atta, the North Carolina Technology Education Middle School Teacher of Excellence. He has taught at Mecklenburg High School for the past twelve years and is presently working on the State Curriculum Team for Technology and holds a Master's Degree in Technology Education. Both winners will be recognized at the Annual Meeting of the International Technology Education Association in Atlanta, Georgia in March 2001.

Vice Chairperson, Mr. John Lassiter, commended Ms. Beverly Moore, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Janell Bovis, Highland Elementary School Principal, and Ms. Wendy Galleher, Highland Elementary Social Worker, for their diligent work that contributed to the receipt of Highland Elementary School, as Winner of 2000 Governor's Program of Excellence in Education. The winning program is a partnership between Highland Elementary and Communities in Schools that provides services to students and their families so those students can focus on academic instruction. Significantly, this program marked an integrated test improvement by 29.9 percent in only three years.

Chairman Griffin declared the Public Hearing on proposed revisions to Policy IKAA: Tests and Examinations closed, as there were no members of the public present to speak to the item.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Appointment of Personnel

On motion by Dr. Rembert, and seconded by Mr. Dunlap, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Richard M. Purcell, as Director of Title I. Mr. Purcell earned his Bachelor of Arts, Master's and Educational Specialist Degrees from the State University of New York in Albany. Prior to his appointment to Director of Title I, Mr. Purcell has held a variety of school positions in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System as well as his most recent position of Exceptional Children Senior Specialist. Chairman Griffin welcomed members of Mr. Purcell's family who were present and also belong to the CMS family.

### Approval of Conveyance of Land

On motion by Dr. Rembert and seconded by Mr. Dunlap, the Board voted unanimously to approve the "Resolution approving contract for conveyance of land known as the former Enderly Park Elementary School from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education" to

Mecklenburg County.” Dr. Leake asked for and received assurance that the Parks and Recreation Department facility will be made available to students and to the community during evening and weekend hours as well as the summer months.

On motion by Mr. Dunlap and seconded by Dr. Rembert, the Board voted unanimously to approve the “Resolution approving contract for conveyance of land know as a portion of Independence Park from Mecklenburg to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education”. Dr. Leake inquired as to the continuing availability for students and community and was assured that the conveyance of land to complete a major renovation project for Elizabeth Traditional had no bearing on continuing availability of the park site.

Mr. Griffin diverted from the agenda and moved several items forward which included Items IV (C) and IV (D).

## **REPORTS**

### Report by Bond Oversight Committee

Chairman Griffin introduced Committee Chairman, Ken Harris, and Vice Chairman, Chip Boorman, who summarized the report. He shared that construction activity is in full gear and that The Bovis Lend Lease/CMS Partnership currently has 29 projects in the construction phase and another 22 in the design phase. A Construction Expenditures Report was included which outlined the status of each program and the overall spending rate. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Boorman strongly recommended that the Board maintain a proactive stance in planning for the next round of renovation and construction projects so that the facilities needs are met and in line with growth projections.

Mr. Boorman also explained the many advantages of the use of swing space in the construction effort. The advantages include greatly shortened construction schedules at most schools; the contractor’s ability to work continuously, instead of working in haste during the summer months; and the potential to lower construction costs; enhanced student safety; and less ongoing disruption to the learning environment.

Quality of construction was another highlight of the committee’s report with emphasis on the relationship between cost, time and quality of work. A recommendation was made to implement a tool to effectively evaluate and measure quality of work.

Mr. Boorman continued with the report to explain the necessity for adequately funding an ongoing preventative maintenance program to greatly extend the life of facilities within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District. He expressed hope that the Board will consider this as a priority in the budget planning process.

Chairman Griffin thanked both committee members and requested that the committee come back to the Board on the construction quality issue as it relates to equity in terms of pinpointing quality concerns. He expressed his appreciation for all of the hard work that went into the preventative maintenance program and said this will be a consideration in the budget planning process.

Ms. Woods also thanked the committee members for their presentation about the construction process. Mrs. Woods asked Dr. Smith to have staff investigate options for funding preventative maintenance programs and he replied that he would.

Mr. Dunlap expressed interest in knowing more about quality construction and asked for clarification about concerns surrounding this issue. He suggested that the preventative maintenance portion of funding be separated from the normal operating expenses in order for citizens to understand the difference. He asked that research be done to explore a method to differentiate preventative maintenance funding from routine operating expenses.

Dr. Leake thanked the committee for addressing swing space and the use of Greenville Park Elementary as swing space. She emphasized the importance that citizens fully understand the advantages of the use of schools as swing space, which will serve to expedite and improve the construction process in order to provide adequate school facilities.

Mr. Lassiter asked about the construction activity timeline and requested that the committee make a recommendation as to when another bond issue is needed. Mr. Boorman replied that the best scenario would be a bond issue within the next two years. Mr. Lassiter also suggested that preventative maintenance background information be made available to County Commissioners for the budget planning process. He also asked for a report that outlines the pros and cons use of design-build projects as opposed to non design-build projects.

Board member Kakadelis thanked the committee for the time spent on construction issues. She asked whether or not a formula has been established for schools which could be used in the preventative maintenance process and Mr. Boorman explained that formulas could easily be established for a new school; however, older schools may need more repairs, and as a result, a formula could be difficult to establish.

Ms. Woods asked for additional information about the cost effectiveness of going on to have another bond issue instead of focusing on the critical need projects of other schools. At this time, Mr. Harris stated that he has a strong passion about the use of a preventative maintenance program and the long-term advantage to CMS. He said he would research options for funding a preventative maintenance program.

Mr. Griffin thanked the presenters for the information they had shared and he asked the Board members to make recommendations as to construction priorities so that they could go back to the committee.

#### Report on Charlotte Chamber Business Survey of Needs

Ms. Kit Cramer, a representative from the Chamber Workforce Continuum, an initiative of the Carolinas Economic Strategic Plan, presented information about the survey which was compiled for the purpose of assessing the workforce needs of employers now and in the near future. Three hundred and thirty-three businesses participated in the survey and results indicate a need for new approaches to education and training that are demand-sensitive and result in certified skills leading to viable career ladders for area residents and students. There is a great need for skilled workers who have a higher level of education in Mecklenburg County. Work ethic for workers continues to be a concern among area employers. Another finding was that when asked to rate a series of factors that are important to the hiring process, 100 percent of employers rated attitude and demeanor as the most important factors. Other high ranking factors were communication skills and previous work experience.

Mr. Griffin commented that it would be interesting to correlate business needs for employers and educational direction of students in CMS.

Ms. Kakedelis inquired as to whether the school district had participated in the survey and Ms. Cramer replied that indeed, school district employees did participate in the survey. At that time, Ms. Kakedelis thanked Ms. Cramer for the informative report.

Ms. Woods commended Dr. Smith and staff members for their ongoing attention to the same qualities for employees as were outlined in the study. She asked Dr. Smith and staff for an update on the status of character education in the school system.

Chairman Griffin expressed his gratitude to Ms. Cramer for the informative report and returned to the consent agenda.

## CONSENT ITEMS

At this time, Mr. Dunlap expressed his concern about Consent Item III (C), to recommend approval of a request for student reassignment and transfer to a school where the parent was employed. The Board recently approved the reassignment of a student based on the parent's employment with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District. Mr. Dunlap expressed his concern that the administration had declined this request because the parent was employed for only a week with the CMS. After Board discussion, Mr. Griffin amended the pupil reassignment and transfer request to include the approval of the Board's original action to approve the transfer of the student.

On motion by Dr. Leake and seconded by Mr. Dunlap, the following consent items were unanimously approved:

### Minutes

- February 15, 2001 Closed Session
- February 13, 2001 Closed Session
- February 13, 2001 Regular Meeting
- February 12, 2001 Joint Breakfast Meeting
- February 8, 2001 Closed Session
- February 8, 2001 Work Session

### Construction Items

The following construction items were approved;

- Site work contract for Steele Creek Elementary School. Work will include removal of existing asphalt and concrete located at the cafeteria entrance. A new concrete pad with screening around the dumpster will be installed. Total use of funds is \$24,393 and source of funds is capital replacement.
- Minor roof repairs and maintenance services. Work includes minor repair and maintenance per budget initiative at the following sites: Amay James Elementary School, Barringer Elementary School, Marie G. Davis Elementary School, Dilworth Elementary School, Euclid Center, Professional Development Center, Reid Park Elementary School, and Wilkinson Transportation Center. Total use of funds is \$49,500 and source of funds is roofing initiative.
- Construction contract for Paw Creek Elementary School. Work includes construction services for renovations to the kitchen. Total use of funds is \$346,566 that includes a design fee and source of funds is 1995 and 1996 bond monies.
- Construction contracts for Plaza Road Pre-School. Total use of funds is \$1,076,000 and source of funds is 1997 bond monies.
- Construction services for Craighead Elementary School. Work includes road widening on Craighead Avenue near the Craighead Elementary School entrance. Total use of funds is \$11,477,808 and source of funds is COPS.

- Construction contract for McClintock Middle School. Work includes the connection of all fixtures to the existing new water mains and abandons old galvanized piping. Total use of funds is \$63,900 and source of funds is 1997 bond monies designated for plumbing.
- Authorization for the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent in consultation with the Board Chairperson, or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson, to award construction contracts for East Mecklenburg High School until the next Board of Education meeting. Work includes school bleacher replacement and toilet/concession improvements for the period prior to March 26, 2001.
- Approval of revised Swing Space Plan.

#### Approval of Pupil Reassignment

The Board approved 22 reassignment requests in Category I; denied approval for 14 reassignment requests in Category II; and there was one approved request for reassignment in Category III for release.

#### Adoption of Monthly Personnel Report for January 2001

The Board approved the adoption of the January Personnel Report for 163 licensed hires and 244 non-licensed hires.

#### Approval of Budget Amendments for January 2001

The Board approved the January 2001 budget amendments.

#### Monthly Financial Statement for January 2001

The Board approved the January 31, 2001 monthly financial statements.

At this time, the Board returned to the reports agenda item.

### **REPORTS**

#### Report on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant

Mr. Griffin introduced Ms. M. Julie Stafford, with the After-School Enrichment Program, who announced that the Funding for Year 1 has been awarded in the amount of \$1,177, 547. Participating schools were Thomasboro Elementary School, Merry Oaks Elementary School, Eastway Middle School and Garinger High School targeting students who are at risk of academic failure or of dropping out, including students with limited English proficiency, out-of-school suspensions or behavior violations. Principals Stanley Frazier of Merry Oaks, Mildred Wright from Thomasboro, Terry Cochran from Eastway Middle and Mike Turner from Garinger High School all designed projects that would specifically meet the needs of their school communities.

Dr. Leake thanked Ms. Stafford for her efforts on her work on the grant planning and implementation. She expressed appreciation to all of those in the business community who continue to support the education of all children across the district.

Mr. Lassiter asked Ms. Stafford for additional information about the after school program offerings to parents and community. Ms. Stafford continued to explain that many media services including technological services would be offered. Mr. Lassiter stated that the program was remarkable and that he was pleased with the direction towards wrap-around services.

Dr. Leake expressed that she is pleased that the media centers will have expanded hours and asked that sound communication be put in place so that parents know about the after school program so that they can use the facilities. Ms. Stafford assured her that excellent communication would take place between staff and parents.

Ms. Kadadelis had questions about how needs for school services were assessed. She also asked if community members were involved in the planning process and Ms. Stafford answered yes, that community members were indeed involved.

Ms. Woods expressed her excitement about the program and thanked Ms. Stafford. She invited everyone who was involved in writing the after school grant to stand up and be recognized.

Mr. Griffin commented that it is important to make sure that local funds also go towards extending the opportunities for wrap-around schools.

#### Report on West Mecklenburg High School/Ford Foundation Collaboration

Superintendent Dr. Eric Smith welcomed Ms. Beverly Moore, Regional Assistant Superintendent, and Leslie McCarley, Director of the Ford Foundation Grant. The focus of the presentation by Ms. Moore was to showcase one of the activities of the Public Engagement Team, chaired by Ms. Valaida Fulwood. The Board, staff, and members of the audience enjoyed watching the video that was developed to increase public awareness of the public engagement committee.

Ms. Griffin thanked staff for their hard work on the impressive video.

#### Report on Language Arts Textbook Adoption

Dr. Eric Smith called upon Dr. Haithcock to make a presentation about the language arts textbook adoption for all levels. He emphasized the enormous importance of the decision for the language arts adoption of textbooks for K-12 over the next five years. Dr. Haithcock recognized and thanked dedicated staff members, Ms. Terry Mozingo, Coordinating Director for Middle Schools and Ms. Fran Bessillieu, Director of Reading,



for their hard work in the textbook adoption process. Language Arts textbook adoptions include:

- The High School 9-12 Adoption           Prentice Hall
- The Middle School 6-8 Adoption       McDougal-Littell
- The Elementary School K-5 Adoption   Open Court

Dr. Haithcock explained the reasons for changes in the area of textbook adoption include a new focus on consistent programs, a well-defined and systematic sequence, and a renewed focus on grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. Dr. Haithcock invited everyone to participate in the intense professional development for the recently adopted language arts textbooks. She recalled and showed support for Dr. Smith's recent statement, "We are legally, morally, ethically, and professionally obligated to select a research-based textbook that will be effective for the largest number of students."

Mr. Griffin thanked Dr. Haithcock for the presentation and for the invitation to everyone to participate in training for the applications.

#### Report from Board Members

Dr. Leake thanked Ms. Barbara Pellin, Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family and Community Services, for her outstanding support for students, families, and community members. She stated that Ms. Pellin is a true humanitarian.

Chairman Griffin appointed Dr. Rembert, Mr. Simmons, Ms. Griffin and Mr. Dunlap to the Re-Districting Committee with named Dr. Rembert as the Chairperson. He asked committee members to meet with General Counsel to prepare a presentation for the next Board meeting about re-districting. He also announced a Joint Luncheon Meeting with the Board of County Commissioners on March 12, 2001, at 12 noon at which re-districting will be discussed.


Upon motion by Mr. Lassiter and seconded by Ms. Woods, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to a Closed Session for the following purposes:

- To conduct with its attorneys regarding matters in which it is necessary to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the Board of Education and its attorneys. This motion is made pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statutes.
- To consult with counsel regarding the case of *Chapman v. the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

- To discuss a personnel matter, pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a)(6) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

  
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Chairman

  
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Clerk