

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
May 30, 2006
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

March 14, 2006

**REGULAR MEETING
of the
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on March 14, 2006. The meeting began at 6:07 p.m. and was held in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS TV Channel 3 televised the meeting.

Present: Joe White, Chairperson;
Kit Cramer, Vice Chairperson;
Kaye McGarry, Member At-Large;
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);
George Dunlap (District 3);
Tom Tate (District 4);
Molly Griffin (District 5); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: There were no absences

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Frances Haithcock, Superintendent; members of Executive and Senior Staffs; Maurice Green, General Counsel to the Board; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson White called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson White introduced Daniela Izurieta, a senior at East Mecklenburg high School, to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the pledge of allegiance and to speak to the March character trait of "courage." Daniela was born in Quito, Ecuador, and moved to Charlotte during her sophomore year in high school. She is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program at East Mecklenburg and is a member of the National Honor Society. She is president of the DECA Club and vice-president of the Amigos de la Biblioteca Club. Daniela will attend UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall where she will major in International Studies. Chairperson White introduced Daniela's mother, Paulina Espin, and her principal, Mark Nixon. Daniela said standing up for what we believe in is not always an easy thing to do. In our society, most situations are dominated by what the majority of people believe is right. To stand up for what you believe in shows "courage." Courage drives people to voice their opinions in order to make

a difference and helps us move forward. Daniela invited everyone to stand and join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Upon motion by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Tate, that the Board adopt the agenda, a discussion followed. Chairperson White asked the Board to approve adding to the agenda the acquisition of land for a road right-of-way for the new Westmoreland Road Elementary School project. He reminded Board members that the Board had previously discussed this item in Closed Session and this item requires a Board vote in Open Session. He asked that this item be added to the Consent Agenda as item III.I.

Upon motion by Ms. Cramer, seconded by Mr. Tate, that the Board approve adding Consent Item III. I. (Recommendation to authorize the approval of an agreement to purchase road right-of-way needed for the new Westmoreland Road Elementary School project from multiple property owners, tax parcel nos. 005-142-01, 005-142-02, 005-142-03, 005-142-09, 005-142-11, 005-142-12, 005-081-08, 005-081-09, and 005-081-11 for a purchase price of payments on behalf of the property owners for (1) Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department sewer “tap charges” in the amount of \$2,511.00 per lot and (2) attorneys fees incurred by the property owners for a total amount of \$1,250.00). The Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.

The Board voted 9-0 to approve the agenda as amended.

C. Recognition of Dr. Sam Haywood

Chairperson White said this recognition is to honor Dr. Andrew P. “Sam” Haywood who dedicated his life to the children of our community. Dr. Haywood passed away on February 1, 2006. A special video celebrating Dr. Haywood’s almost fifty years with CMS was presented. Dr. Haithcock shared fond memories of Dr. Haywood’s years with CMS. She said Dr. Haywood was a large part of CMS and the epitome of courage. Dr. Haithcock thanked Dr. Haywood’s family for sharing him with CMS. Ms. Leake recognized Dr. Haywood for his many years of service to CMS and presented Dr. Haywood’s family a remembrance plaque from the Board.

D. Community Report

- Report on Performance Learning Center

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to present the report. Dr. Haithcock invited Dr. Cheryl Atkinson, Associate Superintendent for School Administration, to present the report on the Performance Learning Center (PLC) which is a proposed virtual accelerated high school to open next year. Dr. Haithcock said the recommendation for approval of the PLC is also on tonight’s agenda for a Board vote. Dr. Atkinson said CMS is moving forward to expand the high school portfolio with a brand new innovation called the Performance Learning Center. The PLC will provide students unique opportunities and choices that connect them to schools. The environment will nurture their talents and potential to set them up for school success. The PLC is a business-like environment that challenges students to develop personal life plans that meet specific academic and career goals. The purpose of the PLC is to assist students, whose academic success may be threatened, to become successful and prepare them to move to the next level educationally and vocationally, therefore becoming productive citizens. Dr. Atkinson reviewed the criteria to be used to identify students for the PLC; the program components; the

selection process; and funding. The PLC is a joint partnership between CMS and Communities-In-Schools (CIS). CIS will provide the CIS Services Coordinator and the bulk of the funding for staff will be through state funding. There will be some funding from the High School Challenge grant because some of the students who are zoned for the High School Challenge schools will be participating in the program. Dr. Atkinson introduced Cynthia Marshall, Executive Director, Communities-In-Schools. Ms. Marshall said CIS is very happy about the partnerships that have been established with CMS over the past twenty years and they are very excited about this joint endeavor. Ms. Marshall shared information on student benefits, expected outcomes, and the role CIS will have in the program. She said the program represents hope to CIS, hope for students and hope for the future of the Charlotte community. Ms. Marshall thanked the Board for their consideration in supporting the PLC. Dr. Atkinson said there are three items connected to the new school that would require a Board vote. She asked the Board to approve the new school, the proposed site, and the new principal. A discussion with Board members followed. Ms. Cramer, Ms. Griffin, Ms. McGarry, Ms. Leake, and Chairperson White believe the joint venture is a great example of working with the community and the program will be beneficial to many students. Ms. Leake expressed concern that the program was not made available in the High School Challenge schools as it may help a greater number of students to be successful. Ms. Leake believes the same support should be provided to low-performing schools.

E. Public Hearing on proposed changes to Policy JFAC, Reassignment and Transfers

Ms. Griffin declared the Public Hearing open.

There were no speakers present to address the proposed policy.

Ms. Griffin moved to close the Public Hearing, and it was seconded by Ms. Cramer. Chairperson White declared the Public Hearing closed.

Ms. Griffin noted the recommendation for approval of Policy JFAC was also on tonight's agenda for a Board vote.

II. REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Corneida Garcia represented the League of Womens' Voters and spoke regarding their study of the Citizens' Task Force Report. They are opposed to the Task Force recommendations regarding the structure of the Board of Education and the election of its members. She invited the Board members to attend their open forum to discuss their concerns regarding the Task Force recommendations which will be held March 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the main library.

Renee Trei is a resident in the Thornhill community. She asked the Board to change the boundaries for the new Ardrey Kell High School to include the Thornhill neighborhood. Her son currently attends Community House Middle School which is across the street from the new Ardrey Kell High School and that should be his high school assignment. She will continue to fight to have this boundary assignment changed.

Rosemary DiGiovanni is a resident in the Thornhil community. She said this neighborhood believes in public education and in CMS. She provided rebuttal to the reasoning of staff for assigning this area to South Mecklenburg High School rather than to the new Ardrey Kell High School which is their school closest to home. She asked the Board to do the right thing by reassigning this area to the new Ardrey Kell High School.

Pam Hunt is a resident in the Thornhill community. She is opposed to the Board's decision to not assign this area to the new Ardrey Kell High School which is their neighborhood school. She expressed concern that the children of this area will have to attend an overcrowded school while the new Ardrey Kell High School will open under capacity. She asked the Board to do what makes sense and assign this area to the new Ardrey Kell High School.

Lisa Hornung is a resident of the Thornhill community. She asked the Board to right their wrong by reassigning this area to the new Ardrey Kell High School.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of minutes
 - November 22, 2005 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Construction Items
 - 1. Recommend approval of construction contract for Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School
 - 2. Recommend approval of Facility Needs Survey as requested by the State Department of Public Instruction
- C. Recommend approval of requests for student reassignment and release of students to other school districts
- D. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel
- E. Recommend approval of Budget Amendments for January 2006
- F. Recommend approval of Capital Project Ordinances for January 2006
- G. Recommend approval of Financial Statements for January 2006
- H. Recommend approval of resolution for Interim Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2006-07 as required by N.C.G.S. §115C-434
- I. Recommend approval of acquisition of road right-of-way for the new Westmoreland Elementary School project

Ms. Griffin moved to adopt the Consent Items A. through I, seconded by Ms. Cramer, and a discussion followed.

Ms. McGarry asked for clarification on Consent Item F. She asked what is the process of shifting funds from one area to another and why is this done? Chairperson White said this item would have to be pulled and reminded Board members that they agreed to meet with the Superintendent prior to the meeting to discuss their questions. He encouraged Board members to follow what they have agreed to abide by.

The Board voted 9-0 to approve Consent Items A. through I. excluding F.

Guy Chamberlain, Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, answered Ms. McGarry's questions. He said this item transfers 2002 Bond funds into the new Westmoreland Elementary School and the new Mallard Creek High School. The two items were previously approved by the Board as change orders. At that time, it was indicated that the funds for the change orders would come from contingency funds. These are the contingency funds from the 2002 Bonds and this item changes those funds to accommodate that approval. Ms. McGarry asked was the contract for the new Mallard Creek High School signed as a construction manager at-risk model? Mr. Chamberlain explained the bidding of the project and the method used for the delivery of the school. Ms. McGarry expressed concern for the use of this model. Mr. Dunlap said this has been discussed publicly several times and hopes everyone clearly understands it now. Mr. Gauvreau said he would vote "no" on this item because it is \$10 million in cost

overruns for building a new school.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board adopt Consent Item F, seconded by Ms. Griffin, and the Board voted 7-2 to approve the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, Ms. Griffin, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the motion. Ms. McGarry and Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

Dr. Haithcock presented the personnel appointments and transfers as follows:

Appointments:

- Thelma Gray Smith was named principal of Nathaniel Alexander Elementary School. Ms. Smith previously served as principal with Chesterfield County Public Schools in Chesterfield, Virginia.
- Ivy Raynard Gill was named principal of J.H. Gunn Elementary School. Ms. Gill previously served as assistant principal at Clear Creek Elementary School.

Transfer:

- Sherry Sigmon was named principal at the new Performance Learning Center. Ms. Sigmon previously served as principal at Coulwood Middle School.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommend approval for use of Graham Center for Performance Learning Center

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to present the recommendation. Dr. Haithcock said this is the recommendation to use the Graham Center to house the students and programs for the new Performance Learning Center to begin next year.

Ms. Cramer moved, seconded by Ms. Griffin that the Board approve the use of the Graham Center for the new Performance Learning Center, and a discussion followed. Ms. Leake encouraged the Board to do the right thing for all children across the district. She expressed concern that this program was immediately made available for only one hundred students when there are six to seven hundred students who would benefit from the program. She has discussed this concept with ministers across the district. Ms. Leake asked staff to explore help from the faith communities and their ability to provide sites to help children who need this same type of support. Ms. Griffin also believes CMS needs more of these centers reaching more students. She hopes the success from this center will be replicated quickly. She encouraged the Board to approve this item because it will be used as a model to provide support for additional facilities.

The Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.

B. Recommend approval of placing three citizens on the Superintendent Search Committee (Board of Education Search Committee) as full participants

Chairperson White called upon Ms. McGarry to present the recommendation.

Ms. McGarry moved, seconded by Ms. Leake, that the Board approve placing three citizens on the Superintendent Search Committee (Board of Education Search

Committee) to help with the interviewing and evaluation of the finalists. The selection of these three citizens will be by unanimous vote of the Board of Education. A discussion followed. Ms. McGarry said the final selection of the Superintendent will be made by the full School Board. She believes the Board needs participation from citizens who have served on national search committees and can bring a unique perspective to the process. This will fast track community support for any new Superintendent and will be a credit to the Board of Education. Ms. McGarry said because a similar motion failed at the February 14th Regular Board Meeting, it would be feasible to appoint these citizens to help in the interviewing and evaluation of the finalists versus the semi-finalists and finalists. Ms. Cramer offered a substitute motion that would provide a finer point to Ms. McGarry's motion.

Upon substitute motion by Ms. Cramer, seconded by Ms. Griffin, that the Board of Education establish a committee of five members (the "Committee") to be involved in the Superintendent search/interview process, subject to the following stipulations:

- 1. The Committee would interview Superintendent candidates separately and would meet with the Board to provide feedback;**
- 2. The Committee would provide such feedback to the Board up until the final round of voting by the Board on its selection of the Superintendent;**
- 3. The final determination on who will be selected as Superintendent remains solely with the Board of Education;**
- 4. Each member of the Committee would have to agree in writing to keep all information about all applicants for the Superintendent position and about the Superintendent search process confidential, unless and until the Board authorizes them to speak about any applicants and/or the process; and**
- 5. The Committee would be comprised of the following individuals:**
 - Anthony Fox, parent of a student at Myers Park High School, attorney with Parker Poe Adams and Bernstein, and former Bond chair.**
 - Kim Graham, parent of students at Statesville Road Elementary School, executive assistant for the managing partner at Greer and Walker, member of Parent Leadership Network, and Board of Managers for NC PTA.**
 - Shannon Oruska, parent of students at Idlewild Elementary School and East Mecklenburg High School.**
 - Ruth Shaw, president of Duke Power and former president of CPCC.**
 - Jim Woodward, Chancellor Emeritus of UNC-Charlotte.**

And the following alternate in case there is a scheduling conflict with the above individuals:

- Howard Haworth, former State Board chair, former CEO of Drexel Heritage Furniture, former State Secretary of Commerce, and participant on a couple of College Boards.**

A discussion followed. Ms. Cramer appreciates the spirit of Ms. McGarry's motion because the Board has discussed citizen involvement in this process. She believes it is critically important to involve the community in this discussion but the Board should retain the responsibility of that vote. She would like to involve the community early in the process because it will provide them an opportunity to understand the thought process of the Board and the quality of the people participating. The people named in the motion are wonderful people who are willing and able to participate with the Board. Ms. Leake said the Board members are elected citizens by the citizens to do this task. She supports having people involved after the Board has announced

the finalists as this has been the process in the past. Ms. Leake expressed concern that the suggested names to do not cross the lines of involving all areas of the community. She was not given the opportunity to provide input on the list of names. She asked that Board members be allowed to add names to the list of names.

Ms. Leake moved to amend the substitute motion by adding Reverend Dr. Dwayne Walker, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, and a discussion followed. Ms. Leake said Reverend Dr. Walker has four children in the district. He is very active in the community and provides a greater involvement in the community than some of the other people listed. Mr. Dunlap said he is not interested in the motions or the amendments. He has not supported this idea from the beginning and he has not heard anything to change his mind. He believes the community should be involved. He said both motions tend to not build bridges but to put up walls. He would like a process that would allow anybody who is concerned about the new Superintendent to participate. This community is much larger and diverse than the people who have been recommended. Mr. Dunlap contacted the search firm the Board selected to do the search and they said they have never involved citizens in the process prior to the finalist being selected. The search firm expressed concern that citizen involvement early in the process could cause candidates to withdraw their application because it could jeopardize confidentiality of the process. Mr. Dunlap believes it would provide the community a greater service to allow everybody to participate at some point in the process. Ms. Griffin agreed that there should be an opportunity for the entire community to meet the finalists. She said this motion could be an additional valuable step to have a diverse group of citizens to interview the semi-finalist candidates and provide their wisdom to the Board for this important Board decision. Mr. Tate called for a Point of Order. He said the conversations are not germane to the motion or the amendment and he believes they are out of order. Chairperson White said unless the Board has comments about the amendment, the Board would now vote on the amendment and would then vote on the substitute motion.

The Board voted 7-2 to approve the amendment to add the Reverend Dr. Dwayne Walker to the list of names in the substitute motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, Ms. Griffin, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the amendment. Ms. McGarry and Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

Chairperson White said the Board would now discuss the substitute motion as amended. Mr. Tate said he supports the motion. He originally thought it was not necessary to do this but has changed his mind based on conversations he has had with people who hope the Board will be fair in all that it does. He believes it is important to have citizens meet the candidates and provide input. He also supports this motion because the citizens will meet the candidates separately, they will not participate in the Board's Superintendent search meetings, and they will not be part of the Board vote. He believes the motion will show that the process was fair and open, and involving citizens in the process now will be good for the Board and the community. Ms. McGarry said the motions provide two separate types of options because the Board was not in favor of one or the other one entirely and she believes that is important to note. Ms. McGarry said her motion is for the finalists and not the semi-finalists. In Ms. Cramer's substitute motion, the citizens will have to be available in a very short period of time. Ms. McGarry does not support the citizens meeting the candidates separately. She would prefer having everyone meet together so that everyone can interpret the discussions. Ms. McGarry prefers involving people who have a different skill set than the Board. The intent of her motion was to have people from the community who have served on national search committees be involved in evaluating and interviewing the candidates. Ms. McGarry believes having three people on the committee is ample.

Ms. McGarry moved to amend the motion that Mayor Lee Meyers be one of the three names, seconded by Mr. Gjertsen, and the Board voted 3-6 on the amendment and the amendment failed. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the amendment. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Mr. Gauvreau, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, and Ms. Griffin voted against the amendment.

A discussion followed. Mr. Gauvreau said this is insane. The Board has an opportunity to move ahead to make decisions but the Board prefers creating another committee to shield itself from the decisions that it has been empowered to make. Mr. Gauvreau said this is frustrating and he will vote "no." He said the Board can involve anyone they want in the process by just picking up the phone. He encouraged the Board to act, to make their own decisions, and to just select a superintendent. Ms. Griffin said the Board is not able to call people for their advice because the Board has agreed to keep this highly confidential and privileged information. Mr. Gjertsen said he had planned to support this motion but he is disappointed that some people can be added but not others. He thought the Board was seeking an unbiased panel but he does not believe that anymore. He will not support the motion. Chairperson White said he stated from the beginning of this idea that he would not support elected officials participating in the process. He said he agreed with Mr. Dunlap but Mr. Tate explained why he is willing to step out-of-the-box for this unique situation. He will support the motion.

The Board voted 4-5 on the substitute motion as amended and it failed. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Mr. Tate, and Ms. Griffin voted in favor of the substitute motion as amended. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against the substitute motion as amended.

The Board discussed Ms. McGarry's motion. Mr. Gjertsen said he will support the motion because it includes the unanimous vote of the Board. Mr. Tate believes it is a good idea to ensure that the community has an opportunity to meet the candidates at the end of the process. He said because this motion is waiting until the end of the process there is no reason to approve the motion at this time. He suggested the Board hold public meetings with anybody who wishes to participate. Mr. Tate will not support the motion. Ms. Griffin agreed with Mr. Tate. She said the Board will welcome the input from the entire community at the finalist stage. At that time, the Board will be able to ask people what they think. Ms. Griffin will not support the motion. Mr. Gauvreau said the motion makes sense because it is only for three citizens and they will only participate towards the end of the process. He expressed concern for how the Board would reach the unanimous vote. Ms. McGarry said this would be a challenge but she is optimistic that it can be done by the Board.

The Board voted 3-6 on Ms. McGarry's motion and the motion failed. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Ms. Griffin voted against the motion.

C. Recommend approval of changes to Policy JFAC, Reassignments and Transfers

Chairperson White called upon Ms. Griffin to present the recommendation. Ms. Griffin said before the Board for consideration are the revisions to Policy JFAC, Reassignments and Transfers. The revisions have been recommended by the Policy Committee. The significant change would require appeals of staff denials for student reassignment requests would be approved by the full Board rather than by a Board panel acting on behalf of the Board. The Board may decide to use Board panels to make recommendations but the final decision will be made by the full Board.

Ms. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, that the Board approve the proposed changes to Policy JFAC, Reassignments and Transfers, and the Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.

D. Recommend approval of Board of Education's 2006 N.C. Legislative Agenda

Chairperson White called upon Maurice Green, General Counsel, to present the recommendations. Mr. Green asked that a motion be put on the floor to open the discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Gjertsen, seconded by Mr. Tate, that the Board approve the proposed Board of Education's 2006 N. C. Legislative Agenda, a discussion followed. Mr. Green provided answers to questions that Board members had previously submitted regarding estimated costs for the proposed legislative items related to teacher compensation increases and additional nurses as well as data related to charter schools. He said there was also a question regarding school nurses and whether they must be registered nurses. Staff has not completed their research on this question and will provide that information in the near future. Ms. Cramer said she feels strongly that the Board needs a shorter Legislative Agenda. She said a shorter list would provide more focus and the other items could be included in the position statements. This list is shorter than it has ever been and she is appreciative of that. She believes the list should be shorter, especially since this will be a short session. Ms. Cramer made a substitute motion.

Ms. Cramer moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Dunlap, that the Board approve the Board of Education's 2006 N. C. Legislative Agenda be composed of the five priority statements only. The five priority statements are as follows:

1. Increase funding for teacher compensation and provide flexibility with the funds allocated for teacher salaries to allow CMS and other select local school districts to implement performance-based salary schedules on a pilot basis.
2. Enact a comprehensive set of teacher recruitment and retention incentives.
3. Establish and fund a properly structured Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Fund Program that addresses the needs of at-risk children (including low-performing students, exceptional children, English as Second Language students, and low-income students) statewide.
4. Restore the \$33.3 million dollars in sales tax refund that the state redirected from public schools for 2006-2007, change that refund to an exemption, and ensure that local sales taxes are not redirected from public schools.
5. Ensure that lottery proceeds earmarked for local school districts do not supplant funds currently and traditionally appropriated to those districts.

Ms. Cramer said she would prefer only having three items but would accept limiting it to five items. Mr. Dunlap said he would support this motion because it is a short session. He said an agenda that is more precise and focused would increase the likelihood of having some action on those items. Mr. Tate asked if the position statements were new or were they positions the Board had previously taken? Mr. Green said they all have been on a previous Legislative Agenda except number eight (Provide local school districts with more calendar flexibility) which is quasi-new. He said when the Calendar Legislation was approved a couple of years ago, there was a move to change that Legislation at that time. The Board took a position against changing that Legislation but the General Assembly approved that it be changed. Number Eight would be an attempt to suggest to the General Assembly that they went too far and it matches what the Board has said previously in asking for flexibility at the local level. Mr. Tate

said he understood that because they were on a previous Legislative Agenda they would stand as continuing position statements and they would not need to be included again this year. Mr. Tate said he would support deleting the position statements from the Board's Legislative Agenda for this year. Mr. Green asked for clarification of the motion. He said he understood the motion was for the five priorities only and if an issue developed about the other ones he would have to come back to the Board to get the position at that time. Ms. Cramer replied that is correct. Mr. Tate said he would not support the motion if that is the interpretation. He thought if the position statements had been previously included in the Legislative Agenda it was not necessary to repeat them. He believes they should remain if there is a reason to repeat them. Ms. McGarry said she had requested information on the various levels of nurses and their salary increments and this was not provided. She believes money could be saved by not filling all the positions at the schools with RNs. Mr. Green said staff could provide the different salaries for the various levels of nurses but he felt this would not be necessary if it was determined that CMS could not hire anyone other than RNs. Ms. McGarry said she would like this for future reference because to her this makes a difference as she understood it was \$55,000 including benefits for a RN. She said regarding the position statements, there are four that she will not be able to support regardless. This included the charter cap of one hundred. She said the Board must understand that competition is sometimes good and charter schools provide families an option, especially families that cannot afford private schools. Chairperson White said the motion on the floor does not concern the position statements as they have been removed. Chairperson White asked the Board to address the priorities only. Ms. McGarry believes it should be a short list because it is a short session. She said all the priorities are important but she would prefer three items versus five items. Mr. Dunlap reviewed the five priority statements for the public to understand. He said the General Assembly will already be dealing with a number of these issues. He said this clearly states these are our priorities. He said because the position statements have been removed does not mean they are not important. Mr. Gauvreau will support removing the position statements because he has been trying to do that for years. He does not believe the priorities have substance and they are the same ones the Board has been presenting for years. He said the Board has more work to do regarding its Legislative Agenda. Mr. Gauvreau believes the Board should be focused on structural and organizational issues rather than presenting the same items every year. Ms. Leake agreed that the Board should focus on the priorities. She is pleased all the priorities deal with supporting staff because that has been one of the Board's focuses for retaining excellent teachers. She believes the Board should continue to ask the state to provide funds to pay teachers and educators the monies necessary to keep them in the district and to recruit excellent educators. Ms. Leake supports increasing the salaries of teachers and providing them greater respect.

The Board voted 7-2 to approve the substitute motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. McGarry, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Gjertsen, and Ms. Griffin voted in favor of the substitute motion. Mr. Gauvreau and Mr. Tate voted against the substitute motion.

- E. Recommend approval of acceleration of new school construction via request for Certificates of Participation to be issued by the Board of County Commissioners

Chairperson White called upon Mr. Gauvreau to present the recommendation.

Upon motion by Mr. Gauvreau to recommend the approval of acceleration of new school construction via request for Certificates of Participation (COPs) to be issued by the Board of County Commissioners for \$244,000,000, seconded by Ms. McGarry, a discussion followed. Mr. Gauvreau said he has provided Board members three proposals along

with maps from the Long-Range School Facilities Master Plan. He said this is about the seventh time since November 22nd this has been presented to the Board. His intent is to put something in front of the Board that the Board will take action on regarding the acceleration of new schools after the failed Bond referendum. He said the first proposal is for \$244 million to build seven elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools of which ten were in the failed Bond referendum. Mr. Gauvreau said he has priced the schools at 10% less than the failed Bond referendum because he believes the schools can be built for less. The high schools are priced at \$50 million, the elementary schools at \$14 million, and the middle schools at \$23 million. This proposal also allows the Board the possibility of making an amendment which he has encouraged the Board to do. He said it is imperative that the Board act tonight because the clock is ticking and everyone knows these schools need to be built. He said he is making a compromise by presenting the proposal at the projected costs because he strongly believes schools should be built smaller and cheaper. He would like to start moving the schools immediately and take this to the Board of County Commission at their next meeting to get them to act on this as well. Mr. Dunlap said he was not opposed to having this on the agenda tonight because he believes it is important to restate why he will not support this item. He said he has been clear and consistent from the beginning. He is will not support the motions for several reasons. He said COPs cost more than general obligation Bonds; taxes are taxes; COPs avoid public input in the process; and the public are the ones who have to pay taxes. Mr. Dunlap expressed concerns about putting COPs before the County Commissioners prior to the Building Solutions Committee recommendations. Mr. Dunlap also expressed concern that Mr. Gauvreau's proposal did not include badly needed renovations to schools that were included in the Bond referendum. He believes the success of the School Building Solutions Committee will help bring the community to agreement on renovations to schools and building new schools. Mr. Dunlap believes to approve this prior to the School Building Solutions Committee recommendations would jeopardize the potential of a Bond package passing. Mr. Dunlap said he would not support any of the motions by Mr. Gauvreau. Ms. Cramer believes the Board should wait to hear the recommendations by the School Building Solutions Committee. She believes there should be a package that incorporates new schools and renovations which is fair and balanced. Ms. McGarry said she would support the proposals. She said the voters want an alternative. She believes the first step should be to put something on the books to act and this proposal is 10% less than the Bond package. She said the voters want the Board to be more accountable and this speaks to that. She said this motion puts the schools where students are and that will correct the past mistakes of CMS. Ms. McGarry offered an amendment.

Ms. McGarry amended the motion to add \$18 million in renovations to Cochrane Middle School, seconded by Mr. Gauvreau, and a discussion followed. Ms. McGarry said CMS has \$188 million in renovations and that should be reprioritized. She said staff has stated Cochrane Middle School is in the worst shape of all the renovation projects. Ms. McGarry would like this amendment added to all three proposals. Mr. Tate said Cochrane Middle School needs \$18 million in renovations and maybe more. He said it would have been good to have had the Bonds to pass so that this project could be proceeding. He said although he does support including renovations for Cochrane Middle School in the motion he would elaborate later on why he would not support the motion. Mr. Tate said he believes the motion is a bad idea. Ms. Leake said she supported the Bonds. She expressed concern about renovating one school when there are many schools that need renovations. Ms. Leake encouraged the Board to do the right thing and allow the School Building Solutions Committee to make their recommendations first. Mr. Gauvreau asked that the amendment apply to all three of his proposals. Ms. McGarry stated that was her intent. Mr. Gauvreau supports the amendment. He expressed concern that this discussion has been blocked. He said the priorities of not

having a school and not moving on building them in the grossly overcrowded areas that this Board created is more of a priority than repairing a school. He said the Board has to start prioritizing. He encouraged the Board to act on approving the renovations. Ms. Griffin is heartened by the amendment because it shows an awareness that we have significant renovation needs throughout the district. She is in favor of whatever package gets chosen whether it is through COPs or Bonds including both the significant growth and renovation problems. Ms. Griffin encouraged the Board to allow the School Building Solutions Committee to make their recommendations first. She believes it would be untimely to approve the amendment and the motions. Ms. Cramer said of the facility needs for CMS, 65% are related to growth and 35% are related to renovations. She would like a package that is more balanced. She encouraged that the Board wait for the recommendations of the School Building Solutions Committee. She would have preferred to have had the Bond package to pass. She wants a package that is balanced and supported by a broad base of the community. Ms. McGarry said Cochrane Middle School was funded by 2002 Bonds for design only. She believes the renovations could be completed for less than \$18 million. She said all the needs in Mecklenburg County are genuine needs and the Board must prioritize. She said the Board must be fair to the community with their requests and not just list favorite projects but list the most critical needs. Ms. McGarry said these are the most critical new construction school sites and Cochrane Middle School is the most critical renovation need. Ms. McGarry believes this is a step in the right direction.

The Board voted 3-6 on the amendment and the amendment failed. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the amendment. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Ms. Griffin voted against the amendment.

Mr. Gjertsen said the issue is not how to pay for schools. The issue is CMS has overcrowded schools. He said the Board seems to get bogged down on whether it is COPs or Bonds. He said he supported the Bonds because CMS had overcrowded schools and we need to fix it. He supported the various COPs proposals because CMS has overcrowded schools and we need to fix it. He presented a proposal to the Board based upon an evaluation by staff of what our greatest needs were which included new schools and renovations because we need to fix the problem. That failed. Mr. Gjertsen said the Bonds failed in his district because the families were upset that their children could not attend their neighborhood school. He said this is a fair assessment and something the Board can and should address. He said people are concerned that COPs cost more. The cost of waiting until November will be \$32 million and interest rates will increase. COPs now will cost less than waiting for Bonds at the end of the year. Mr. Gjertsen said people are concerned because COPs avoid public input. He said the Board has stated regarding the Superintendent Search that we are the public and do not need public input with other committees. Mr. Gjertsen encouraged the Board to not wait on the recommendations from Governor Martin's Committee because waiting has already cost CMS \$8 million. He is concerned they will return with a recommendation for a COPs proposal for the greatest needs which is what this motion is proposing and to wait will cause another six-month delay. He said it is the Board's responsibility to address overcrowded schools and they should do that today. Mr. Tate said saying "no" is taking action. He expressed concern about the possibility of building schools at a 10% less cost and the capacities of those schools. He said leadership would be to not bicker about this same proposal over and over again but to entrust the issue to the Schools Building Solutions Committee, which each Board member appointed a member to, to help bring the community to an understanding. He believes the Board can show better leadership by allowing the committee to do their work and return with recommendations that the Board can then decide to proceed with. He said the committee is very diverse and has a good chance of gaining public support. This will show that the Board can work together. He said the

critical need for CMS is not building seats but educating students so that more students are at grade level. He said CMS has a need to build more schools but a greater need to educate the students who are already in the system. He encouraged the Board to not continue to debate this proposal but to focus on educating students and allow the Building Solutions Committee to address building schools. He said to continue to discuss this same issue is misprioritizing the time of the Board. Mr. Tate said the Board has reviewed this same proposal several times and has acted every time. Mr. Tate said he will not support the motions. Ms. Leake agreed with Mr. Tate and will not support the motions. Chairperson White said Bonds and COPs are basically the same money. It is borrowed money and it comes out of the taxpayers' pockets. It must be paid back and it is paid back with property taxes. He said the original purpose of COPs was to not replace Bonds. COPs was considered to be a way for public officials to meet emergency needs if there was not time to take it to the public. It was not intended to be a way to avoid the public and spend it the way the politicians wanted to spend it. Chairperson White expressed concern that this is beyond schools and is a campaign strategy to force the County Commissioners to vote on this item. The County Commissioners will be viewed negatively by segments of the public either way they vote. If they support this item, they are wasting the taxpayers' money and raising taxes. If they don't support this item, they are insensitive and would not build seats for students. Chairperson White will wait until after the School Buildings Solution Committee completes their research and makes recommendations. Chairperson White will not support any of the motions. Mr. Gauvreau encouraged the Board not to wait and to act tonight. Mr. Gauvreau said it is important to take action now because it will lessen the horrible outcome that looms regarding student assignment in future years, construction, and white flight. He said people are leaving the school district because of the inaction of the Board. He said the majority of the Board is on the wrong side of this issue. He said there are thousands of students who do not have seats in schools. He encouraged the Board to act on the most urgent of the new schools because it is the Board's non-action that is costing the school district the most. Mr. Gauvreau said he is ready to present his second proposal for a lesser amount. Mr. Gjertsen expressed concerns about the number of mobiles at schools and the overcrowding at schools which causes students to have to eat lunch at 10:30 a.m. and they must eat lunch in the hallways. Mr. Gjertsen said these are critical needs and an emergency. CMS has a facilities crisis and must build some schools. Mr. Tate asked Mr. Gauvreau how many people are leaving the system? Mr. Gauvreau said the Board gets a report every month and he has been tracking this since 1998. He said the white flight continues in the school district and has changed the demographics. He said this is caused by two things and national experts have acknowledged this. It is caused by the magnet school policies and the fact that the Board is stopping the construction of schools in suburban areas. He said suburban people are leaving the district and he is trying to stop this. Ms. Leake said CMS has had a growth problem for a long time. Ms. Leake said many parents have told her they do not mind if their child has school in a trailer as long as they are able to attend school in their neighborhood. Ms. Leake believes the City Council's zoning process has created some of the issues that CMS is facing today. Ms. Leake said she has never visited a school and found a student standing up because they did not have a seat in their building. Ms. Leake said every child has a seat. Ms. Leake said the issue is the growth problem which is about 5,000 students per year. Ms. Leake said the Board's job is to take care of all students all across the district. Ms. Leake encouraged the Board to support the Bonds in the future. Mr. Gauvreau said the staff's enrollment projects in the suburban areas are four times the capacity. He said this has been an emergency situation for the past year. He said the Board misprioritized the Bonds and the public voted them down. The public wants CMS to build and renovate schools but they want it done correctly. Mr. Gauvreau encouraged the Board to make building schools priority one because it is an operating responsibility of the Board. Ms. McGarry said we are in a crisis mode. She said the projects are listed at 10% less in costs and will maintain the same number of seats. She

said this is telling the community that the Board is willing to act more economically and that is what they want to hear.

The Board voted 3-5 and the motion failed. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Griffin voted against the motion. Ms. Cramer was absent at the time of the vote.

Upon motion by Mr. Gauvreau, seconded by Ms. McGarry, that the Board approve building the new Hucks Road Elementary School, the new Elon Park Elementary School, the new Ridge Road Middle School, the new Southeast High School, the new Dixie River Road Elementary School, the new Belmeade Road Middle School, the new Bradley Road Elementary School, the new Providence Road Elementary School, and the new Bailey Road (North) High School via request for Certificates of Participation (COPs) to be issued by the Board of County Commissioners for \$216,000,000, and seconded by Ms. McGarry, a discussion followed.

Mr. Tate called the question, seconded by Ms. Cramer, and a discussion followed. Mr. Gauvreau said the Board was not done yet. He said he made it very clear that he wanted to give the Board every opportunity to do something and take some action tonight. Chairperson White said the question has been called. Ms. McGarry asked does this include the amendment. Chairperson White said Ms. McGarry was not recognized to make an amendment. Mr. Gauvreau said let's move on to the Equity Committee because that is important. Maurice Green, General Counsel, recommended that the Board continue with the vote.

The Board voted 6-3 to call the question. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Griffin voted to have the question called. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against having the question called.

The Board voted 3-6 on the motion and the motion failed. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Ms. Griffin voted against the motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Gauvreau that the Board approve building new schools for a smaller amount of \$188 million with the amendment included, and seconded by Ms. McGarry, a discussion followed. Mr. Tate said he is opposed to the motion and the procedure that the Board is going through for all the reasons that he identified earlier.

Ms. Leake called for the question, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, and the Board voted 6-3 to have the question called. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Griffin voted to have the question called. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against having the question called.

The Board voted 3-6 on the motion and the motion failed. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Ms. Griffin voted against the motion.

F. Recommend approval of framework for meetings with the Equity Committee

Chairperson White called upon Mr. Tate to present the recommendation.

Mr. Tate moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Leake, that the Board commend the Equity Committee for its 2006 Report and the following framework be established for the remainder of 2006:

- 1. That the Board convene a special meeting with the Equity Committee each quarter and that there be more frequent conversation between Board members and members of the Equity Committee;**
- 2. That the Board request that the Equity Committee review the Citizens' Task Force recommendations regarding equity and report back to the Board in ninety days; and**
- 3. That the Board request that the Equity Committee review, from the perspective of equity, any proposed bond package or additional funding plans from the School Building Solutions Committee and report such review to the Board.**

A discussion with Board members followed. Mr. Tate said the Board created and appointed the Equity Committee. They have worked diligently and made four annual reports as well as other reports to the Board. Mr. Tate asked the Board to have more conversation with the Equity Committee regarding the equity issues. He said the Equity Committee has a perspective that the Board should hear and the committee would like to hear feedback from the Board on the issues they have presented. Ms. Leake said the Equity Committee presented a report to the Board one month ago that addressed what the inequities are in CMS and what CMS needs to do. Ms. Leake encouraged the Board to activate the recommendations of the Equity Committee as soon as possible because they will help to close the gap in this school system. Mr. Dunlap said he would like the motion divided.

Upon substitute motion by Mr. Dunlap, and seconded by Ms. Leake, that the Board approve the commendation and the framework of the motion be divided, a discussion followed. Mr. Dunlap said he supports convening a special meeting with the Equity Committee but he has concerns about meeting once a quarter. He believes the Board should only meet with the committee once per quarter if there is a need to meet. He said the Equity Committee has the right to review any reports. He encouraged the committee to review the recommendations of the Citizens' Task Force as well as the recommendations of the School Building Solutions Committee. He said the Board should welcome the committee's feedback on those recommendations as they would from any committee. Mr. Dunlap said he supports the concept of the outline of the framework but has concerns about the stipulations. Mr. Tate said the Equity Committee requested these items and offered their services for reviewing the reports. The purpose of his motion was to put the Equity Committee's requests in a framework for this year. He said the Equity Committee may bring forth additional items as the year progresses but these were the items they addressed in the 2006 Annual Report. Mr. Dunlap said the Board does not have to authorize the committee to review the recommendations of the Citizens' Task Force or the School Building Solutions Committee, and they may present feedback to the Board as they deem necessary. Mr. Dunlap said he will support their requests but does not believe the Board needs to provide that much structure. Mr. Tate said he agreed the committee may review anything they choose and report back to the Board but they specifically requested this direction. Mr. Tate said he felt it necessary to stipulate their requests to the Board. Mr. Gjertsen believes the Board should have a joint meeting with the Equity Committee to discuss their report. Mr. Gjertsen encouraged the Equity Committee to be a stakeholder in the community meetings with the Citizens' Task Force because community involvement is very important. Ms. Leake supports structuring a framework for the Equity Committee and the Board meeting with them to discuss their recommendations. Chairperson

White said the Equity Committee has expressed concerns that they work hard every year to develop a report for the Board, the Board receives the report, and they never hear what is done with the report. Chairperson White said the good news is the budget recommendations of the Superintendent addresses some of the items addressed in the Equity Report. He believes the Equity Committee is seeking better communication with the Board and CMS so that they can provide a better service to the Board. Ms. McGarry thanked the Equity Committee for their hard work. Ms. McGarry believes the Board should provide the Equity Committee more communication, review the committee's Charter from the Board, and provide them direction for the future. Ms. McGarry does not believe it is necessary for the Board to meet with the Equity Committee on a quarterly basis because that is below the line of management and the committee is coordinated through the Director of Diversity. Ms. McGarry said the Board has appointed several other committees and Board members may attend any of those meetings as they deem necessary. Ms. McGarry does not believe it is necessary to set up this framework because it is micromanaging. Mr. Dunlap said he supports the requests of the Equity Committee but believes there is too much structure. He does not want to make this item complicated and withdrew his motion.

Mr. Dunlap withdrew his substitute motion and Ms. Leake agreed to have it withdrawn.

Ms. Leake called for the question. The Board voted 3-6 and the call for the question failed. Mr. Dunlap, Ms. Leake, and Mr. Gauvreau approved having the question called. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. McGarry, Mr. Tate, Ms. Griffin, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against having the question called.

Mr. Gauvreau said this is insane. Mr. Gauvreau said this Board has spent ten minutes talking about the Equity Committee which has accomplished nothing and has little substance. This committee was created as a buffer after the court trial. Mr. Gauvreau believes the Board has too many committees. Mr. Gauvreau said this Board has become committee driven and nothing is being accomplished. He encouraged the Board to act on substantive issues of which this is not one. Mr. Gauvreau will not support the motion.

The Board voted 6-3 on the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Ms. Griffin voted in favor of the motion. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against the motion.

G. Recommend approval of moving Morgan School to old Metro School and accelerate program changes

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to present the recommendation. Dr. Haithcock recommended the approval of relocating Morgan School to the old Metro School and accelerating a change to open that school in a new formation. She said Morgan is a leased site at this time and the move will allow a cost savings. Morgan is currently a grade 6-12 school and will become a K-12 therapeutic school. The planned date for opening is August 2006.

Ms. Cramer moved, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, that the Board approve moving Morgan School to the old Metro School and accelerate program changes, and a discussion followed. Ms. McGarry is excited that there will be a cost savings and will support the motion.

The Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.

V. REPORTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Student Lottery Results

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to present the report. Dr. Haithcock introduced Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement Services, to provide the report on the results of the student lottery process. Mr. McCully said this is an annual report and this year there are some new results. The format is consistent with what has been presented in past years but, as a result of policy changes made last fall, some of the data has been changed. Mr. McCully reported there were over 16,000 applications returned. This is about half the applications returned in prior years. The reduction is a direct result of a change in policy that did not require students choosing their home school or a continuation option to submit an application. This year, the process was made more customer-service friendly by not requiring all students to apply. The majority of our students want to continue to the next level in their appropriate home school or magnet feeder area. There were over 2,300 new student enrollment applications. This number was also substantially down from past years. This was a direct result of a change in policy which allowed new students choosing their home school may apply directly to that school rather than enrolling through the Family Application Center. The applications received were from students who wanted other options such as magnet options or other schools that may have space. Mr. McCully said CMS could expect more than the 2,300 new enrollments for this school year because CMS continues to take new enrollments for the second lottery which runs through May, and through the summer months. The new student enrollment projection for this school year is 4,400 students. Mr. McCully said of the total applications received, 51% were guaranteed seats, 28% were defaults, and 21% were applying for options. Students who go through the lottery application process and do not get any of the choices indicated on the lottery application are considered default students. Those students default to their home school for their current option. Mr. McCully reviewed the percentages of students receiving their first option, the assignment of students, the assignment of No Child Left Behind students, and the percentage of students receiving their second option. Mr. McCully said notification letters have been mailed, the reassignment requests deadline will be March 17, and the Board appeal process will begin in May. A discussion with Board members followed. Mr. Dunlap expressed concern that there are fewer student lottery options for economically disadvantaged students. Mr. Dunlap said more magnet options should be made available to African American students because these families are seeking access to high quality teachers and better discipline in schools. Mr. Dunlap said based on the lottery results, 76% of African American students want something other than their home school assignment. Mr. Dunlap believes this indicates there is a problem. Mr. Dunlap believes something must be done about the schools in these communities. Mr. McCully clarified that this information is just for students who provided an application for the lottery and not every African American student made a choice in the lottery process. Mr. Dunlap said that is correct. Mr. Dunlap asked what percentage of the default students were African American? Mr. McCully said he did not have that information and would provide it at a later time. Ms. Leake said parents have expressed concern that their children attend a low-performing school and cannot get in a magnet school. As a result their child must attend their home school. Ms. Leake expressed concern that many people in the district do not want to attend their home school because of that school's negative image. She suggested that CMS change the mentality of the public by marketing that CMS has quality schools throughout the district so that families will believe in their home school.

B. Report on Superintendent's Recommendations for 2006-07 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education Budget

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to present the report. Chairperson White reminded Board members that a Budget Work Session was scheduled for March 15th at 5:00 p.m. Chairperson White suggested that Board members list their questions and bring them to the Work Session. Dr. Haithcock reviewed the 2006-2007 Budget. She read the open letter to the community from the Superintendent because she wanted to ensure that the public was aware of the framework of the budget and how the decisions were made. Dr. Haithcock said the budget is focused on four components. The major components of the budget are directly aligned to the Board's Theory of Action, the Equity Committee's requests and report, the commonalities in the Citizens' Task Force recommendations, and the major challenges that face CMS in moving forward. The challenges include growth, the gap in funding, diversity, quality teachers, student performance, the achievement gap, and high school reform. The six major cost areas are growth and maintenance, teacher quality, equity, safety, high school reform, and decentralization. Dr. Haithcock reviewed the proposed budget compared to the 2005-2006 adopted budget.

Revenues	2006-2007 Proposed Budget	2005-2006 Adopted Budget	% Change
State of North Carolina	\$616,443,439	\$557,052,541	10.7%
Federal	71,841,725	72,579,235	-1.0%
Mecklenburg County Appropriation	323,280,960	291,400,000	10.9%
Other Local Revenue	23,102,552	22,945,927	0.7%
Total Revenues	\$1,034,668,676	\$943,977,703	9.6%

Dr. Haithcock said both the State and County budgets significantly increased as a result of the governor's proposed 5% salary increase for teachers. The total percent change is 9.6%. Without the proposed cost increases to salaries and benefits, the total percent change would have been 5.8%. Dr. Haithcock reviewed the detailed changes to the County Budget which included redirections/reductions; sustaining operations; student growth and opening new schools; and program expansions and new initiatives. Dr. Haithcock said the proposed 2006-2007 Budget requests an additional \$31.8 million from the County over the 2005-2006 adopted budget of \$291.4 million request. Of this amount, \$29,330,238 is for sustaining operations and growth. Dr. Haithcock said Board members could submit questions to her prior to the Budget Work Session and she would provide those answers at the Work Session scheduled for March 15h. Mr. Dunlap expressed concern about a number of recent youth deaths as a result of drug abuse and alcohol. He said this is an important issue facing the community and he believes it must be addressed through a budget process by the School Board, City Council, or Board of County Commissioners. He said last year, the City Council cut from its budget the funding for the DARE Program. He believes this will have a negative impact in the community. He suggested that the Board host a one-day summit with the City Council and Board of County Commissioners to discuss common areas that need to be addressed. He encouraged that this issue be addressed at the Budget Work Session.

VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to present the report. Dr. Haithcock recognized Janice Ward, teacher at Jay M. Robinson Middle School, who won the Shell Science Teaching

Award from the National Science Teachers' Association. The award recognizes one outstanding classroom teacher who has had a positive impact on her students, school, and community through exemplary science teaching. Ms. Ward has been with CMS since 1992. Ms. Ward will receive \$10,000 and an all expense paid trip to the Association's National Conference in California. Dr. Haithcock said regarding the comments from Judge Manning, CMS will not be closing any high schools. Dr. Haithcock said the state has been working with CMS to implement improvements to the plans for each school. CMS has implemented several changes to improve the schools. Two principals have been replaced and one school has been reconstituted. One principal has had the highest gains of any principal in the district. Dr. Haithcock said staff is very aware of the concerns and is working very hard to ensure that student achievement is approved in this system.

VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

George Dunlap enjoyed participating in the Read Across America Day at Briarwood Elementary School on March 2. He held a District 3 Meeting on March 11th. The meeting was a huge success and everyone found the discussion on the Board's Theory of Action very beneficial. He encouraged Board members to also hold meetings to discuss the Board's Theory of Action. Mr. Dunlap said the press had misrepresented the reason the Joint Meeting with the Board and the Citizens' Task Force was not televised live. He explained that CMS no longer has the ability to televise live meetings in the Board Room at the Education Center. He had requested that the meeting be recorded so that it could be broadcast on CMS TV-3 at a later time for the public.

Kaye McGarry had the opportunity to go on the Thought Leader Tour which is organized by the Children and Family Services Center. The tour provides a realistic look at the poverty areas in Charlotte and the agencies that are helping with the good things that are happening in Charlotte. This will be open to the public in the near future. Ms. McGarry participated in the Read Across America Day at Eastover Elementary School and read from her collection of Dr. Seuss books. She noted that Independence High School was conducting a unique forensic science experiment today called "CSI at the Big I."

Ken Gjertsen thanked the people in his district for showing their support for the problems in their community. He said District 6 is very passionate about education and they want their concerns fixed. Mr. Gjertsen is very optimistic for the future of CMS and he talked about the good things that are happening in the school district. He said CMS is interviewing for a new Superintendent, the budget includes pay increases for teachers, the School Building Solutions Committee is seeking solutions for the facilities crisis, action is being taken on the Citizens' Task Force recommendations, and there is unanimous agreement on the Board for improving student achievement.

Tom Tate reported the Board would hold a Joint Meeting with the Equity Committee on April 13th at 11:00 a.m. He said East Mecklenburg High School is sponsoring an All Star Teacher Initiative which resulted from a \$500,000 anonymous gift from an alumnus of the school. The school is seeking donations to match that gift to provide for a five-year program to help with retention and attraction of quality teachers at the school. He reported District 4 will hold a meeting with the Citizens' Task Force on March 16th in the Media Center at East Mecklenburg High School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Vilma Leake thanked Dr. Haithcock for sharing information on Myths and Reality with the communities at Southwest Middle School and Oaklawn Language Academy. Ms. Leake thanked Leadership Charlotte for donating 2,000 books to the Amay James Pre-K Center. She attended the rally at West Charlotte High School to support keeping the school open in response to a letter from Judge Manning. Ms. Leake thanked Dr. Haithcock for clarifying the facts about that concern. She visited Reid Park Elementary and attended a Valentine Party that involved senior citizens. She also attended the School Building Solutions Committee meeting on March 10th. She encouraged the community to support student achievement and asked parents to hold themselves accountable for the behavior of their children so that CMS could have a safe environment for every student in the district.

Chairperson White said the Board had asked that the interview process for the Superintendent Search be moved forward. Chairperson White will provide Board members an update on that progress at the Budget Work Session scheduled for March 15th.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Ms. Leake, seconded by Ms. McGarry, by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Chairperson, Joe. I. White, Jr.

Clerk to the Board, Nancy Daughtridge