

Approved by the Charlotte-  
Mecklenburg Board of Education  
June 27, 2006  
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

April 25, 2006

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on April 25, 2006. The meeting began at 4:35 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

Present: Joe I. White, Jr., Chairperson;  
Kit Cramer, Vice Chairperson;  
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);  
Tom Tate (District 4); and  
Molly Griffin (District 5)

Absent: Kaye McGarry, Member At-Large;  
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);  
George Dunlap (District 3); and  
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

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

**Upon motion by Ms. Cramer, seconded by Mr. Tate, the Board voted unanimously of those present for approval to go into Closed Session for the following purposes:**

- **To establish and instruct the Board's staff and negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the Board in negotiating the price and other material terms of contracts or proposed contracts for the acquisition of real estate property pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a)(5) of the North Carolina General Statutes.**
- **To hear and discuss personnel matters and to prevent the disclosure of confidential information pursuant to Sections 115C-319 and 143-318.11(a)(1), (5) and (6) of the North Carolina General Statutes.**

Chairperson White reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:02 p.m. 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 6:02 p.m. Chairperson White welcomed everyone to the Board's second meeting of the month. He said the second meeting of the month is held in a Workshop format and is scheduled to be in Room 267 but because of a scheduling conflict with the Board of County Commissioners, this meeting will be held in the Meeting Chamber.

### A. Adoption of Agenda

**Ms. Cramer moved that the Board approve the adoption of the agenda, seconded by Ms. Leake**, and a discussion followed. Mr. Tate said he would like to add an item to the agenda in response to a letter from Park Helms, Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), regarding a Joint Meeting with the Board and BOCC.

**Mr. Tate moved to amend the motion to add an item to the agenda regarding a Joint Meeting with the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education on May 4, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Citizens' Task Force Recommendations, seconded by Ms. Griffin**, and a discussion followed. Ms. Leake said she just received notification of the meeting and she is concerned that all Board members will not be available to attend the meeting. Board members usually receive a two-week notice for scheduling meetings of this type and often there is an optional meeting date. She would like to know how many Board of Education members would be available to attend the meeting and if there could be a discussion with the BOCC to reschedule the meeting. Ms. Leake asked will the members of the Citizens' Task Force attend the meeting? Chairperson White said this recommendation came from the County's Education Liaison Committee. This meeting is a Joint Meeting with the Board and the BOCC and will be open to the public. Chairperson White said he and Mr. Helms understand that all members of both Boards may not be able to attend the meeting but feel this would be a beneficial meeting. Chairperson White said five Board members can decide to add or not add this item to the agenda.

**The Board voted 9-0 to approve that the agenda be amended to add Action Item III.B. (Recommend approval for a Joint Meeting with the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education).**

**Mr. Dunlap moved to amend the motion to approve deleting agenda item III.A., seconded by Ms. Leake**, and a discussion followed. Mr. Gauvreau asked the Board to act on this item tonight as opposed to dismissing it once again. He has made changes to the motion and it is time the Board acted on this item. Ms. McGarry said it is time for the Board to act rather than continue to allow committee after committee to meet when this Board should be in charge. Ms. McGarry said the motion is an important item and should be discussed by the Board because it is a valid point. Ms. Griffin said this is the same motion that the Board

discussed previously at several meetings. Mr. Gauvreau said this is a different motion although he has made similar motions in an effort to get the Board to act on something since November 22, 2005. This motion is for a smaller dollar amount and he is only trying to get the Board to move forward on something rather than continue to do nothing. This motion is for the construction of the three most critical needs schools. Ms. Leake said there is a community committee that is reviewing recommendations to impact the total community and that committee should be allowed to move forward with that process. She believes the Board should move forward after reviewing the recommendations of that committee. Ms. McGarry said this motion is for the most critical needs of CMS and can be done in the interim of having the Martin Commission come forth with their recommendations. She believes those recommendations will have to be more far reaching than this motion. She said this motion is something that can be put on the books and give the accountability that the public wants by coming in under budget and relieving overcrowding in the interim of the Martin Commission recommendations.

**The Board voted 5-4 to delete agenda item III.A. Chairperson White, Ms. Cramer, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, and Ms. Griffin voted in favor of the amendment. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against the amendment.**

**Ms. Cramer moved that the Board approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Tate, and the Board voted 6-3 to approve 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.**

**B. Recognition of CMS as recipient of the Global Communicators School District Award**

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to present the recognition. Dr. Haithcock said this recognition is a state award for Foreign Language Immersion in CMS. Dr. Haithcock introduced David Williams, Director of the Global Communicator Program; Tom Skinner, Foreign Language Specialist; and Robbie Kale, Director of Magnet Schools, to present the recognition and provide an update on the scope of the International Studies Program. Mr. Williams said North Carolina in the World is Governor Easley's initiative for increasing students' skills and knowledge about the world, and to better prepare them to live and thrive in the global economy. The Global Communicators Program promotes intensive, early beginning second language K-12 pipelines across North Carolina. The program's objective is to have 10% of North Carolina High School Graduates proficient in a language other than English. Many of the school districts across the state have not begun this process and this recognition is to shine the light on the leadership districts and the exemplary school programs that are focused on achieving this goal. CMS is one of the first two districts in the state to be recognized. The cornerstone of the CMS program is the three elementary language academies (Collinswood Language Academy, Oaklawn Language Academy, and Smith Language Academy) and the Academy of International Languages at West Mecklenburg High School which continues the pipeline and allows students an opportunity to learn five foreign languages and receive true proficiency. Mr. Williams presented Dr. Haithcock and Chairperson White an award to designate CMS as a Global Communicator School District in recognition of its leadership and excellence in foreign language instruction. Mr. Skinner and Ms. Kale discussed the district's model of Foreign Language Immersion and International Education Program and its infusion into the curriculum. Ms. Kale said CMS has the models in place to prepare globally competent students. She said it is important to infuse international education in the curriculum because there are critical needs from the government and the country calling for increased foreign language study to accommodate the increasing number

of jobs tied with international trade, international cooperation, terrorism and security, the environment, and disease control. Dr. Haithcock said CMS is very proud of the advanced global studies and foreign language programs that are offered in the system. Research indicates that the emphasis of study and curriculum must point towards the four important areas of math, science, technology, and foreign language. She said it is very important that CMS continue to proceed in these four areas. Dr. Haithcock said CMS is very pleased to accept the state award.

C. Community Report

- Report on proposed name for the new Highland Creek Elementary School

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to represent the report. Dr. Haithcock introduced Dan Witt, Regional Superintendent for Elementary Schools North, to introduce the report. Mr. Witt said Board policy for recommending the name for a new school has been completed. Mr. Witt introduced Phyllis Baldwin, principal at the new Highland Creek Elementary School, to present the new name for the school. Ms. Baldwin said the students, parents, and community have been involved in the process for recommending the new name. The three preferred names, in order of preference, for the new school are Highland Creek Elementary School, Parkway Elementary School, and Prospect Hill Elementary School. The community overwhelmingly selected Highland Creek Elementary School as the name for the new school. Ms. Cramer suggested that Consent Item II.E., the Board approval for the name of the new school, be moved forward on the agenda.

**Ms. Leake moved that the Board approve to amend the agenda by moving Consent Item II.E. (Recommend approval of name for new Highland Creek Elementary School) forward on the agenda, seconded by Ms. Cramer, and by consensus, the Board agreed to approve the motion.** Mr. Dunlap said there would be other new schools to be named and he would like the same exception to be made for them as well.

**Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Ms. Cramer, that the Board approve Highland Creek Elementary School as the name for the new school, and the Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.**

II. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Recommend approval of minutes
  - April 13, 2006 Joint Meeting
- B. Construction Items
  - 1. Recommend approval of contract for intersection and roadwork improvements to serve the new Bailey Middle School
  - 2. Recommend approval of procurement and relocation of mobile and modular units for various schools
- C. *Item Deleted*
- D. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel
- E. Recommend approval of name for new Highland Creek Elementary School

**Ms. Cramer moved that the Board approve Consent Items A. thru E. except item II.E. which was approved with agenda item I.C., seconded by Ms. Griffin,** and a discussion followed. Ms. McGarry asked for clarification on item B.2. She said this is the procurement and relocation of mobile units and modular units for various schools at a cost of \$5.1 million and it does not include a list of schools. Ms. McGarry asked what schools are included in this

item and does it include the \$1 million for Clear Creek Elementary School. Guy Chamberlain, Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, said Clear Creek Elementary School was discussed at the previous Regular Board meeting and there was no resolution at that time. In the proposal submitted to the Board for Clear Creek, there are no provisions for mobile classrooms. This item does not include anything for Clear Creek Elementary School. Mr. Chamberlain said this item relocates one hundred and forty-seven mobile classrooms to about thirty different schools. He will provide Ms. McGarry a list of those schools at a later time.

**The Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.**

Dr. Haithcock presented the following administrative appointments:

- Pamela Frederick named principal of Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School. Ms. Frederick previously served as assistant principal at Elizabeth Lane Elementary School.
- Selestine Young Crowder named principal of Sterling Elementary School. Ms. Crowder previously served as assistant principal at Oakdale Academy.
- David W. Switzer named principal of Northeast Middle School. Mr. Switzer previously served as assistant principal at Northeast Middle School
- Acquanetta S. Edmond named principal of Lake Wylie Elementary School. Ms. Edmond previously served as assistant principal at Lake Wylie Elementary School.
- Jametta Martin-Tanner named principal of Midwood/TAPs School. Ms. Martin-Tanner previously served as assistant principal at Hopewell High School.

### III. ACTION ITEMS

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

The Board approved to delete this item from the agenda.

- B. Recommend approval of Joint Meeting with Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

The Board approved that this item be added to the agenda. Chairperson White called upon Mr. Tate to present the recommendation. Mr. Tate said the Joint Meeting is a good idea. He also would have liked an opportunity to participate in scheduling the time of the meeting and hopes Board members will support the scheduled meeting.

**Mr. Tate moved that the Board approve a Joint Meeting with the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners on May 4, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Citizens' Task Force recommendations, seconded by Ms. Griffin,** and a discussion followed. Mr. Gjertsen said it is a great idea to meet with the BOCC on this issue but he is scheduled to be out of town on that date and will not be available. He would propose that the Board find an alternate date and that it be scheduled in the evening so that more members of the public may attend. He is concerned that it may look like the Board was not interested in a Joint Meeting if several Board members did not attend the meeting.

**Mr. Gjertsen moved that the Board approve seeking an alternate date and time,**

**preferably in the evening, for the Joint Meeting with the Board of County Commissioners, seconded by Mr. Dunlap,** and a discussion followed. Mr. Dunlap said Board members have busy schedules and he also has a previous commitment on that date. He is concerned how the media will interpret the absence of several Board members from the meeting. Mr. Dunlap believes the Board should work with the BOCC to find a date that is more suitable for the majority of both Boards. Ms. McGarry said it is hard to schedule a meeting with both Boards. She senses some Board of Education members are hesitant because they were not asked for a suitable date. Ms. McGarry said all Board members can not attend all scheduled meetings. She said the Board has a meeting scheduled with the Broad Foundation that she could not be available for but the Board scheduled it anyway. She believes the Board should realize that if the meeting is that important, the Board should find a time that all members can attend. If the meeting is not that important, the Board should schedule the meeting with the majority of the Board. She believes the meeting with the Broad Foundation and the BOCC should be priority meetings. She would prefer a date for the Joint Meeting when all nine Board members could be present. Ms. Griffin asked how many Board members will not be available on the scheduled date? Chairperson White, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen indicated they would not be available. Chairperson White said he previously said he would not be available on that date but felt the meeting could be conducted without him. He is concerned about scheduling a meeting with five Board members absent. Mr. Tate said with this information he would support the substitute motion for the Board to negotiate with the BOCC to find an alternate date for the Joint Meeting. Ms. McGarry asked does this include a date that all nine Board members would be available to attend? Chairperson White said it is very difficult to schedule a date that all nine Board members of both Boards would be available to attend but he would try to seek a full attendance. He will follow the usual procedure of polling Board members with three possible dates to determine the most suitable date for the majority of the Board. He will discuss this with Parks Helms to find the best date for both Boards.

**The Board voted 9-0 to approve the substitute motion.**

#### **IV. REPORTS / INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **A. Report/Work Session on Advanced Academics**

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Haithcock to introduce the report. Dr. Haithcock said this is an important report for the district and discusses educating all children at a very high and challenging level. For the past two years, CMS has focused on how to increase the academic offerings for advanced students. The advanced academics in CMS encompass several programs. This report will be an overview of those programs. Dr. Haithcock introduced Muffet Garber, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services, to review the purpose of the report and to introduce staff members to provide highlights of the CMS programs. Chairperson White reminded Board members that the ground rules they had agreed to were to hear the report and then ask questions. Ms. Garber introduced Dr. Bill Anderson, Assistant Superintendent for High School Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Ronald Dixon, Assistant Superintendent for Middle School Curriculum and Instruction; and Dr. Linda Morris, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Garber said the report will provide information about the Advanced Academics Program and to reinforce that CMS is a school district that educates all children. Ms. Garber said they would like the Board to help convey this message to the public. Ms. Garber said many times staff present reports to the Board that discuss programs, materials, and support that is provided to schools to bring students to grade-level. The reality is CMS is a unique school system in the state and nation

because our students have access to one of the most rigorous course works that are available. This report will explain how CMS is taking its brightest students in preparing them to be globally competent and globally successful as they leave our high schools. Ms. Garber said the Board is faced with tough budget issues and this year's budget has advanced academics infused throughout the budget. Ms. Garber said the budget also asks for the Board's support for new initiatives such as additional teachers for the Catalyst Program for the three new elementary schools that will be opening and additional teachers for the foreign language programs. Ms. Garber said the discussion by staff will include responses to questions from Board members which were previously submitted. Dr. Morris provided an overview of the advanced level programs in elementary school. The Catalyst Program is available at all elementary schools. CMS has many magnets programs and theme schools for students who desire a more intensive and/or different approach to academics which include the Accelerated Learning Model, Paideia, IB Programs, Language Immersion, Performing Arts, Learning Immersion, and Talent Development. The Horizon Program at Barringer Academic Center is an option for students who are identified as highly gifted and in need of radical academic acceleration. Dr. Dixon provided an overview of the advanced level programs in middle school. Dr. Dixon said middle school students have a choice of enrolling in the Scholars Program for Language Arts and Math; Magnet Programs such as the IB Program, Performing Arts, or Language Immersion; and the Horizon Program. Students may also participate in project acceleration which means students may accelerate beyond their End-of-Grade scores. Next year, the Accelerated Program will be called Standard Plus and the Scholars Program will be called Honors so that it can be aligned with the initiatives in high school. Dr. Dixon presented a video clip of middle school students involved in a math and science robotics experience.

Ms. Cramer left the Regular Board meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Dr. Anderson provided an overview of the advanced level programs in high school. CMS has Universal Access which means all students have the option to enroll in the Honors Programs, Advanced Placement Programs, or the Dual Enrollment Programs with CPCC. CMS also has several magnet school offerings that provide opportunities for all students. The IB Diploma Program is offered at East Mecklenburg High School, Harding University High School, Myers Park High School, North Mecklenburg High School, and West Charlotte High School. Ms. Garber reviewed the successes of the various programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Ms. Garber introduced two students who have been very successful in participating in the advanced academic programs of CMS. Elizabeth Shen, a fifth grader at Barringer Academic Center, and Nicole Beach, a student at Harding University High School, shared how the CMS Horizon and IB Programs, respectively, have provided them with high level thinking skills and leadership abilities. Ms. Garber asked the Board to be advocates in conveying the message to the public that CMS is educating all students to the highest level possible and to support the advanced academic items that are included in the budget. A discussion with Board members followed. Ms. Leake hopes the community will understand that the advanced academic programs are strong in all the schools in all areas of the district because of the training that is necessary for the programs. Mr. Tate said his daughter graduated with an IB Diploma from Myers Park High School and that program was a great opportunity for her. He can attest that the IB Diploma is a wonderful program and it makes a huge difference in how students perform in high school and college. Ms. McGarry asked is CMS only IB Certified at the high school level? Dr. Anderson said each of the high schools is accredited with a middle school. IB North America visits the middle school that the high school is paired with, for example Myers Park High School is currently paired with Randolph Middle School. CMS went through the accreditation process two years ago and it includes

middle and high schools. Dr. Haithcock said this year's budget includes an item for three foreign language teachers in elementary school and that is part of the IB accreditation process. Ms. McGarry said she has read articles that the curriculum of the AP Program is being questioned across the country and schools cannot use the AP term unless they have ensured the curriculum meets the rigor guidelines. She asked where is CMS in that process? She also asked how many students in the AP Program have achieved the grades needed to receive college credits? Dr. Anderson said AP is not questioning the curriculum. It is questioning the rigor of the delivery of the curriculum. Colleges and universities across the country have some concerns that there are too many students that have AP courses on their transcripts but may not be as well prepared as they need to be. AP is part of the College Board and will begin an AP audit next year. CMS will participate in that audit. The audit is to ensure that every teacher who teaches AP courses is correctly trained, certified, and has a syllabus that delivers the AP curriculum. Dr. Anderson provided Board members with data regarding students in the AP Program from 2002 to 2005. Dr. Haithcock said CMS was a precursor for the College Board initiative. She met with them for two years to determine the model that will be used in the United States. At that time, CMS put in place the Superintendent's Certified AP Schools which met the model's requirements to declare a school district is teaching AP with quality. Dr. Anderson said CMS welcomes the audit because it will force us to examine what we are doing in our classes, force teachers to reflect on their own practices, and students will gain from the audit. Ms. Griffin asked for an analysis of the biggest weaknesses of the CMS AP scores. She would encourage that CMS focus on those weaknesses. Dr. Susan Agruso, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment, Planning, and Technical Support, said the reports provided by Dr. Anderson are produced every summer and they are on the website. CMS has had tremendous success in students gaining access to these courses. We are focusing on the rigor of those programs and working continually with the teachers to ensure that children are successful in those programs. Our AP scores have been steady and 41% of our tests have grades of three, four, or five. We are working to continue to grow the program and increase the rigor which will make the program more successful. Dr. Agruso shared the status and successes of the IB Diploma Program. The number of students receiving an IB Diploma has significantly increased. The IB scores show high success and 90% of the tests have a score of four or better. This data will help to show the areas of strengths and weaknesses. Ms. Griffin said she would like to see the percentage of passing for a particular subject. Dr. Agruso said she would provide a more in-depth analysis. Ms. Griffin believes overall the programs are very strong. Mr. Dunlap said he was very impressed with the young speakers and believes they could compete with anybody and anywhere across the country. Mr. Dunlap said based upon the data provided, the trend shows a slight increase in the AP Program and a slight decline in the IB Program. He said this is interesting because students receive the same college points for both programs. Dr. Anderson said those numbers are deceiving. The actual number of students taking the IB Diploma Program is dropping but the number of students who are taking IB courses has rapidly increased. CMS offers the IB Concentrated Studies Diploma in addition to the IB Diploma. The IB Concentrated Studies Diploma only requires students to take three IB classes each year instead of taking the full curriculum. It also does not require students to participate in the extended essay, TOK, or Creativity Action and Service (CAS). This allows students to take the path of least resistance. This has opened the door for students taking the courses but has hurt us as a district in increasing the number of students receiving a full IB Diploma. Mr. Dunlap said this is good information because it is not reflected in the data provided. Ms. Leake is concerned about the decrease in the number of minority students participating in the program. She hopes there is a support system in place to encourage these students to participate in the programs because they have the innate ability to do the work but they need the exposure and the support. She asked how are these students



supported by the system? Dr. Anderson said these programs are not inexpensive but the Board supports these programs. The district pays for all ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders to take the PSAT. That data can determine the students who have the ability but may not be taking the more challenging courses. Counselors contact those students during the summer to encourage them to take the more rigorous and challenging courses. CMS tries to find those students, lift those students up, and not let them slip through the cracks. CMS tries to support them and provide them the most challenging course study available. Ms. Leake asked for a breakdown by gender, race, and grade level of the tenth and eleventh grade students in the IB Program from each of the five schools. Dr. Anderson said he would provide this information. Ms. Griffin said the data provided includes data by subject and school and she will not need the information she requested. She would still encourage CMS to focus on the weak areas. Dr. Haithcock said we have been studying the data for several years. At one time, we were concerned about the curriculum for foreign language and a whole new curriculum was developed as a result. This data is used as a diagnostic tool every year and it provides great information. Ms. Garber said each elementary school has the Catalyst Program and the Catalyst teacher works with all students using gifted teaching strategies. The premise of the program is to expose students to those strategies because they work with all students. The program has been very successful. Dr. Haithcock said the PSAT tests are mandatory and CMS has a great monitoring system for them. The scores are reviewed and students who scored at a certain point are tracked to ensure they are placed in the right classes. Principals must provide a report three times a year to verify that those students have not slipped out of the more rigorous classes. Dr. Haithcock said it is important to have a monitoring system around any data that is used and CMS does that. Chairperson White said he attended an event earlier in the day and had the pleasure of hearing three outstanding students from the Communities-In-Schools Program speak. He is very impressed with those students as well as the students who spoke tonight. He said these students are just a small example of how well CMS is educating students.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

**Ms. Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.**

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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Chairperson, Joe. I. White, Jr.

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Clerk to the Board, Nancy Daughtridg