

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
March 13, 2007
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

December 12, 2006

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on December 12, 2006. The meeting began at 4:31 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

Present: Joe I. White, Jr., Chairperson;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Kaye McGarry, Member At-Large;
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: Molly Griffin, Vice-Chairperson, (District 5);
Larry Gauvreau (District 1); and
George Dunlap (District 3)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; Maurice Green, Chief Operating Officer; James G. Middlebrooks, attorney from Helms Mulliss & Wicker, PLLC, representing the Board; and Nancy Daughtride, Clerk to the Board.

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

- **To consult with the Board's attorneys on matters covered by attorney-client privilege. These matters include but are not limited to the pending litigation between the Board of Education and R. L. Casey;**
- **To establish and instruct staff and attorneys concerning the position to be taken by the Board for the material terms of proposed contracts for the acquisition of real property; and**
- **To consider the qualifications of certain individuals for initial employment by the Board.**

The motion was made pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Chairperson White reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:10 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS TV Channel 3 televised the meeting.

Present: Joe White, Chairperson;

Molly Griffin, Vice Chairperson, (District 5);
Kaye McGarry, Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: George Dunlap (District 3)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; Members of Executive and Senior Staffs; James G. Middlebrooks, Attorney from Helms Mulliss & Wicker, PLLC, representing the Board; Carole Hamrick, Manager of Board Services; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson White welcomed everyone to the Board's Regular monthly business meeting. He said we have a full agenda and asked the Board to use the 3-minute, 2-minute, and 1-minute discussion process.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson White introduced Everett Fox, a senior at Myers park High School, to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and to speak to the December character trait of "caring." Chairperson White said Everett has been on the Honor Roll every quarter during his high school career and was inducted into the National Honor Society his junior year. He is listed in Who's Who Among High School Students; received the Scholar Athlete Award; a four-year member of the Myers Park football team; and co-founded the Cleats for Kids Program which is a citywide effort to collect and distribute sports equipment to kids in need. He has worked with young children at the "Refuse to Lose" football camp as well as completed internships at both Carolinas Medical Center and orthopedic offices. He is involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and participated in numerous mission trips with the youth at his church. He is a member of the Varsity Club, the Math Honor Society, GLOBAL Club, and served as Junior Marshall. Everett is a true Mustang and a young man who represents the best of Myers Park High School. Chairperson White introduced Everett's parents, Jeanie and Wylie Fox, and the assistant principal at Myers Park High School, Kate Jenkins. Chairperson White said an interesting fact is he coached Everett's father at Olympic High School during the 70's. Everett talked about the importance of caring about the people around you and working together. In order to create a team, you must care about the people around you, develop an investment in each other, and work together towards a common goal. This helped their team be successful and win football games. The basis of caring is being selfless and committed. Everett invited everyone to stand and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson White asked the Board to approve adding two real estate items from Closed

Session to the Consent Agenda.

Item III. G. Recommend approval to purchase approximately 6.3 acres and 7.5 acres of land located on Salome Church Road.

Ms. Leake moved that the Board approve adding Item III. G. (Recommend approval to purchase approximately 6.3 acres and 7.5 acres of land located on Salome Church Road) to the agenda, seconded by Ms. McGarry, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Item III. H. Recommend approval to accept dedication of joint elementary school/park site in the Palisades as stated in Mecklenburg County rezoning petition #2001-016(c) for an elementary school and request funding for construction of a new elementary school in accordance with the requirements of such rezoning petition.

Ms. Leake moved that the Board approve adding Item III. H. (Recommend approval to accept dedication of joint elementary school/park site in the Palisades as stated in Mecklenburg County rezoning petition #2001-016(c) for an elementary school and request funding for construction of a new elementary school in accordance with the requirements of such rezoning petition.), to the agenda, seconded by Ms. Griffin, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Ms. McGarry moved that the Board adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. Leake, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

C. Election of Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to conduct the election process for the Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Dr. Gorman reviewed Board Bylaw BBB. The Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be elected at the first Regular Board meeting in December and shall assume office immediately upon election. Each shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor shall have been elected. Dr. Gorman said he would accept nominations for the position of Chairperson. After the nominations are closed, and if there is more than one nomination, he will ask the Board to vote for each person in the order that they were nominated. The first person who achieves a majority of those Board members present will be elected as the new Chairperson. The new Chairperson will then conduct the election of the Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Leake asked if she could combine the nomination for both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Middlebrooks, Legal Counsel for the Board, said this would require a separate election process. Board members would first nominate and elect the Chairperson and then nominate and elect the Vice-Chairperson.

Ms. Leake nominated Joe. White.

Mr. Merchant nominated Ken Gjertsen.

Ms. Leake moved that the nominations be closed on the said two names.

Joe White received four votes. Mr. White, Ms. Leake, Mr. Tate, and Ms. Griffin voted in

favor of Mr. White.

Mr. Gjertsen received three votes. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Merchant, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of Mr. Gjertsen.

Mr. Gauvreau abstained and Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Dr. Gorman congratulated Mr. White on his election as Chairperson and called upon him to conduct the election process for Vice-Chairperson.

Chairperson asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

Ms. Leake nominated Molly Griffin.

Mr. Merchant nominated Kaye McGarry.

Ms. Leake moved that the nominations be closed on the said two names.

Ms. Griffin received four votes. Chairperson White, Ms. Leake, Mr. Tate, and Ms. Griffin voted in favor of Ms. Griffin.

Ms. McGarry received four votes. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of Ms. McGarry.

Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Chairperson White said each nominee received four votes. The rule states if no one is elected, the current Vice-Chairperson will continue to serve in that capacity until someone is elected. Mr. Middlebrooks said the Board would have to hold another election for Vice-Chairperson at the first Regular Board meeting in January. Chairperson White said this will be added to the agenda for the January 9, 2007 Regular Board meeting.

II. REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Edward Martel represented Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). He discussed the hardships endured by students of diversity. He encouraged the Board to adopt proactive measures to protect students of diversity from bullying and harassment, train faculty to effectively deal with issues facing students of diversity, and institute a zero tolerance policy to homophobic behavior, bullying, and harassment of anyone.

The following people discussed the positive aspects of the Instructional Excellence Program at Morehead Elementary School and encouraged the Board to continue the program:

- Walter Turner
- Crystal Cavanaugh
- Donna Eastabrook
- Lauren Cook
- Kyle Kapler

The following people expressed concerns regarding staffing, leadership, and quality of education at Harding University High School:

- Charlene Price-Patterson
- Renard Burris

The following people spoke regarding the Superintendent's 100-Day Plan:

- Lucille Howard, representing the League of Women's Voters
- Blanche Penn
- Katherine Davis
- Richard McElrath

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of minutes.
 - November 16, 2006 Closed Session
 - November 14, 2006 Closed Session
 - November 8, 2006 Work Session
 - October 24, 2006 Regular Board Meeting
 - October 10, 2006 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Construction Items.
 1. Recommend approval of construction contract for Marie G. Davis Middle School.
 2. Recommend approval of construction contract for Randolph Middle School.
 3. Recommend approval of design contracts for new middle schools.
 4. Recommend approval of design contracts for new high schools.
 5. Recommend approval of mechanical contract for Merry Oaks Elementary School.
 6. Recommend approval of construction contract for Orr Road Transportation Center.
- C. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.
- D. Recommend approval of licenses/non-licensed hires for November 2006.
- E. Recommend approval of one citizen appointment to the Equity Committee by an At-Large Representative.
- F. Recommend approval of one citizen appointment to the Equity Committee by the District Two Representative.
- G. Recommend approval to purchase approximately 6.3 acres and approximately 7.5 acres of land located on Salome Church Road.
- H. Recommend approval to accept dedication of joint elementary school/park site in the Palisades as stated in Mecklenburg County rezoning petition #2001-016(c) for an elementary school and request funding for construction of a new elementary school in accordance with the requirements of such rezoning petition.

Ms. Griffin moved that the Board approve the adoption of Consent Items A. thru H., seconded by Ms. Leake, and a discussion followed.

Mr. Gauvreau asked that items B.1. and E. be pulled.

Ms. McGarry also asked that item B.1. be pulled.

Ms. Leake moved that the Board approve Consent Items A. thru H. excluding Consent

Items B.1. and E., seconded by Ms. Griffin, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Chairperson White said the Consent Agenda includes appointments to the Equity Committee by Board Members and personnel appointments by the Superintendent. He invited Dr. Gorman and Ms. Leake to review their appointment recommendations.

Dr. Gorman made the following administrative recommendation:

Transfer:

- Mary Louise Jones named principal at Hopewell High School. Ms. Jones previously served as principal at Davidson IB Middle School. The transfer will be effective January 2, 2007.

Ms. Leake recommended the appointment of Janelle Gregory to the Equity Committee by the District 2 Representative (Item III. F.).

Chairperson White called upon Mr. Gauvreau to discuss the items he pulled. Mr. Gauvreau said he pulled B.1. so that the Board could vote upon it separately. He said he would not support the construction of Marie G. Davis Middle School because he has previously voted against matters regarding this project. He said this item is misprioritized. Ms. McGarry said the 2000 and 2002 Bonds provide monies for this project. This project was seriously reviewed in Spring 2004. After the Board approved the Choice Plan and the needs of Mecklenburg County changed, the Bond Oversight Committee recommended that this project not go forward because it did not fulfill the needed priorities. She supports the decision of the Bond Oversight Committee. One year ago, Marie G. Davis Middle School only had a population of approximately three hundred students and they have since been assigned to surrounding schools. She believes there is a better use of tax dollars rather than trying to rebuild a school. She said regarding the Capital needs for the next ten years, she was told that this project would not be included in the list of the top forty projects. She believes the funding for this project should be prioritized and applied to a more critical needs project. Ms. Leake said this project was promised in the 2000 Bonds. There are more than three hundred students that would attend that school and the Board should not neglect this community. The majority of the Board has previously voted to approve this project and the Board must keep its promise to the children in this community. Chairperson White noted that the Board previously approved building Marie G. Davis Middle School and this item is the approval of the construction contract.

Ms. Leake moved that the Board adopt Consent Item B.1. (Recommend approval of construction contract for Marie G. Davis Middle School), seconded by Mr. Tate, and the Board voted 5-3 to approve the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, and Mr. Tate voted to approve the motion. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Mr. Gauvreau said regarding Item III. E. (Recommend approval of one citizen appointment to the Equity Committee by an At-Large Representative), he would not support Mr. Merchant's appointment. Chairperson White invited Mr. Merchant to announce his appointment to the Equity

Committee. Mr. Merchant said his appointment is Kelly Doherty. Ms. Doherty is a Senior Vice-President with Bank of America, previously served as president of the Charlotte Business Skilled, and a CMS parent. She would be an excellent addition to the Equity Committee.

Mr. Merchant moved that the Board adopt Consent Item III.E. (Recommend approval to appointment Kelly Doherty to the Equity Committee by a Member At-Large), seconded by Mr. Tate, and the Board voted 7-1 to approve the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Ms. McGarry, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommend approval of proposed 2007 Legislative Agenda

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the recommendation. Dr. Gorman called upon Maurice Green, Chief Operating Officer, to review the proposed 2007 Legislative Agenda. Mr. Green said the Board previously reviewed a proposed 2007 Legislative Agenda at the November 14, 2006 Regular Board meeting and held a Work Session on December 1, 2006 to discuss items for the Legislative Agenda. At the Work Session, the Board tentatively approved seven items for the Legislative Agenda. The Board also agreed that they would determine if the Legislative Agenda should include a preamble and expanding the list. Included with the materials for the Board's consideration are the tentatively approved agenda items, two preamble options, and additional agenda items. Chairperson White noted that the Board provided explicit instructions for what to include in the preamble as well as information for expanding the list of agendas items. He suggested the Board discuss the preamble, the tentative Legislative Agenda Items, and expanding the list of items separately. A discussion with Board members followed. Ms. McGarry said Option 1 is too wordy and muddies the water. She suggested the preamble include the first paragraph of Option 1, because it provides clarity to the Board's new vision and mentions the 100-Day Plan, and the entire paragraph of Option 2.

Ms. McGarry moved that the Board approve that the preamble for the 2007 Legislative Agenda include the first paragraph of Option 1 and the entire paragraph of Option 2, seconded by Ms. Griffin, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Tentative 2007 Legislative Agenda Items:

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 and/or critical need area salary schedules on a pilot basis.
2. Allow Districts to consider performance in the award of annual salary increases for employees who are not paid on the teacher or principal salary schedules.
3. Revise current rules and implement innovative programs for retiree teachers that support their return to work and which will reduce classroom teacher shortages.
4. Restore the state 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.
6. Grant taxing authority to local school districts.
7. Provide local school districts with more calendar flexibility (e.g., revisit the requirements for the school calendar with the intent to provide time for the implementation of district professional development plans).

Additional 2007 Legislative Agenda Items for consideration:

8. Increase funding of the Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Fund Program which addresses the needs of at-risk children (including low-performing students, exceptional children, English as Second Language students, and low-income students) statewide.
9. Enhance student health by providing funding for more school nurses.
10. Develop alternative funding sources for school construction and provide more flexibility for local school districts to address facility needs.

Ms. McGarry said seven items is too long. She suggested the Board only include the first five items as they are most important. Ms. Griffin believes a shorter Agenda would be better but she would support the seven items, although personally she is opposed to Item Six, because the majority of the Board agreed to them at the Work Session. Ms. Leake appreciates the efforts that have taken place to provide salary increases for teachers. She encouraged the Board to continue the process for increasing salaries for teachers as well as all employees of the district. Ms. Leake supports all seven items and encouraged all Board members to support granting taxing authority to the local school districts.

Ms. Leake moved that the Board adopt Items one through seven as the 2007 Legislative Agenda, seconded by Mr. Merchant, and the Board voted 7-1 to approve the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Gauvreau, Ms. Leake, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the motion. Ms. McGarry voted against the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

The Board discussed expanding the list of Agenda Items.

Mr. Gauvreau moved that the additional items not be included in the 2007 Legislative Agenda, seconded by Mr. Merchant, and a discussion followed. Mr. Gauvreau said he has never supported the Board's Legislative Agendas. The additional Agenda Items are not dramatically substantive. He encouraged the Board to focus on items that would provide more control from the state. Ms. Leake encouraged the Board to support Item Eight because it asks the state to provide adequate funding for the weakest students in the community.

Ms. Leake made a substitute motion that the Board include the additional Items Eight, Nine, and Ten in the 2007 Legislative Agenda, seconded by Mr. Gjertsen, and a discussion followed. Mr. Tate said he would support the substitute motion. He said while there is good reason to limit the number of Agenda Items, it is also important that the Legislators know the

Board is concerned about these items. Ms. Griffin said she supports the three additional items so she would also approve the substitute motion. She does not believe there would be a significant difference in presenting seven items or ten items to the Legislators. Ms. McGarry said adding the additional items places the Board back to the point it was two years ago with having layers and layers of position statements. Last year, the Board decided to eliminate the position statements so that the list could be simplified. She encouraged the Board to be clear, concise, and include only the most important items as a priority.

The Board voted 5-3 to approve the substitute motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Leake, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the substitute motion. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Merchant, and Mr. Gauvreau voted against the substitute motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Mr. Green reminded the Board members that the Legislative Breakfast was scheduled January 8, 2007 at the Tom Sykes Recreation Center on the campus of Dilworth Elementary School at 7:30 a.m.

B. Recommend approval of a request for the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners to sell \$51.5 million in Certificates of Participation.

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the recommendation. Dr. Gorman said CMS has capital needs on the draft Ten-Year Capital Project Plan in excess of \$2.3 billion. This item is a request for \$51.5 million in Certificates of Participation (COPs). The defeat of the November 2005 Bond has had a devastating impact on the Ten-Year Capital Project Plan. Any decision made tonight cannot be made without thinking about the long-term capital needs and the work that is underway to reduce the cost of constructing schools, public-private partnerships, and reviewing project priorities. The Board must also consider the public support for capital projects in funding future projects. Dr. Gorman said taking these factors in consideration he is recommending modifying the request to \$16.5 million in COPs. This request would fund construction of the new Elon Park Elementary School only. This new school has been high on the priority list for several years and is the highest priority on the new draft list for Ten-Year Capital Project Plan for new schools. The Elon Park Elementary School facility was an integral part of the Board's November 14, 2006 decision on attendance boundaries. Elon Park Elementary School, in concert with Flat Branch and Lancaster Highway elementary schools, will ultimately provide the needed overcrowding relief to Hawk Ridge Elementary School which currently has thirty-nine mobiles. The preliminary site designs have been prepared utilizing the 80,000 square foot proto-type elementary school design which is similar to Flat Branch Elementary School. Grading for the site has been proceeding under an agreement with the County Solid Waste Department and is expected to be completed by the end of January 2007. If the funding for Elon Park Elementary School is requested and made available now, this school could open in the Fall 2008.

Ms. Griffin moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's request for \$16.5 million in Certificates of Participation for construction of the new Elon Park Elementary School, seconded by Mr. Tate, and a discussion followed.

Mr. Gauvreau made a substitute motion that the Board approve a request to the Board

of County Commissioners in the amount of \$51.5 million in Certificates of Participation for building three new elementary schools, seconded by Ms. McGarry, and a discussion followed. Mr. Gauvreau said the agenda item is for \$51.5 million and the first motion is not for that amount. He said this is an opportunity for the Board to act to relieve the overcrowding conditions in the district. He believes it is important to build schools. The Superintendent and staff must focus on building more than one school. He encouraged the Board to take action on building schools. Mr. Gauvreau expressed concern that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) already has an action item on the agenda for their next meeting for a COPs request in the amount of \$51.5 million. Dr. Gorman said the BOCC has a Public Hearing on their December 19, 2006 agenda for \$51.5 million in COPs. Ms. Leake said this Board will make the decision of how much funding to request from the County. Ms. McGarry said initially this item was a request for \$51.5 million and she discussed that request with staff. The revised Ten-Year Capital Project Plan is a guideline but, in October, Dr. Gorman stated CMS urgently needed three new elementary schools which included Elon Park Elementary School and the Mountain Island area. Dr. Gorman said he mentioned CMS had many schools that were overcrowded and there were three areas in particular that had severe overcrowding which included the far north area, the Mountain Island area, and far south area of District 6. Ms. McGarry said this funding could be earmarked for several new elementary schools and the decision for which are the high priority schools should be left to staff. She encouraged the Board to request funding for three new elementary schools instead of one. This request could open three new schools in 2008. This would show fiscal responsibility to the public because a request for COPs sights a specific project and the funding must be used within a certain time period. She will support the \$51.5 million COPs request and believes staff should decide which other two elementary schools to include in the funding request. Mr. Gauvreau referred to elementary, middle, and high school enrollment maps and said the maps display a large amount of under-capacity in the north and northwest suburbs as well as a small amount in the south which is the location for the new Elon Park Elementary School. Mr. Gauvreau expressed concern that Dr. Gorman is only requesting funding for one school because that inaction will cause greater peril for the district. He encouraged the Board to overrule the Superintendent's recommendation and to take action to build more than one school. Mr. Gauvreau believes the \$123 million in COPs approved by the BOCC recently was horribly negotiated because it was not enough and not soon enough. Those funds only provide pre-construction for the northern areas and do not build schools. Mr. Gauvreau said if the Board did not want to approve funding for the elementary schools then approve accelerating the funding request for the next two middle schools which are Ridge Road and Belmeade. He encouraged the Board to not wait another year in hoping a Bond referendum would pass as this would make the matter worse. Mr. Merchant said it is important to build schools now and faster but the process is also important. He believes the Superintendent and the County Manager did a good job negotiating the \$123 million in COPs. Mr. Gjertsen said he supports the COPs request for Elon Park Elementary School because it was the number two priority in Spring 2006 and it was not included in the previous COPs request to the BOCC. He said he views this as a technical correction to the previous COPs request and not a request for additional dollars. Ms. McGarry said the Board and BOCC must work together. She believes there is support for the \$51.5 million request by some of the BOCC. She said the original agenda item was a request for COPs in the amount of \$51.5 million. She encouraged the Board to approve the request for funding three new elementary schools to open in 2008. Mr.

Merchant said he has spoken with some of the BOCC and there is not support for the \$51.5 million. He will support the request for Elon Park Elementary School only. Mr. Gauvreau encouraged the Board and the Superintendent to push the request for the three new schools because the public wants them and they are needed now. Ms. Griffin said she will support the request for Elon Park Elementary School only. She would like to make it clear that she is not voting against building the other schools. She voted to build those schools when she voted to support the 2005 Bond package and she will support those schools again when she votes to support the 2007 Bond package. She said it is important to support the careful compromise that was crafted with the recent COPs request and for the Board to move forward on that basis. Ms. Griffin said it is also important for the Board to focus its attention on getting the community as a whole to support the 2007 Bond package.

The Board voted 2-6 on the substitute motion to request \$51.5 million in COPs and the motion failed. Ms. McGarry and Mr. Gauvreau voted in favor of the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

The Board voted 7-0-1 on the motion to request \$16.5 million in COPs. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Gauvreau, Ms. Leake, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in favor of the motion. Ms. McGarry abstained. Mr. Dunlap was absent.

Mr. Gauvreau left the Regular Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

V. REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Budget Amendments for October 2006

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report. Dr. Gorman said this item is as presented and invited Sheila Shirley, Chief Finance Officer, to answer questions by Board members. Ms. Leake requested a report regarding the consultant companies used by the High School Challenged schools. She expressed concern that CMS has spent over \$500 thousand with one company. She would like to know the county and state where this company is located as well as race and gender information. Chairperson White said this request is not related to this agenda item. Ms. Leake said she would like this item addressed because she would like to ensure there is equity in the process. Dr. Gorman said the Board recently received a report on the High School Challenge Program and the firm was discussed at that time. The Board also received a report on Minority, Women, Small Business Enterprise (MWSBE) and a breakdown of consultant fees was included in that report. He will provide Ms. Leake that information again. Ms. Leake believes the public should know how the High School Challenge funding is being spent and the contractors involved. Chairperson White said this item is not on the agenda.

B. Report on Financial Statements for October 2006

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report. Dr. Gorman said agenda items V.B. and V.C. are routine reports and they are as presented. Ms. Leake asked if either report included the athletic programs of each school and if the funds made by each school are utilized to impact the educational strength of the school? Ms. Leake believes those funds

could be used as additional resources for each school. Dr. Gorman invited Sheila Shirley, Chief Finance Officer, to respond to that question. Ms. Shirley said the financial statements do not include those funds because they are included in the School Activity Fund of a particular school. This is a report of the general obligation and enterprise funds. Ms. Leake said the funds raised at school events such as football games should be recycled back into the school and could be used as a supplement to the coaches because of their long hours and scholarships for students involved in athletics. She said the public has a right to know how these funds are used in each school. Chairperson White said this item is not a part of the agenda but invited Ms. Shirley to respond. Ms. Shirley said the athletic receipts are maintained at each particular school. Chairperson White said those funds are used to operate the athletic program of that school. The only item in the Board's budget for an athletic program is the salary for the coaches.

C. Report on Capital Project Ordinances for October 2006

Presented with item V.B.

VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gorman discussed the Strategic Plan 2010; the hard work ahead; coping with change; and improving academic results. He urged the Board, teachers, staff, and parents to keep in mind that the changes are being implemented in an effort to make schools better and for the good of students. He announced that Billingsville Elementary School will pilot an extended school day in 2007-2008. This pilot is part of the high academic achievement initiative and will add an extra hour to the end of the school day. This school currently has an enrollment of 389 students and they attend school from 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Kaye McGarry thanked parents and teachers for helping to make a difference in the lives of children. She wished everyone a blessed Christmas season, a happy Hanukah season, and a happy new year.

Ken Gjertsen thanked the Board for their support on the new Elon Park Elementary School and effort in providing stability to those families. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Tom Tate enjoyed reading to students at Plaza Road Pre-K and participating with the Kiwanis Club of Charlotte providing dictionaries to the students at Rama Road Elementary School.

Vilma Leake enjoyed reading to the Pre-K students at Highland Renaissance Academy. She thanked the parents at Harding University High School for their support to ensure children receive a quality education. She also thanked the students at Independence High School and West Charlotte High School for their participation in the state playoff games. She wished everyone a happy holiday.

Trent Merchant addressed the importance of reading and asked everyone to join him in his reading initiative. He invited people to contact him at his e-mail address.

Molly Griffin wished everyone a happy holiday and Ms. Leake a happy birthday.

Chairperson White thanked Board members for their support in re-electing him as Chairperson. He wished Ms. Leake a happy birthday. He said he would be attending and supporting the Deacons at the Orange Bowl on January 2nd.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Chairperson, Joe. I. White, Jr.

Clerk to the Board, Nancy Daughtridge