

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



Charlotte, North Carolina

January 9, 2007

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on January 9, 2007. The meeting began at 4:30 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

Present: Joe I. White, Jr., Chairperson;  
Molly Griffin, Vice-Chairperson, (District 5);  
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);  
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);  
Tom Tate (District 4); and  
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;  
Kaye McGarry, Member At-Large; 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 Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

**Upon motion by Mr. Tate, seconded by Ms. Griffin, 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 The San-Gra Corporation; Granger Construction Company, Inc.; and Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern; 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;

Larry Gauvreau (District 1);  
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);  
George Dunlap (District 3);  
Tom Tate (District 4); and  
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: Trent Merchant, Member At-Large

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.

### A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson White called upon Mr. Tate to introduce the student to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and speak to the January character traits of "justice and fairness." Mr. Tate introduced Christine Sanders who is a senior at the Performance Learning Center (PLC). Christine previously attended East Mecklenburg High School where she excelled as an IB student and has since remained on the honor roll. Interesting facts about Christine include she has been a member of numerous academic and extracurricular clubs and participated in several community service projects. Christine single-handedly organized a clothing drive for the displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina; elected to the Student Government at East Mecklenburg and served as vice president; and served as the basketball team statistician. Christine made the difficult decision to change schools one month into her senior year to have the opportunity to graduate early which is different from most of the other students at PLC. She believes that her drive has helped motivate other students. Christine plans to attend college and is considering the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Wake Forest University, East Carolina University, and George Washington University in Washington, DC. She would like to study sports medicine and attend medical school. Mr. Tate introduced Christine's mother, Donna Sanders; her sister, Faith; her nephew, Justin; and her principal, Sherry Sigmon. Christine said being just and fair does not mean ignoring a person's race, gender, religion, or disability but accepting the fact that everyone is different and interacting with people in an equal and unbiased manner. She discussed how the students at the PLC joined together as a team and practice "justice and fairness." Christine invited everyone to stand and join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### B. Adoption of Agenda

**Mr. Dunlap moved that the Board approve the adoption of the agenda, seconded by Ms. McGarry, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Merchant was absent.**

### C. Election of Board Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson White invited Board members to make nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

**Ms. Leake nominated Molly Griffin.  
Mr. Gauvreau nominated Kaye McGarry.**

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

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

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

Chairperson White congratulated Ms. Griffin on her re-election as Vice-Chairperson to the Board of Education.

D. Community Report

▪ Report from Bond Oversight Committee

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman introduced Eric Davis, Chairman of the Bond Oversight Committee, to present the report. Dr. Gorman thanked the committee members for their service to the Board and the community. Mr. Davis said this report would be the first of a series of quarterly reports to the Board. He provided Board members with a brief history, purpose, and duties of the Oversight Committee, the current state of facilities, and a proposed plan. The Board established the committee as a result of an unsuccessful Bond referendum in 1994. The committee was charged with ensuring that Bond funds were spent on the projects as stated in the referendum. Their duties include monitoring the CMS facilities staff management of Bond funds; making recommendations to the Board on process, priorities, and projects for Bonds; and facilitating the exchange of information to the public to ensure that they are informed about the status of the Bond Program. The committee has been in position for approximately ten years and has fulfilled its duties in a variety of ways and delivered a value. The majority of the committee has concluded that CMS runs a professionally managed, fiscally sound program that delivers a solid product to the community. The committee also believes there is opportunity to continue to challenge CMS to improve its program. One of the most critical facility issues today is the degree of trust and confidence that the public has in CMS to manage an increasing volume of facility needs. The public has questions regarding the cost of schools; building schools cheaper; effectiveness of CMS in managing Bond funds; better utilization of existing seats; pressing needs of renovations versus new construction; the best method of managing the current program; planning for growth effectively; acquiring land in the right locations; and most effective use of land dollars. The committee believes it is important to deliver a successful Bond referendum in 2007 and they play a critical role in meeting that challenge. The Oversight Committee is confident that they can bring clarity to the issues and build commitment to public schools through a simple yet powerful approach. They seek the truth behind these issues and questions. The committee will research the issues; determine the facts; analyze those facts; and render their opinion to the Board as an independent auditor. This approach will create constructive dialogue, real improvement, and ultimately a better construction program. The committee will report to the Board every quarter this year, and at least every six months thereafter. The reports will be simple and easy to understand, will inform both the Board and the public, and equip them to evaluate the upcoming Bond

referendum and the current state of the program. They envision a simple scorecard report which would track the progress they are making in managing the program and implementing any improvements that are directed by the Board. Their aim is to build the public's trust in CMS, strengthen the Board's credibility in managing facility needs, and communicate with the Board to ensure they include the issues the Board believes are critical to building the public's trust. A discussion with Board members followed.

- Mr. Dunlap said discussions regarding 80/20 or 70/30 splits inflame the community because they will either agree or disagree with those statements. It would be better to not discuss numerical splits. The decisions to renovate or build new schools should be based on educational standards. Mr. Dunlap said the committee is charged with educational design and whether to renovate or build new. He asked are educational standards used as a measure in making the decision to renovate or build new? Mr. Dunlap said it is important that older facilities be updated to meet the current educational standards because it will help educate children. Mr. Davis said the committee's role is to not duplicate the role of the facilities staff. Their role is to monitor the programs being executed and determine if they are in compliance with the policies and direction of the Board.
- Ms. Leake talked about the importance of trust and thanked the committee for communicating their findings that the school system is trustworthy to the public.
- Mr. Gauvreau asked for clarification on the comment that the committee found the school system is professionally managed and fiscally responsible. Mr. Davis said this was the opinion of the majority of the committee and it was based on the work completed thus far. The committee also sees the need to press forward to deal with issues, identify areas of continued improvement, and push for change and reform. Mr. Gauvreau asked if the committee had a minority report? Mr. Davis replied, no.
- Ms. McGarry said it is important to bring trust and credibility back to the community. She believes the Bond Oversight Committee can serve an important aspect in making that connection. She encouraged the committee to find ways to improve the capital spending plan and commit to use school construction alternative methods such as reduction in costs; joint-use partnerships; modular schools; and charter schools. Mr. Davis said all these methods have been explored except for charter schools. The committee will continue to review opportunities to reduce the programming requirements at each school; maximize the capacity at existing schools; different forms of construction; and different delivery methods such as public-private partnerships. Ms. McGarry encouraged the committee to focus on prioritization as a key component.
- Mr. Dunlap asked would the committee make a recommendation to change if CMS proposed a method that the committee thought was inefficient or not the best use of our dollars? Mr. Davis said the committee would initially challenge the facility staff and get additional information on their logic for their recommendations. If the committee believed there were other opportunities that should be considered, the committee would make those recommendations to the Board. Mr. Dunlap is there a state requirement regarding efficiency in building design? Mr. Davis said there is not a state requirement for efficiency but it is the committee's responsibility to ensure that the program is maximizing the dollars that are committed to it which results in efficiency. Mr. Dunlap asked does the committee also need to ensure that the programs and projects meet a certain base-line educational standard? Mr. Davis said regarding educational standards,

the committee is dependent on the required programming and how much square footage is required per classroom. Once that is provided, than the design is based upon that programming. At that point, the committee would review whether the design and construction are meeting those programming requirements and meeting them in the most efficient and cost effective way.

- Mr. Gauvreau said the Bond Oversight Committee is a valuable committee. He expressed concern that there was not a dissenting opinion. He encouraged the committee to have a minority report in the future and to challenge what CMS is doing.
- Ms. Leake does not believe it is necessary to have a minority report.
- Ms. McGarry encouraged the committee to read a report regarding the building program in Wake County. She will provide them a copy.

## **II. REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Leslie Davis is the president of the West Charlotte High School PTSA, a member of the School Leadership Team, and her daughter attends West Charlotte High School. She appreciates the current efforts to enhance the level of learning at West Charlotte High School. She said West Charlotte currently has some exceptional teachers and those who are not currently performing at a high level are making every effort to do so. She expressed concern about students who have been promoted to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade without meeting the requirements of the 8<sup>th</sup> Gateway as well as students who have been allowed to transfer out of West Charlotte. She encouraged the Board to implement measures that follow the Board's Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs and Commitments in all schools.

The following people represented bus drivers and bus monitors:

- Brenda Brooks
- Charlene McDermott
- Cindy Craton
- Kathleen Daniels
- Samuel Love
- Alicia Moore
- Selena Bell
- Josephine Medlin
- Minnie Thompson

They discussed issues regarding wages; benefits; seniority; bus safety; respect; lack of training; incident reports; discrimination among bus transportation areas; unfair bonus requirements; expenses incurred for cleaning and deicers for buses; and difficulties of meeting family obligations due to the early and late hours.

## **III. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Recommend approval of minutes.
  - December 1, 2006 Work Session
- B. Construction Items.
  1. Recommend approval of easement agreement on CMBOE property regarding City of Charlotte Albemarle Road Water Main Project.
  2. Recommend approval of construction contract for Northeast Middle School.

3. Recommend approval of construction contract for Quail Hollow Middle School.
  4. Recommend approval to modify existing Town of Huntersville School Property Deeds by adding the restrictive covenant for maintenance of water quality control structures.
  5. Recommend approval of an easement agreement and a temporary construction easement agreement on CMBOE property regarding City of Charlotte Potts Street (Davidson Elementary School) Parallel Outfall Sewer Project.
  6. Recommend approval to purchase a modular unit for Randolph Middle School and Garinger High School.
- C. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel  
D. Recommend approval of names for three small high schools on the Garinger Campus

**Mr. Dunlap moved that the Board approve Consent Items A. thru D., seconded by Mr. Gjertsen, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Merchant was absent.**

Dr. Gorman announced the following administrative appointments:

Appointments:

- Joel Ritchie named Area Superintendent. Mr. Ritchie previously served as principal at Butler High School since 1997.
- Maurice Ambler named Chief Human Resources Officer. Mr. Ambler has a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Bishop College, Dallas, TX. Mr. Ambler previously served as Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Global Labor and Employment Strategies in Texas.

Transfer:

- Steven Drye named the principal at New Elon Park Elementary School, located at Flat Branch, which is still in the construction phase. Mr. Drye is currently the principal at Steele Creek Elementary.

The Board approved the following names for Garinger's three small high schools opening in August:

- Leadership and Public Service High School at Garinger
- Business and Finance High School at Garinger
- Math and Science High School at Garinger

#### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

There were no Action Items on the agenda.

#### **V. REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **A. Report on Budget Amendments for November 2006**

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report. Dr. Gorman said V.A. and V.B. are standard reports that are presented each month. Ms. Leake said regarding donations to the National Board Office for supplies and workshop expenses, who are the workshop presenters? Dr. Gorman said he would arrange for a time for Ms. Leake to meet with staff to

have her questions answered. Ms. Leake expressed concern about salaries for substitute teachers. Chairperson White said pay of substitutes is not a part of this report and is an issue for this Board to address in another format. Ms. Leake asked how much do substitute teachers make per hour and per day? Dennis Covington, Executive Director Budget and Evaluation, said he would provide this information at a later time. Ms. Leake said regarding the High School Challenge Funds for supplies, she would like to have a full report on the High School Challenge funds and who actually makes the decisions for what companies are used. She said it is important to know how the funds are being spent and how companies are secured to deliver services to the students.

B. Report on Financial Statements for November 2006

Presented with item V.A.

C. Item Deleted

Ms. Griffin left the Regular Board meeting at 7:10 p.m. and Mr. Dunlap left at 7:20 p.m.

**VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Gorman announced that Muffet Garber, Associate Superintendent for Education Services, would be retiring at the end of the week. He thanked Ms. Garber for her many years of service and wished her well in her retirement. He said the items he would address at the January 10, 2007 Media Briefing would include teacher recruitment, retention, and accountability; teacher vacancies by school and subject; the High School Challenge Grant Program; and recruitment efforts. He will provide Board members a written report on this information.

**VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Vilma Leake thanked Ms. Garber for her service to CMS and wished her good health in her retirement. She recognized Chris Leak, a former student at Independence High School, for helping the University of Florida win the college football championship game. She thanked Curtis Carroll for attending a parent meeting at West Charlotte High School. She said the parents are excited about what he will be doing to help the High School Challenge schools. Ms. Leake presented Chairperson White a small statue that states, "World's Greatest Coach."

Tom Tate thanked Ms. Garber for her diligent service to CMS and the Bond Oversight Committee for its work.

Kaye McGarry thanked Ms. Garber for her service and wished her well in her next chapter of life. She thanked the Bond Oversight Committee for their important work and she looks forward to their next report. She wished everyone a blessed 2007.

Chairperson White wished Ms. Garber an enjoyable retirement. He also recognized Chris Leak for his football success, and for representing himself, family and CMS well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**By consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.**

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Chairperson, Joe. I. White, Jr.

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Clerk to the Board, Nancy Daughtridge