

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
June 26, 2007
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

May 22, 2007

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on May 22, 2007. The meeting began at 5:21 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);
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

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

Upon motion by Mr. Merchant, seconded by Mr. Tate, 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 including but not limited to the litigation involving (a) Jerry Alan Reese; (b) Chris and Wendy Hawkins; and (c) Randy Thomas;**
- **To consider the performance of specific employees as well as the potential terms for hiring new employees; and**
- **To instruct the Board's attorneys and negotiating agents concerning the Board's position in negotiating the price and other material terms of proposed contracts for the acquisition of real estate.**

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 6:12 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;
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);
George Dunlap (District 3);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: Larry Gauvreau (District 1)

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 called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Chairperson White welcomed everyone to the Board's second meeting of the month. He noted this meeting was normally held in a Work Session format but there was a scheduling conflict with Room 267 so the Board was meeting in the Meeting Chamber. He apologized for starting the meeting late and noted that the Board had been conducting business in a Closed Session meeting and the Board would have to return to that Closed Session meeting following the close of business for this meeting. The Board would adjourn the Regular Board meeting at the end of the Closed Session meeting and would not return to the dais as there would be nothing further to discuss in Open Session.

A. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Tate moved that the Board approve the adoption of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Merchant, and a discussion followed.

Chairperson White said there were four items including three items from Closed Session that needed to be added to the meeting agenda. Chairperson White asked that the following items be added to the agenda:

Add Item II.D. (Recommend approval of the adoption of a resolution authorizing the Director of Storage and Distribution to dispose of surplus school property at a public auction on June 27, 2007 at the Bond Street Warehouse).

Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Ms. Griffin, that the Board approve adding Item II.D. (Recommend approval of the adoption of a resolution authorizing the Director of Storage and Distribution to dispose of surplus school property at a public action on June 27, 2007, at the Bond Street Warehouse) to the agenda, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

Add Item II.E. (Recommend approval to purchase approximately 9.93 acres as a land bank site

for an elementary school in Davidson, NC, tax parcel number 007-191-04, at a purchase price of \$1,218,000 conditioned upon subsequent approval by the County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County of a Capital Project Ordinance authorizing funding for the purchase of the property after approval of a Bond package in November 2007 or other means of financing approved by the Board of Education and the County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County).

Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Ms. Griffin, that the Board approve adding Item II.E. (Recommend approval to purchase approximately 9.93 acres to be used as a land bank site for a new elementary school in Davidson, NC, tax parcel number 007-191-04, at a purchase price of \$1,218,000 conditioned upon subsequent approval by the County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County of a Capital Project Ordinance authorizing funding for the purchase of the property after approval of a Bond package in November 2007 or other means of financing approved by the Board of Education and the County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County) to the agenda, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

Add Item II.F. (Recommend approval to purchase approximately .54 acres and house, tax parcel number 005-142-10, at a purchase price of \$300,000).

Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Ms. McGarry, that the Board approve adding Item II.F. (Recommend approval to purchase approximately .54 acres and house, tax parcel number 005-142-10 at a purchase price of \$300,000) to the agenda, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

Add Action Item III.A. (Recommend approval to cancel the June 12, 2007 Regular Board Meeting). Chairperson White said this date is in conflict with a high school graduation and several Board members and staff would like to attend that event.

Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board approve adding Action Item III.A. (Recommend approval to cancel the June 12, 2007 Regular Board meeting) to the agenda, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

Ms. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, that the Board approve the adoption of the agenda as amended, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.
- B. Recommend approval of licensed employees for career status, non-career status, and non-renewal of contracts.
- C. Construction Items
 - 1. Recommend approval of construction contract for the new Hucks Road Elementary School
 - 2. Recommend approval of construction contract for the new Providence Road West/Lancaster Highway Elementary School
 - 3. Recommend approval of construction contract for Sedgefield Middle School

4. Recommend approval of procurement and relocation of mobile and modular units for various schools
- D. Recommend approval of the adoption of a resolution authorizing the Director of Storage and Distribution to dispose of surplus school property at a public auction on June 27, 2007 at the Bond Street Warehouse.
- E. Recommend approval to purchase approximately 9.93 acres, tax parcel number 007-191-04, at a purchase price of \$1,218,000 conditioned upon subsequent approval by the County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County of a Capital Project Ordinance authorizing funding for the purchase of the property after approval of a Bond package in November 2007 or other means of financing approved by the Board of Education and the County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County.
- F. Recommend approval to purchase approximately .54 acres and house, tax parcel number 005-142-10, at a purchase price of \$300,000.

Mr. Merchant and Ms. Leake pulled Item C.4.

Mr. Tate moved, seconded by Ms. Griffin, that the Board approve Consent Items A. thru F. excluding C.4., and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

Mr. Merchant said the fiscal implications to relocate mobiles would cost \$5.3 million dollars. He asked how many mobiles does this include? Guy Chamberlain, Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, said this agenda item is to increase the amount of relocation services (deck, plumbing, etc) that are necessary to move and place mobiles. The total value for mobile relocations this year will be approximately \$12.9 million. This includes 129 new mobile classrooms, 12 new mobile restrooms, one 10-classroom modular building, one 3-classroom modular building, 122 classroom relocations, and 24 restroom unit relocations. Mr. Merchant asked the approximate cost of a new mobile unit and the cost to relocate a unit. Mr. Chamberlain said the approximate cost of a new unit is \$47,000 and that varies depending on its location and the necessary hook ups. The cost to relocate a unit is \$25,000. Mr. Merchant asked if these expenses were in line with previous years' expenses? Mr. Chamberlain said it is almost identical to the last two years and is approximately the same based on the forecast for next year. Mr. Merchant asked if this item was funded by County funds? Mr. Chamberlain said these are operational funds. There was an excess of \$9 million in the 2006-2007 budget and the remaining portion will be funded by end-of-year money. This item is funded by local funds. Mr. Merchant expressed concern that CMS spends \$13 million per year to relocate mobile units to provide temporary classrooms and a new 39-classroom elementary school would cost \$10 to \$12 million. He understands this is a necessary task that must be completed to solve space issues but he would prefer spending funds to build new schools. Mr. Dunlap said relocating mobile units versus building new is not a proper analogy. This agenda item provides for 129 new mobiles which would provide 129 classrooms and relocating 122 mobiles for an additional 122 classrooms. This would provide in excess of 250 new classrooms for \$13 million versus 39 classrooms for \$12 million. Mr. Dunlap said this is a great deal of money and encouraged the public to realize the need for building permanent facilities. Ms. Leake said this includes a number of vendors. She asked how many vendors are included in the category of Minority, Women, Small Business Enterprise (MWSBE) Program? Mr. Chamberlain said he would provide that information at a later time. He said the

third quarter MWSBE goals in construction were in excess of 20%. Ms. Leake said she would like the public to know that CMS is making every effort possible to comply with its commitments to the MWSBE Program.

Mr. Merchant moved that the Board approve Consent Item C.4., seconded by Ms. Griffin, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

Dr. Gorman presented the following administrative appointments:

Appointment:

- Sharon Harmon named Director of Communications. Ms. Harmon has a Master of Arts in Mass Communications, Towson University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications, Towson University. Ms. Harmon is currently vice president of marketing for the Charlotte Regional Partnership.

Transfers:

- Raymond J. Giovanelli named principal of J.V. Washam Elementary School. Mr. Giovanelli previously served as principal of Elizabeth Traditional Elementary.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommend approval to cancel June 12, 2007 Regular Board meeting

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the recommendation. Dr. Gorman said for the Board's consideration for the cancellation of the June 12, 2007 Regular Board Meeting, there is a high school graduation scheduled at that same time and a number of Board members and staff members would like to attend that event. In an effort to accommodate this request, a time sensitive item (Consent Item D.) was added to tonight's agenda and this could result in adding Consent and Action Items to the June 26, 2007 Regular Board meeting. The agenda for the June 26, 2007 Regular Board meeting, at this time, includes discussion on the Ten-Year Facilities Plan and report on the joint-use of stadiums and fine arts facilities. Staff is progressing rapidly with the area superintendent executive director process and we have now created a vacancy at Elizabeth Traditional Elementary School. Dr. Gorman asked that the Board members be flexible because there may be a need for the Board to meet to discuss personnel or other matters prior to the June 26th meeting. An option for that could be for the Board to conduct a brief meeting (about fifteen minutes) to discuss any time sensitive matters. Staff would contact the Board in advance to schedule a meeting, if necessary.

Mr. Dunlap moved, seconded by Ms. Leake, that the Board approve canceling the June 12, 2007 Regular Board meeting because of a scheduling conflict with a high school graduation, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

IV. REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Management Oversight of Constituent Services

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report on Management Oversight

of Constituent Services. Dr. Gorman introduced Carole Hamrick, Manager of Board Services, to present the report and discuss the progress made in this area. Ms. Hamrick said the report on Constituent Services will be the third report for the Board regarding Management Oversight. The purpose of Constituent Services is for Board members to provide service to constituents and it is important that the Board not go below the line into administrative or management areas. The Constituent Service process provides well-defined protocols to facilitate the ability to resolve issues effectively and efficiently. Board Policy BHD, adopted on September 13, 2005 as a result of the Board's work with the Broad Institute and the Center for Reform of School Systems, clearly outlines the process for handling constituent issues. Board members committed to allowing the CMS administration to take responsibility for helping citizens receive the services that the school system provides. This method allows staff to react to citizens' request in a timely manner. The success of staffs' response has enabled the school system to be more responsive and consistent to the community in a timely manner. Staff appreciates the fact that the majority of the Board has allowed them to be responsible for securing responses to constituents' concerns. This keeps the Board from dipping below that imaginary line. Ms. Hamrick said the processes in place enable staff to facilitate the resolution of questions effectively. The flow chart or Protocol for Constituent Services, Exhibit BHE-E, clearly outlines the process for resolving problems and disseminating appropriate information to the constituents. The requests are managed by a computer management system called Clientele which was chosen by technology staff and Board Services for its ease in entering the data. Although staff response to the constituent service process is good, there is room for improvement in the turn-around time of some responses. The Superintendent has indicated that staff should respond to these requests within three business days as indicated in the policy. In most cases, staff has complied quickly to the requests. With the advent of decentralization, there will be new staff members who will be called upon to follow-up with the needs and questions of constituents in their Learning Communities. This will be a new process for them but staff will help them to learn their role in this service to their various publics. Ms. Hamrick said the most common requests for assistance are in the areas of student assignment, transportation, human resources, discipline, Exceptional Children, and questions related to specific schools. From August 2006 through the third of May, there were approximately 270 requests that came from Board member that required help and information. The number of requests for each category is as follows:

- 37 Student Assignment
- 27 Transportation
- 41 Human Resources
- 15 Discipline issues
- 11 Exceptional Children
- 55 Specific Schools. This included questions regarding safety, attendance, curriculum, classroom placement, customer service, use of facilities, textbook shortages, and teachers.
- 35 Other. This included questions regarding budget, High School Challenge, recycling, Learning Communities, essay contests, mobile units, uniforms, athletic eligibility, fundraising efforts, backpacks, and student programs.

Student assignment and human resources are year-long inquiries. Transportation and Exceptional Children questions occur at the beginning of a school year. This trend has been tracked for the two school years that this system has been in place. Ms. Hamrick said there are

many successes with the program. It is an efficient process and a great way to for staff to handle the questions and concerns of the various publics and customers that the school system services. For the most part, Board members have allowed staff to effectively and efficiently use the constituent service process with little interference. Overall, the responsiveness to the concerns and questions of our customers is very good and staff will continue to improve upon the time required to respond. The use of the Clientele data base system allows staff to track the requests and categorize these requests, thereby enabling staff to quickly determine the areas of concern as represented by our constituents' request for information. It also enables staff to keep an actual record of the request should we need to verify the response has been made to the constituent. A discussion with Board members followed.

- Ms. McGarry said she is pleased with the implementation of the process. The Policy includes a feedback process so that Board members know the resolution of the request and this is also included in the Flow Chart. She said she has requested to be copied on the resolutions to the requests that she submits. She asked is there a process in place so that Board members can receive the resolutions to all requests submitted? Ms. Hamrick said when Board members forward requests and they ask for a copy of the resolution, a response is provided to them. Most Board members know that staff will resolve the request in a proper and efficient manner and do not require a response. Ms. McGarry said this is included in Board policy and questioned why it is in policy if it is not necessary.
- Ms. Griffin asked if several Board members submit the same request, does that count as one entry? Ms. Hamrick replied, yes, and it is categorized by the Board member who submitted it first.
- Mr. Tate said it was a wonderful and helpful system and thanked Ms. Hamrick for coordinating the process.
- Mr. Dunlap also thanked Ms. Hamrick and stated that he is extremely pleased with the process and feedback.

Chairperson White announced that the Board would now return to the earlier called Closed Session meeting in Room CH-14. He noted the items to be discussed would not require Board action in Open Session and the Board would adjourn the Regular Board meeting in Room CH-14 following the adjournment of the Closed Session.

The Board recessed the Regular Board meeting at 6:45 p.m. and returned to the Closed Session meeting in Room CH-14. Upon completion of business in Closed Session, the Board adjourned the May 22, 2007 Regular Board meeting in Room CH-14 at 7:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Chairperson, Joe. I. White, Jr.

Clerk to the Board, Nancy Daughtridge