

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
August 14, 2007
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

July 24, 2007

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on July 24, 2007. The meeting began at 5:03 p.m. and was held in Room 414 of the Education Center.

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

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

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

Upon motion by Ms. Griffin, 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;**
- **To consider the qualifications of and/or potential terms for hiring new employees; and**
- **To consider student matters that are privileged, confidential, and not a public record.**

The motion was made pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Chairperson White reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:03 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education 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);
George Dunlap (District 3);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: There were no absences

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 6:03 p.m. Chairperson White welcomed everyone to the Board's second meeting of the month. He noted that this meeting historically has been canceled by the Board but because there were important issues to discuss the Board had rescheduled the meeting.

A. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Griffin moved that the Board approve the adoption of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Merchant, and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.

Chairperson White said the personnel appointments include Dr. Gorman's administrative appointments and an appointment for the general counsel position. He said, at the direction of the Board, the two items will be voted upon separately. Ms. Leake said she would like to pull the administrative appointments. Chairperson White said the Board would vote on each appointment separately. Dr. Gorman noted that the appointment of Frances Castro, executive director of staffing and licensure, had been pulled. Dr. Gorman presented the following personnel appointments:

- Paul Bonner was named principal at Myers Park Traditional Elementary School. Mr. Bonner is currently the assistant principal at Piedmont Open IB Middle School.

Ms. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Tate, that the Board approve the appointment of Paul Bonner as the principal at Myers Park Traditional Elementary School, and the Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.

- Anna Moraglia was named principal at Park Road Montessori School. Ms. Moraglia is currently the assistant principal at Community House Middle School.

Ms. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board approve the appointment of Anna Moraglia as the principal at Park Road Montessori School, and the Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.

Ms. Leake asked if any of the appointments were present? Dr. Gorman responded, no. Ms. Leake asked when would the Board meet the new appointments? Dr. Gorman said the Board is scheduled to meet the new appointments and their families on a quarterly basis. This meeting has not been scheduled at this time but he will meet with Carole Hamrick, Manager of Board Services, to schedule the meeting.

- Regina Bartholomew was named general counsel. Ms. Bartholomew has a Juris Doctorate, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA, and a Bachelor of Arts in English, Southern University, New Orleans, LA. Ms. Bartholomew previously served as general counsel for the Orleans Parish School Board, New Orleans, LA.

Mr. Dunlap moved, seconded by Ms. Leake, that the Board approve the appointment of Regina Bartholomew as general counsel, and a discussion followed.

Mr. Gauvreau said he would not support the appointment of an attorney. This position is an employee of the Board and he does not believe an effective search was conducted. He said this position is not necessary and is a waste of taxpayers' money. The role of this position must answer to the Board and the Superintendent and that is a conflict. Mr. Gauvreau said this position does not require a full-time position and it would be better served utilizing the part-time positions already in place and hiring outside counsel on a retainer fee. Chairperson White said the Board previously voted to approve hiring a general counsel position. The vote tonight is whether the Board will offer Regina Bartholomew this employment contract. Mr. Dunlap noted that the work of the attorney for this district is monumental and very necessary. Mr. Dunlap stated that even with a full-time position, it is necessary to hire outside counsel as well.

The Board voted 6-3 to approve the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, and Mr. Tate voted in support of the motion. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against the motion.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommend approval of resolution and projects for the 2007 Bond Referendum

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the recommendation. Dr. Gorman said this is the recommendation for approval of resolution and projects for the 2007 Bond Referendum. Dr. Gorman said his recommendation for the capital request list has been adjusted and trimmed to fit the \$516 million that was approved by the Board of County Commissioners. CMS has substantial facility needs and it is imperative that we address those needs now. The projects on the list are not the only capital needs we have but they are all projects that are important and needed. The list may not include all the projects that each person desires but we cannot afford to do everything that we want to do. There is a spending limit of \$516 million and we have needs totaling \$1.4 billion to do everything we need to do today to bring CMS level. This list makes choices and does not cover all the work necessary but it does address our biggest needs. It adds 704 new classrooms; relieves twenty-five of the most overcrowded schools; constructs twelve new schools (two high schools, two middle schools, and eight elementary schools); and adds significant capacity to eight existing schools. This part of the recommendation deals with the needs of growth. This fall there will be

138,000 students which is approximately 5,000 more than last year. This trend will continue. Growth is not the only pressing issue at CMS. There are many older schools that need renovations, too. This recommendation also includes major renovations at twelve schools; renovations at two high school stadiums to bring them to the current building codes; and urgently needed repairs and renovations at eighteen schools. Dr. Gorman said everything on the list must be done. We are unable to do everything that we would like to do so the list has been balanced so that money is used for new schools and renovations. The list is geographically diverse and includes schools in the urban and suburban portions of the district. He encouraged everyone to come together as a district to get the one big thing that we all want which is to do what is right for the students. Dr. Gorman said to get the support of the voters in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County and show that our needs are real, it is important that we join together and show leadership on the facility funding request. This list is not for us as individuals. It is for the students of Mecklenburg County. It is important to communicate to the public that CMS deserves the \$516 million to meet the needs of this communities' children.

The recommendation includes the following:

Projects	\$\$	%
39 Total Projects	\$516,122,780	
17 Growth Projects*	\$350,750,846	68%
24 Renovation Projects*	\$163,923,476	32%
1 Mandates/Initiatives	\$1,628,458	1%

* Some projects have both renovations and growth components.

Mr. Dunlap moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's 2007 Bond Referendum recommendation which includes thirty-nine projects totaling \$516,122,780, seconded by Mr. Tate, and a discussion followed.

Ms. McGarry said she would like to make a substitute motion totaling \$516 million. She believes the Board has an opportunity to prioritize a list correctly that has a Bond amount that would pass in November. Ms. McGarry said that is her goal for the citizens in Mecklenburg County. She has worked hard for consensus among the Board members to develop a reasonable Bond list of prioritized projects to present to the Board of County Commissioners and then the voters in November. She encouraged the Board to unanimously approve her recommendation. Ms. McGarry said her recommendation is basically Dr. Gorman's Option 1 recommendation presented in January. Ms. McGarry's recommendation eliminates two Pre-k projects and the Northpoint Transportation Facility and adds five projects. The added projects are four elementary schools (Johnston Oehler Road, Mountain Island Promenade, Blakeney Heath elementary schools, and a Montessori Magnet) and the Park Road Montessori Elementary School renovation. The proposed recommendation of projects including the added projects, the site acquisition of \$30 million, and the escalation costs total \$516,726,979.

Ms. McGarry offered a substitute motion that the Board approve a 2007 Bond Referendum totaling \$516,726,979 which eliminates two Pre-k centers and the Northpoint Transportation Facility and adds five projects (four elementary schools and renovations at Park Road Montessori Elementary School), seconded by Mr. Gauvreau,

and a discussion followed.

Mr. Gauvreau said Dr. Gorman has met with Board members to encourage them to support his recommendation. The purpose of Ms. McGarry's motion is to be more reasonable with the prioritization of the schools and emphasizes new schools in overcrowded areas that have been ignored. Mr. Gauvreau is opposed to the projects in Dr. Gorman's recommendation because it is diluted with stadiums, tracks, and fields. He is pleased that Dr. Gorman's list does eliminate Pre-k centers and bus lots. He believes Dr. Gorman's recommendation continues down the wrong road, is risky, and unnecessary. He expressed concern regarding the costs of new school construction. Mr. Gauvreau encouraged the Board to support a more sensible recommendation that emphasizes new school construction and academics, and is more restrained with the public's dollars. He will support Ms. McGarry's substitute motion in the spirit of compromise. He is opposed to recommendations that prioritize stadiums, tracks, and fields over new seats.

The Board voted 2-7 on the substitute motion and the substitute motion failed. Ms. McGarry and Mr. Gauvreau voted in support of the substitute motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against the substitute motion.

Mr. Dunlap called for the question. Chairperson White said this is an important issue and he will allow discussion to continue.

Ms. McGarry discussed her proposed recommendations that are more fiscally responsible and logical. She believes it is important to have a Bond that has a greater chance of passing. She wants a Bond that will pass; new schools; renovations to existing schools; and a package in priority order that shows the Board are good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. Ms. McGarry is opposed to Dr. Gorman's proposed list of projects because it ignores academics and includes \$5.5 million in stadiums and tracks. She is opposed to prioritizing stadiums over classrooms and seats. She believes schools must be built quicker, cheaper, and where the students live. Ms. McGarry encouraged the Board to support a sensibly prioritize list of Bond projects. Mr. Gauvreau asked Dr. Gorman if his proposed project list prioritized one Pre-k center, two stadiums, one high school track and field, and one gymnasium renovation over new elementary schools. Dr. Gorman said Mr. Gauvreau had the correct list. Dr. Gorman said the project list presented has his complete and absolute support, and is in the best interest of the students of this community. Dr. Gorman looks forward to working with the Board to meet the needs of the students. Mr. Dunlap said the vote is the decision of the Board and not the decision of the Superintendent.

The Board voted 7-2 in support of approving Dr. Gorman's 2007 Bond Referendum recommendations. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the motion. Ms. McGarry and Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

Mr. Dunlap moved that the Board approve a resolution requesting the Board of County Commissioners to issue General Obligation Bonds in the amount of not less than \$516,000,000, seconded by Ms. Leake, and the Board voted 7-2 to approve the motion.

Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the motion. Ms. McGarry and Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

IV. REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no report/information items.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Chairperson, Joe. I. White, Jr.

Clerk to the Board, Nancy Daughtride