

Approved by the Charlotte-  
Mecklenburg Board of Education  
August 12, 2008  
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

June 10, 2008

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on June 10, 2008. The meeting began at 4:34 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

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

Absent: Vilma D. Leake (District 2), and  
George Dunlap (District 3)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; Regina H. Bartholomew, General Counsel; Maurice Green, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer; Tyler Ream, Chief of Staff; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

**Upon motion by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Gauvreau, 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 the attorney-client privilege including but not limited to the following:**
  - a. **To consider student matters that are privileged, confidential, and not a public record;**
  - b. **To consider the following litigation matters:**
    - i. *North Carolina School Boards Association, et. al. v. Moore, et. al., Wake County Superior Court, NC 98CVS14158;*
    - ii. *Hubbert v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education; and*
    - iii. *Northpointe Bus Storage Facility Damages.*
  - c. **To consider settlement authority for minor settlements.**
- **To consider personnel matter of an administrative employee.**

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 6:09 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS-TV Channel 3 televised the meeting.

Present: Joe White, Chairperson, Member At-Large;  
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; Regina H. Bartholomew, General Counsel; Members of Executive and Senior Staffs; Judy Whittington, Manager of Board Services; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson White called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Chairperson White welcomed everyone to the Board's first Regular monthly business meeting of the month. He apologized for starting the meeting late and he noted that the Board would need to return to Closed Session following the close of business in Open Session.

### A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson White said Avyaleeshia Dykes, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at the International Studies School at Olympic High School, was scheduled to lead those present and in the viewing audience in Pledge of Allegiance but she has been delayed due to car trouble. Chairperson White called upon George Dunlap to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance

### B. Adoption of Agenda

**Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, that the Board adopt the agenda, and a discussion followed.**

Chairperson White asked that the Board approve adding an item from the Closed Session meeting to the Consent Agenda as item III.K. (Recommend approval to allow minor settlements of up to \$5,000.00 without the necessity of filing a Petition with the Court for the approval of a minor settlement).

**Ms. McGarry moved, seconded by Ms. Griffin, that the Board approve adding Consent Item III.K. (Recommend approval to allow minor settlements of up to \$5,000.00 without the necessity of filing a Petition with the Court for the approval of a minor settlement) to the agenda, and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.**

**Mr. Dunlap moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board adopt the agenda as**

**amended, and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.**

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

The following people discussed the benefits and successes of the Learning Immersion/Talent Development Program at Villa Heights Elementary School and they encouraged the Board to maintain the Magnet Program at Villa Heights Elementary School:

- Bill Burkholder.
- Mitch Gibson.
- Erika Lumsden.
- Kelly Loving.

The following people commended the staff, students, Magnet Program, and academic achievement at Idlewild Elementary School and its importance as a neighborhood school:

- Chris Fialko.
- Joseph Grimes.

The following people commended the academic excellence of thirty students at West Mecklenburg High School who could not participate in a statewide Foreign Language Contest on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Lenoir-Rhyne College because of a transportation issue:

- Dr. Hans Plotseneder, teacher at West Mecklenburg High School.
- Payton Landrum, student from West Mecklenburg High School, (read his German poem).
- Kelsey Ewing, 12<sup>th</sup> grader at West Mecklenburg High School, read the names of students who were scheduled to participate in the contest.

The following people discussed their concerns regarding the Anti-Bullying Policy, Day of Silence, and the removal of religion in education:

- Adam Tennant.
- Jason Dellinger.
- Flip Benham, church pastor and national director of Operation Save America.

The following people discussed the Athletic Eligibility Investigation at Independence High School:

- George Walker, teacher at Independence High School.
- Anthony Carrothers.
- James Wallace.

The following people discussed their concerns regarding Lincoln Heights Elementary School and encouraged the Board to maintain the Magnet Program at that school:

- Tammy Hill
- Teresa Watley

The following people commended the staff at Bruns Avenue Elementary School, expressed concern regarding the potential of displacement, and encouraged the Board to apply the Strategic Staffing Plan to the current staff:

- Tamara Brown, teacher at Bruns Avenue Elementary School.
- Teisa Lacy, teacher at Bruns Avenue Elementary School.

- Elisha O’Neal, teacher at Bruns Avenue Elementary School.
- Gaile Burton, teacher at Bruns Avenue Elementary School.

Randolph Frierson, counselor at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, expressed concern regarding the Strategic Staffing Plan and the impact it may have on the academic gains at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School because some of those teachers are being recruited to lower performing schools.

### III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of minutes.
  - January 22, 2008 Regular Board Meeting.
  - May 5, 2008 Special Meeting/Joint Meeting.
  - May 13, 2008 Closed Session.
  - May 13, 2008 Regular Board Meeting.
  - May 15, 2008 Closed Session.
  - May 20, 2008 Work Session.
  - May 27, 2008 Closed Session.
- B. Construction Items.
  - 1. Recommend approval of an easement to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, #ES07- 06 (formerly known as Youngblood/Steele Creek Road).
  - 2. Recommend approval of easements for Whitewater Academy.
- C. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.
- D. Recommend approval of licensed/non-licensed hires and promotions for May 2008.
- E. Recommend approval of Career and Technical Education 2008-2009 Application for State/Federal Funding.
- F. Recommend approval of a resolution for Interim Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as required by N.C. General Statute §115C-434.
- G. Recommend approval of No Child Left Behind Title I Grant Application.
- H. Recommend approval of one citizen appointment to the Equity Committee by the Superintendent.
- I. Recommend approval of name for existing gym at Myers Park High School.
- J. Recommend approval of name for track at Myers Park High School.
- K. Recommend approval to allow minor settlements of up to \$5,000.00 without the necessity of filing a Petition with the Court for the approval of a minor settlement.

**Ms. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Tate, that the Board adopt Consent Items A. through K.,** and a discussion followed. Chairperson White said he would recognize the people attending the meeting for the naming of the facilities at Myers Park High School.

Ms. Leake pulled C., G., I., and J.  
 Ms. McGarry pulled F.

**Mr. Dunlap moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board adopt Consent Items A., B.1., B.2., D., E., H., and K., and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.**

The Board discussed Consent Item C. Ms. Leake said she always pulls the personnel

appointments because she wants to ensure CMS is employing the best people available. She said she recently requested a list of the assistant principals so that they could be considered for promotion to principal and she has not received that information. She expressed concern that CMS frequently hires from outside of the system rather than promotes from within. Ms. Leake requested a list of assistant principals, current school, and the number of years they have served as an assistant principal. She expressed concern that some assistant principals have been an assistant principal for ten or more years and have not been considered for a principal position. Dr. Gorman said he would follow up on the requested information. Ms. Leake would prefer that new appointments attend the Board meetings so that the Board members and the public may see the new appointments as opposed to having the quarterly reception that is costly to the system.

**Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Ms. Griffin, that the Board adopt Consent Item C. (Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel), and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.**

The Board discussed Consent Item F. Ms. McGarry said she pulled this item to call attention to the fact that the budget is over extended. She said the Board has not worked hard enough to restructure departments. She is concerned that the Board will give a blanket okay to continue doing as is rather than put a focus on the 19,200 employees. She supports the staff in the schoolhouses and she encouraged the Board to restructure departments rather than continue to ask for more money because the CMS budget process is flawed. Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to explain the purpose of this Consent item. Dr. Gorman said the Interim Appropriations Resolution is an annual agenda item that allows staff to continue to pay employees after the beginning of the new fiscal year (July 2008) without the formal approval of the budget process. The state and the Board of County Commissioners are not scheduled to complete the final budget adoption process until late June or July. This provides authority for the Chief Financial Officer to continue to pay employees, pay bills, and etc. Ms. McGarry said she understood the purpose of this item and she would support it but she wanted to create awareness that the Board of Education's budget process needs more attention from the Board.

**Mr. Tate moved, seconded by Ms. Leake, that the Board adopt Consent Item F. (Recommend approval of a resolution for Interim Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as required by N.C. General Statute §115C-434), and the Board voted 8-1 in support of the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Ms. McGarry, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Gauvreau, Ms. Leake, Mr. Dunlap, and Mr. Tate voted in support of the motion. Mr. Gjertsen voted against the motion.**

The Board discussed Consent Item G. Ms. Leake asked for clarification on this item. She expressed concern that there will be 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who will not be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and they will not receive academic support during the summer. She believes CMS should provide programs to enhance learning during the summer for those students. She expressed concern that summer school is provided for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and seniors who are failures, and they are allowed to complete their work in twenty-one days instead of nine months. Ron Thompson, executive Director of Federal and State Programs and Compliance, said CMS has just received information from the Department of Instruction (DPI) that schools may use the excessive

carryover funds and give those back to the schools. Staff is working with the Area Superintendents to develop extended learning times for the students in Title 1 schools and those funds could supplement that purpose. Ms. Leake asked will the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Title 1 schools who need extra support during the summer months to help them master reading, math, and writing scores be provided summer school? Mr. Thompson said that will not be guaranteed but that is one of the components that the administration reviewing the comprehensive needs assessment for that school may determine as part of how they want to spend those funds. Ms. Leake said there is not a better way to spend those funds than to better prepare our young children to move to 4<sup>th</sup> grade prepared rather than ill-prepared based upon those people making the decisions. Ms. Leake asked when will the Board and the public know if 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will have summer school? Mr. Thompson said that decision will be made in planning with the administration beginning this week. There are other issues that the schools may decide that they want to use part of the carryover funds for such as staff development, technology enhancements, etc. Ms. Leake said it is very important to help those students master reading, writing, and arithmetic in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and not move them to 4<sup>th</sup> grade ill prepared. Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the No Child Left Behind Title 1 Grant and staff answered those questions.

**Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board adopt Consent Item G. (Recommend approval of No Child Left Behind Title I Grant Application) and the Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.**

The Board discussed Consent Items I. and J. Ms. Leake recognized Myers Park High School and Tom Spivey, the principal at Myers Park High School. Ms. Leake said she pulled this item to ensure the people the facilities were being named for and families were recognized because it is an honor to name a facility after someone who has given services to the community and school. Ms. Griffin said the naming committees followed the naming procedure for naming facilities at a school. Ms. Griffin said she is very proud to recommend and move that the Board follow their requests and name the existing gym the “James A. Hartman Gymnasium” in honor of former coach, James A. Hartman and name the existing track the “Stuart Allen Track” in honor of former track, wrestling, and football coach, Stuart Allen.

**Ms. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, that the Board adopt Consent Item I. (Recommend approval to name the existing gym at Myers Park High School the “James A. Hartman Gymnasium” in honor of former coach, James A. Hartman) and J. (Recommend approval to name the existing track the “Stuart Allen Track” in honor of former track, wrestling, and football coach, Stuart Allen), and the Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.**

Chairperson White recognized the families and friends of the Coach Allen and Coach Hartman who were attending the meeting. Chairperson White said both gentlemen were dear friends of his and he is proud that the school and community chose to recognize them by naming our facilities in honor of them.

Dr. Gorman’s citizen appointment to the Equity Committee is Rob Harrington and he will fulfill the remainder of a three-year term that will expire November 30, 2009.

Dr. Gorman's personnel recommendations were as follows:

Transfer:

- Gifford K. Lockley named principal at Nations Ford Elementary School. Mr. Lockley previously served as principal at Community House Middle School and Eastover Elementary School.

Appointments:

- Jennifer Dean named principal at Bailey Middle School. Ms. Dean previously served as assistant principal at Midwood High School and Bailey Middle School.
- Deborah McRae named Director of Data and Instruction. Ms. McRae previously served as a curriculum resource teacher for the Achievement Zone.

#### IV. ACTION ITEMS

##### A. Recommend approval of date change for the first Board meeting in November 2008

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the recommendation. Dr. Gorman said this request is to change the Board meeting date from Tuesday, November 11, 2008 which is Veterans' Day and a designated holiday to Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

**Ms. Leake moved that the Board recommend approval to change the Board meeting date from Tuesday, November 11, 2008 to Wednesday, November 12, 2008, seconded by Mr. Dunlap, and the Board voted 9-0 to approve the motion.**

#### V. REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

##### A. Report on Financial Statements for April 2008

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report. Dr. Gorman said agenda Items A. and B. are the monthly reports and they are as presented.

##### B. Report on Budget Amendments for April 2008

Presented with V.A.

##### C. Report/First Reading proposed amendments to Policy ECF, Energy Conservation

Chairperson White called upon Molly Griffin, Chairperson for the Policy Committee, to present the information on the proposed policy amendment. Ms. Griffin said Report Items C. and D. regard proposed policy changes and they are before the Board for first reading. The first is an amendment to Policy ECF regarding Energy Conservation and the second is proposed amendments to Policy JCA regarding the Student Assignment Plan. Ms. Griffin said there would be a Public Hearing and Board vote on these two items at the July 22, 2008 Regular Board meeting. Dr. Gorman called upon Guy Chamberlain, Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, to summarize the policy change for Policy ECF, Energy Conservation. Mr. Chamberlain said this request is coordinating our efforts with the Board of County Commissioners and the City Council in establishing a policy to embrace environmental

stewardship. In 2004, the County established a detailed policy that included a number of goals and objectives that are measured annually. Recently the county manager asked Dr. Gorman to initiate action for the Board to also establish an Environmental Stewardship Policy. This policy is simple and directs the Superintendent to develop an Environmental Management System which would address a number of areas including environmental compliance; pollution prevention; resource conservation such as fuel and water; resource recovering which is recycling; sustainable development; sustainable purchasing; and behavioral change. Mr. Chamberlain said the development stage will take approximately six months and the Superintendent will bring this back before the Board. The policy also includes an annual report to the Board detailing progress in achieving the goals and objectives in each long-range planning area.

D. Report/First Reading on proposed amendments to Policy JCA, Student Assignment Plan

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to review the proposed amendments to Policy JCA, Student Assignment Plan. Dr. Gorman said the main changes to Policy JCA can be found on page 2 of 7. In the past, if a student's family moved during their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year the student was allowed to complete the 11<sup>th</sup> grade year at that current school and at the end of the year the student had to move to his/her home school or apply for a transfer to stay at the school that they had been attending in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> year. If they did apply for the transfer to remain at the school they had been attending in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, they were not eligible for athletics for 365 days which meant they could not participate in sports during their senior year. This modification allows the student to remain at that school and to continue to participate in athletic activities. The sibling guarantee would not be in effect for younger siblings of those students. Ms. Griffin noted that it has long been the practice of the Board to allow rising seniors to remain at their current school. In practice staff had been granting the transfers and allowing them to remain at their current school.

## **VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Gorman congratulated students and staff on completing another successful year. Today, he had the privilege of spending time with some of the top graduating seniors in CMS. He was most impressed with their accomplishments and the knowledge they had gained during their time with CMS. Dr. Gorman said these students are shining examples of the caliber of students attending CMS. Great teaching is happening everyday in CMS and these students were proud to share their learning experiences and how certain teachers had impacted their life.

Dr. Gorman updated the Board and the public on the budget process. He said even with the proposed \$10 million increase from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), CMS is facing an \$18 million shortfall from the request that was approved by the Board. The budget process is continuing at the state level and that ultimate funding could change. As a result, Dr. Gorman has asked each of the executive staff members to identify potential budget cuts of eight percent. The executive and financial teams are currently reviewing those recommendations. The finalized list will be shared with the Board of Education for a final decision. Dr. Gorman said he would like to ensure that the cuts will not impact the classroom and the schoolhouse but he cannot make that promise this year. During the past six years,



CMS has trimmed or redirected a great deal of funds. This year, staff will need to cut even deeper centrally first and then make changes that will impact our schools. The BOCC is scheduled to have a preliminary Board vote on the budget this evening and the final vote is scheduled on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Chamber at the Government Center.

Dr. Gorman thanked the employees for the great work they do serving our students and the community. He also thanked the parents for entrusting their children to CMS. He wished everyone a safe, healthy, happy, and cool summer. He encouraged students to continue reading and learning during the summer.

## **VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Molly Griffin thanked the CMS employees for their hard work and she encouraged the students to continue to learn during the summer. She, Tom Tate, and many senior staff members had the privilege of attending the Metro School's graduation on Monday. She said all graduations are happy occasions but the Metro School's graduation is unmatched for the joy of the students, staff, and parents.

Trent Merchant thoroughly enjoyed attending the inaugural lecture of a new club called Voices Activated at Providence High School. The program was called *One Voice Can* and it provided great information. The club is seeking ways to engage more and have an impact on the world around them. He commended his daughter's kindergarten teacher on inspiring her to become a teacher.

George Dunlap had the privilege of being the guest speaker at the James Martin Middle School's Moving Up Ceremony on Monday. Mr. Dunlap reported he would be traveling and studying with an international group to Mexico for ten days and would miss the next Board meeting.

Kaye McGarry thanked the staff and students at Selwyn Elementary School for welcoming her as their guest speaker for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Celebration. Ms. McGarry encouraged students to read everyday and realize they are someone who makes a difference in the lives of others. She wished everyone a wonderful summer.

Ken Gjertsen congratulated his son on completing his first year of school and wished him a happy birthday.

Tom Tate thanked staff, teachers, principals, administrators, and Dr. Gorman for a successful school year. Mr. Tate had the privilege of attending the Promotion and Awards Ceremony at Shamrock Gardens Elementary School. He congratulated the staff at the school on their success in increasing the percentage of students at or above grade level in math for this year. He thoroughly enjoyed attending the International Festival at Idlewild Elementary School which was a very successful event. He encouraged Board members to attend the event next year.

Vilma Leake commended the CMS social workers and thanked them for attending the meeting this evening. She had the privilege of attending the Moving Up Ceremony at Walter G. Byers

Elementary School. She commended the staff and families for making this a very successful event. She thanked the families from District 2 who were attending the meeting. She thanked Barbara Pellin, Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family, and Community Services, for her services to CMS and the community, and assisting the family from Sedgefield Middle School who are grieving the loss of their daughter in a recent accident. She thanked Dr. Gorman and Chairperson White for assisting the Board to stay focused on the important issues. She encouraged everyone to stay dedicated to educating all children.

Chairperson White thoroughly enjoyed attending the very successful EMMY Awards gala. This was a great event to honor our employees. He also enjoyed attending the Star Teachers Award Ceremony which is his most favorite event to attend each year. It is exciting to hear these young people share their favorite stories on how a teacher impacted their life. The Teach for America reception was also an outstanding event. He was very impressed with the 150 outstanding, high quality young teachers. He believes they will help make the future of CMS bright. He also thoroughly enjoyed joining Dr. Gorman in interviewing the top twenty-eight outstanding seniors. He loved hearing about their accomplishments with CMS and future plans. He said he attended the Mexico trip last year and wished Mr. Dunlap a successful trip.

Chairperson White said the Board would now recess the Open Session meeting and return to the Closed Session meeting in Room CH-14. The Board will adjourn the Open Session meeting in Room CH-14 at the close of business in Closed Session because there will be no additional new business to add to the Regular Board meeting.

The Board recessed the June 10, 2008 Regular Board meeting at 8:06 p.m.

The Board reconvened the June 10, 2008 Regular Board Meeting at 9:07 p.m. All Board members were present except for Mr. Gauvreau. Also present were Dr. Gorman and Ms. Bartholomew. Ms. Griffin served as Clerk to the Board.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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Joe I. White, Jr., Chairperson

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Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board