

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
March 9, 2010
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

August 11, 2009

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on August 11, 2009. The meeting began at 5:34 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

Present: Molly Griffin, Chairperson, District 5;
Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);
James Ross (District 3);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: Kaye McGarry, Vice-Chairperson, Member At-Large, and
Kimberly Mitchell-Walker (District 2)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; André F. Mayes, Acting General Counsel/Deputy General Counsel; Tyler Ream, Chief of Staff; LaToya Walker, Intern with the Urban Superintendents Program at Harvard Graduate School of Education; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

Upon motion by Mr. White, 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 the attorney-client privilege including but not limited to the following pending litigation matters:**
 - *Hoke County Board of Education v. Asheville City Board of Education (Leandro)(95-CVS-1158);*
 - *Sugar Creek Charter School v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (08-516);*
 - *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education v. Earl Chronister (08-CVS-77785) and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education v. Margaret Chronister (08-CVS-7786);*
 - *Sheila Morris v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (09-CVS-17830)*
- **To consider student matters that is 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.

The Board held a Closed Session meeting from 5:34 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Chairperson Griffin reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:03 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS-TV Channel 3 televised the meeting.

Present: Molly Griffin, Chairperson, District 5;
Kaye McGarry, Vice-Chairperson, Member At-Large;
Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);
Kimberly Mitchell-Walker (District 2);
James Ross (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; André F. Mayes, Acting General Counsel/Deputy 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 Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Chairperson Griffin welcomed everyone to the Board's first meeting of the month which is being held in the Meeting Chamber.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Griffin called upon Joe White to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson Griffin called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Mr. White moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board adopt the agenda as presented, and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.

C. Public Hearing on proposed boundaries and feeder patterns (new Mint Hill high school opening in 2010-2011)

Chairperson Griffin said there are twenty-nine speakers signed up to speak to the Public Hearing. She said this is our business meeting and she asked the participants to act accordingly so that the business can be conducted in an orderly and professional manner. Each speaker will have three minutes to address the Board.

Eight speakers encouraged the Board to accept the boundary recommendation as presented by the Town of Mint Hill because it keeps the community together, promotes parental involvement, academic success, and sustainable growth. They encouraged the Board to keep the Bond promises made to Mint Hill.

- Hans Plotseneder.

- Julie Andrews.
- Mayor Ted Biggers.
- Larry Bumgarner.
- Spencer Alridge.
- Commissioner Lloyd Austin.
- Terri Dickinson.
- Clark Goodman.

Five speakers encouraged the Board to include East Mecklenburg in the boundary reassignment considerations so that the school will remain strong and be stabilized. They expressed concern that the reduction in student population will have a long-term negative impact on the school. They encouraged the Board to delay the Board vote in order to get the recommendation right and to keep East Mecklenburg a success story.

- Lou Trosch, Jr.
- Brett Harris
- Noell Tin
- George Johnson, parent of a student at East Mecklenburg High School.
- Richard Smith, 2008 graduate of East Mecklenburg High School.

Two speakers talked about the successes of Butler High School. They expressed concern that the recommendation would have a negative impact on the school and students will have to attend a school further away from their homes.

- Commissioner Jim Taylor/Mayor Pro Tem Town of Matthews.
- George Young, former Commissioner.

Brian Ellsworth expressed concern that the CMS boundary process has created a lack of transparency, mistrust, confusion, and frustration. He agreed with the concerns regarding East Mecklenburg High School. He encouraged the Board to be transparent in their discussion and to select the plan that best fosters student achievement, parent involvement, and sustainability for future growth.

Eight people encouraged the Board to support the current CMS proposal because it would provide all schools an equal chance, unite neighbors, provide one school for one community which is what the community wanted, keeps children of the community together, and staff's recommendation is the most balanced.

- Rachel Epting, rising senior at Independence High School.
- Jeff Freeman.
- Adrienne Sheffield.
- Beverly Cannaday, parent of a student at Independence High School.
- Charlene Wolford, parent and teacher at Independence High School.
- Morgan Benson, 9th grade student at Independence High School.
- Lissette Payne.
- Adrienne Trent.
- Avanti Greene, rising senior at Independence High School.

Adam Kaplan encouraged the Board to consider the impact on student achievement, sustainability, long bus rides for students, the high percentages of economically disadvantaged students, and the costs to implement the plan. CATS does not provide bus service to Mint Hill and many families in District 3 rely on CATS transportation. He does not believe the District

3 students will be given a fair chance.

Nicole Clewell, rising sophomore, will be impacted by the changes and she will do well at whatever school she attends. She encouraged the Board to ensure there are strong AP Programs and course offerings at all the schools. She plans to attend an Ivy League college and will take two to three AP courses each year. She wants the gap closed and that all students like her will be able to achieve. She also asked the Board to rehire her dad.

Al Thomas encouraged the Board to support the Mint Hill/Reedy Creek plan as previously proposed. He expressed concerns regarding Board decisions, families leaving CMS, and that District 6 was misled regarding the 2007 Bond package.

Chairperson Griffin thanked the participants for speaking and especially the students who did themselves proud.

II. REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC

Six speakers addressed the Board regarding student assignment and teacher layoffs.

Robin Bradford encouraged the Board to understand the meaning of neighborhood schools, to provide communication to the community, to consider the education of every student, and to review options for redrawing the boundary lines throughout CMS.

Paul Drummond expressed concerns regarding teacher layoffs and encouraged the Board to rehire his daughter.

Three people discussed the Sardis Forest neighborhood school assignment and encouraged the Board to reassign them from McClintock Middle School to Crestdale Middle School beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

- Catherine Sesser
- Jay Kelly
- Rob Siprell

Larry Bumgarner discussed concerns regarding bright flight and disappointment in the CMS boundary recommendation for the new Mint Hill high school.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of minutes:
 - May 12, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.
 - May 26, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.
 - June 23, 2009 Board Work Session.
 - July 20, 2009 Closed Session.
 - July 29, 2009 Closed Session.
- B. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.

Appointments:

- *Robert Avossa named Chief Accountability Officer, replacing Jonathan Raymond who became superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District. Mr. Avossa previously served as Area Superintendent for the South Learning Community. He joined CMS in 2006 as the Chief of Staff and previously served as principal,*

assistant principal, and teacher in Florida.

- *Tyler Ream named Area Superintendent for the South Learning Community. Mr. Ream previously served as Chief of Staff for CMS since joining the district in 2007. Mr. Ream was a teacher and principal in the Tustin Unified School District in California from 2000-2007.*
- *Dr. Kelly Gwaltney named principal at Mallard Creek High School. Dr. Gwaltney has a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Gardner-Webb University; Master of School Administration, University of North Carolina-Charlotte; and a Bachelor of Science, Mathematics – Secondary Education, Appalachian State University. Dr. Gwaltney previously served as principal at Hunter Huss High School in Gaston County Schools, Gastonia, North Carolina.*

Transfer:

- *Kathleen Fox named principal at Jay M. Robinson Middle School. Ms. Fox previously served as principal at Hawk Ridge Elementary School.*

- C. Recommend approval of licensed/non-licensed hires and promotions for July 2009.
- D. Recommend approval of employment of a relative of a member of executive staff in accordance with Policy #GBEA.

Recommend approval of Brent Bartles, relative of Nancy Bartles, East Learning Community Area Superintendent, as math teacher at West Charlotte High School.

- E. Recommend approval of requests for release of students to other school districts.
- F. Recommend approval of supplementary funding/grant request for Middle School Positive Action.

The overall goal of the proposed program is to utilize the Positive Action curriculum with middle school families when youth have been identified as having higher-than-average risk of abusing substances. Positive Action is an evidence-based curriculum that is approved by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The curriculum includes research-driven drug prevention content for elementary, middle, and high school students. Funding requested from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Small Grant Project Support, in the amount of \$70,000.00 for two years.

- G. Recommend approval of Joint Agreement between Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners regarding county-wide jurisdiction.

**CAMPUS POLICE AGENCY
JOINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CHARLOTTE-MECKLEBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION AND
MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

*This Joint Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into as of the ___ day of ___, 2009 by and between the **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education** and the **Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners** ("the Parties"), with the consent of the Sheriff of Mecklenburg County.*

***Whereas**, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education ("CMBOE") has established a campus law enforcement agency, hereinafter referred to as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Police Department, in accordance with N.C.G.S. §11SC-47.1;*

***Whereas**, CMBOE seeks to extend the territorial jurisdiction of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Police Department into all of Mecklenburg County, subject to the limitations and*

requirements set forth herein and in applicable law, including obtaining the consent of the Sheriff of Mecklenburg County to the terms of this Agreement; and

Whereas, CMBOE owns, operates and leases over 170 buildings and facilities, employs over 19,000 teachers, administrators and support staff, educates over 130,000 students annually, operates over 30,000 bus stops throughout Mecklenburg County, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Police Department is charged with the safety and security of those persons and places;

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and conditions set forth therein, the Parties do agree as follows:

(1) Session Law 2009-73 provides that the subject matter jurisdiction of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Police Department on property now owned or leased by CMBOE located in Mecklenburg County shall be limited to investigations or arrests arising out of activities related to their duties, responsibilities, and authority as CMBOE employees. The parties hereto agree that said jurisdiction within Mecklenburg County shall be extended to providing aid, responding to crimes in progress, and/or providing assistance to other law enforcement agencies and officers as requested by such agencies and as permitted by law;

(2) The Parties agree that county-wide jurisdiction as set forth herein is necessary for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Police Department to successfully complete its duties.

(3) To the extent permitted by law, CMBOE agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Mecklenburg County, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff, the Mecklenburg County Sheriffs Office and their agents, officers and employees, harmless from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses (including settlement costs, court costs and attorneys' fees) that arise directly from or are attributable to any allegation that any CMBOE officer, employee, agent or subcontractor acted improperly and/or improperly failed to act during the exercise or attempted exercise of authority under this Agreement. CMBOE shall pay or reimburse Mecklenburg County, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff, and/or the Mecklenburg County Sheriffs Office any costs incurred by any of them in defending any claim or lawsuit, in settling any claim, and/or discharging any liability arising out of or resulting from the execution of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by the Parties and the provision of consent to the terms of this Agreement by the Sheriff. Any payments owed by CMBOE pursuant to this paragraph shall be paid on a quarterly basis, within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice.

In witness Whereof, the Parties and the Sheriff of Mecklenburg County have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized officers or representatives as of the date first above written.

Chairperson Griffin called for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Ms. McGarry moved, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board adopt Consent Items A. through G., and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of proposed boundaries and feeder patterns impacting the new Mint Hill high school

Chairperson Griffin said at the June 9, 2009 Regular Board meeting Mr. Tate had a motion on the floor to approve the original Superintendent's recommendation regarding the new Mint Hill high school. Mr. Tate said he would like to withdraw that motion. Chairperson Griffin asked if there was any objection from the Board and there was no objection from the Board. Chairperson Griffin declared that motion withdrawn.

Chairperson Griffin called upon Mr. Ross to present a motion to approve the proposed boundaries and feeder patterns for the new Mint high school.

Mr. Ross moved that the Board adopt the Superintendent’s proposal for the boundaries for the new “Mint Hill High School” and associated boundary changes for Butler and East Mecklenburg high schools, and that staff present the recommendation, seconded by Ms. Mitchell-Walker, and a discussion followed.

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to review the proposed recommendation. Dr. Gorman called upon Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement Services, to present the recommendations and answer Board member questions.

Mr. McCully provided an overview of the proposed boundaries for the new “Mint Hill High School” and associated changes for Butler and East Mecklenburg high schools as follows:

I. New “Mint Hill High School:”

Grade Levels: 9th – 12th.

Projected Opening Date: Beginning of the 2010-2011 school year or upon completion of the facility.

Home School Boundary: The entire home school areas of J.W. Grier and Reedy Creek elementary schools and the northwestern portion of the Clear Creek Elementary School boundary (generally northwest of Blair Road and Albemarle Road) and the portion of J.H. Gunn Elementary school north of Albemarle Road. These areas are currently assigned to Independence High School.

Affected School: Independence High School.

Default Assignment for rising 9th – 11th graders: new “Mint Hill High School” (transportation provided).

Assignment Option for rising 9th – 11th graders: No option to remain at their current home schools.

Default Assignments for rising 12th graders: Independence High School (transportation provided).

Assignment Option for rising 12th graders: No option to attend new “Mint Hill High School.”

Sibling Guarantee: None. No sibling guarantee to attend Independence High School for younger siblings of 12th grade students who remain at those schools.

II. Associated Boundary Shifts for East Mecklenburg and Butler high schools:

Projected Effective Date: Beginning of the 2010 - 2011 school year.

Affected Area: The 2009 – 2010 attendance area for East Mecklenburg would be shifted to Butler as follows:

- The entire attendance area of Piney Grove Elementary attendance area would be assigned from East Mecklenburg to Butler High School.
- The part of the attendance area of Crown Point labeled as “Crown Point West” on the accompanying map would be assigned from East Mecklenburg High School to Butler High School.

Default Assignment for rising 9th – 11th graders: Butler High School (transportation provided).

Assignment Option for rising 9th – 11th graders: No option to remain at East Mecklenburg High School.

Default Assignment for rising 12th graders: East Mecklenburg High School (transportation not

provided).

Assignment Option for rising 12th graders: Butler High School (transportation provided); must indicate this intent on lottery application.

Sibling Guarantee: None. Younger siblings of rising 12th grade students who remain at East Mecklenburg will not have a sibling guarantee to attend that school.

III. Associated Boundary Shifts for Butler and Independence high schools:

Projected Effective Date: Beginning of the 2010 - 2011 school year.

Affected Area: The 2009-2010 attendance area for Butler would be shifted to Independence as follows:

- The part of the Bain Elementary School attendance area north of Idlewild Road would be assigned from Butler High School to Independence High School.
- The part of the Clear Creek Elementary School attendance area east of Blair Road and east of Albemarle Road would be assigned from Butler High School to Independence High School.

Default Assignment for rising 9th – 11th graders: Independence High School (transportation provided).

Assignment Option for rising 9th – 11th graders: No option to remain at Butler High School.

Default Assignment for rising 12th graders: Butler High School (transportation not provided).

Assignment Option for rising 12th graders: Independence High School (transportation provided); must indicate this intent on lottery application.

Sibling Guarantee: None. Younger siblings of rising 12th grade students who remain at Butler will not have a sibling guarantee to attend that school.

Mr. Tate made an amendment to the motion that further the Board of Education direct staff to expand consideration of the boundaries for East Mecklenburg High School by looking at Myers Park High School boundaries and the feeder schools for both high schools in an effort to increase the number of students at East Mecklenburg High School and decrease the number at Myers Park High School, and that a recommendation come back to the Board for approval in time for the enrollment process for the 2010-2011 school year, seconded by Mr. Gjertsen, and a discussion on the amendment followed.

- Mr. Merchant said he has spoken with a number of people in the East Mecklenburg feeder pattern and he understands their concerns regarding East Mecklenburg. He said the raw numbers do not tell the story and a part of the issue is there are 82 classrooms at East Mecklenburg High School and 103 classrooms at Myers Park High School and both of those numbers exclude mobiles. The student-teacher ratio at both schools is also different (18:1 at East Mecklenburg and 20.6:1 at Myers Park). The capacity at East Mecklenburg High School based upon current projected budget and the free and reduced priced lunch multiplier is 1,252 and with the mobiles currently on site 2,606. Projected attendance at East Mecklenburg is 1,428 students or a 114% building utilization with mobiles. The capacity at Myers Park High School is 2,226, with mobiles 3,585, and has a projected attendance of 2,900 students. Capacity is based upon the number of teachers and not on the number of students that attend the school. On the agenda tonight, the Board will discuss rehiring some teachers and that will have the impact of creating tighter capacity. The number of course offerings and classes work against capacity. Mr. Merchant said he is glad to discuss school boundaries. He encouraged the Board to stay focused on the current schools in the proposal because expanding beyond the current elementary and

middle schools could create a domino affect on other school boundaries and at this time the Board does not have time to deal with those issues in a thoughtful manner. There is an upcoming Board election in November in which 33% to 55% of the Board will be new members. He said to get beyond this specific issue, the Board should consider revising its Guiding Principles as well as considering other school boundaries that have more pressing issues which may have merit for a comprehensive review of student assignment. He understands the Sardis Forest concerns regarding McClintock Middle School. He encouraged the Board to reimagine and repurpose the McClintock facility and the negative impact for offering partial IB Magnet Programs on surrounding schools. He encouraged the Board to be bold and aggressive in their decisions.

- Chairperson Griffin called upon Mr. Tate and she apologized for not allowing him to speak to his motion first.
- Mr. Tate said the Board should have a focus on its actions. This process has included revisions of maps, Board discussions, and input from the community. Mr. Tate said the Board should delay the whole process until this boundary recommendation is right and that should include the capacity issues at East Mecklenburg and Myers Park high schools. Mr. Tate believes the feeder patterns in his amendment would provide the Board that opportunity. Currently, East Mecklenburg has approximately 2,100 students and reducing that to approximately 1,428 is a huge cut. He believes the Board can provide a better option for East Mecklenburg that will make it more equal to the other schools in the area. Mr. Tate said until yesterday he was prepared to ask the Board to delay the vote on this recommendation but now he believes it would be better to consider a targeted boundary change that includes the feeder patterns for Myers Park and East Mecklenburg high schools. When this process began it was only going to impact a new high school and three other high schools, and it would not include Vance High School, Garinger High School, or Myers Park High School. Mr. Tate expressed concern that the boundary recommendations thus far do not provide the appropriate numbers of students at each school to make them completely viable. Mr. Tate encouraged the Board to support the amendment to the motion.
- Mr. White said he would support Mr. Tate's amendment because he does not want to postpone this decision again. The Board has discussed this matter, the community has provided input, staff has developed good recommendations, and it is time to inform the community of the Board's decision and move forward to educating students. Mr. White said Mr. Tate and community members have asked the Board to review capacity issues at East Mecklenburg and Myers Park high schools. He encouraged the Board to not conduct a comprehensive review of student assignment for another two years because it is a difficult task. Mr. White said Mr. Tate is not just asking staff to review those two schools (East Mecklenburg and Myers Park) but to review those complete feeder patterns which is what members of the community has requested. Mr. White said he would support Mr. Tate's recommendation.
- Mr. Gauvreau agreed with Mr. Tate. He has been on the Board for many years and he has encouraged the Board numerous times to unwind the student assignment scheme that was put in place twenty years ago. He expressed concern that the boundary for Myers Park High School is irregularly drawn and that is causing some of the friction. Mr. Gauvreau has also encouraged the Board to have an outside expert review the student assignment plan and redraw the lines because the boundaries are horribly off. This recommendation is on the right track and it should have also been done with the boundary decisions for North

Mecklenburg and Vance high schools. Mr. Gauvreau expressed concern regarding social engineering of schools and he hopes this may help solve some of those issues.

- Ms. McGarry requested a copy of the motion. She said this is a step that needs to be taken and she encouraged that clear guidelines be put in place because this involves families. Ms. McGarry said she would support the amendment.

The Board voted 8-0 on Mr. Tate's amendment to the motion. Ms. Mitchell-Walker was out of the room at the time of the vote.

The Board discussed the original motion with the amendment.

Mr. Gjertsen made a substitute motion that the Board approve substituting the boundaries for the new Mint Hill high school as proposed by staff with the boundaries as proposed by the Town of Mint Hill Plan, seconded by Ms. McGarry, and a discussion followed.

- Mr. Gjertsen said many of the community speakers have spoken eloquently and they believe this is a high school in Mint Hill, it was promised in the 2007 Bonds as a Matthews-Mint Hill high school, the maps refer to it as the Matthew-Mint Hill high school, and it seems wrong that not a single student from Matthews or Mint Hill will attend what is referred to as the Matthew-Mint Hill high school. Mr. Gjertsen thanked the Town of Mint Hill for coming together to decide what would work for them as a community. There were a number of voices in Mint Hill that had different ideas but they all came together to support the one recommendation as presented by the Town of Mint Hill. The community has stated they have community buy-in for that plan, they want to stay together, and they want to attend the new high school in Mint Hill. Mr. Gjertsen supports the community plan because it does not make sense to put a new high school in Mint Hill but not have a single resident of Mint Hill attend that school. He expressed concern that the students of Mint Hill will have to attend a school in Charlotte and the school in Mint Hill will be populated with only students from Charlotte or the County. He will not support staff's recommendation and he encouraged the Board to support his substitute motion. The Mint Hill Plan does not makes changes to Butler or East Mecklenburg high schools and it creates a sense of community which the Board promised the Mint Hill area.
- Mr. Gauvreau said he agreed with Mr. Gjertsen and he will support substitute motion. Mr. Gauvreau expressed concern regarding irregularly drawn boundaries, staff not addressing the supply and demand of capacity at schools, and students not attending schools in close proximity of their home. He said staff's recommendation is the wrong approach and the original Mint Hill Plan was the best plan.
- Ms. McGarry said she has promised to listen, do her homework, vote responsibly, and she has kept her promise. She said the Mint Hill community has raised valid questions regarding the different criteria used for populating the opening of two high schools at approximately the same time (Bailey Road and Mint Hill high schools) and the emphasis on different guidelines. She does not believe the questions from the Mint Hill community have been adequately answered. The Mint Hill high school was to include room for growth and she does not believe that is included in the CMS plans. The Mint Hill Plan includes room for growth. The Board has the opportunity to establish a new school with strong community support. The town of Mint Hill was promised a school, this school is built in the town Mint Hill, and the community has spoken that they want the students of

Mint Hill to attend the school in Mint Hill. She hopes reasonable minds will prevail and the Board will support the community that deserves to be in the high school that they have long awaited for in their own community.

The Board voted 3-6 on the substitute motion and the substitute motion failed. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the substitute motion. Chairperson Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Mr. White, Ms. Mitchell-Walker, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Tate voted against the substitute motion.

The Board discussed the original motion as amended by Mr. Tate.

- Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the proposed boundaries and Mr. McCully responded. Mr. Merchant believes the Board should deal with some of the larger issues that include seeking community input, revising the Board's Guiding Principles (hopefully at the January Board Retreat), defining a Learning Community and District, and when do those concepts matter. Mr. Merchant said CMS will never have the needed resources to build enough brick and mortar schools to accommodate its growth and it may be time to move beyond the idea that geography determines your access to quality education. Technology can be used to share resources across the school system in a manner that can open doors and provide opportunities for education. CMS could utilize a master teacher to teach five different classes at five different schools with the classes staffed by a first year teacher. Mr. Merchant said the geographic boundaries of the new recommendation are not ideal but it does have buy-in from the community, all four schools have solid achievement scores, and no school is overly burden by high free and reduced priced lunch percentages. Mr. Merchant said he would support this recommendation and he hopes it helps the East Mecklenburg High School and McClintock Middle School areas.
- Mr. Gauvreau discussed his concerns regarding the proposed boundaries, bonds, promises to the community, and that Charlotte-Mecklenburg is comprised of many communities and it is not just one community. He encouraged the Board to consider a comprehensive student assignment review and deconsolidating the school district so that all the power is not with the Board. He encouraged the Board to stop transporting students all over the County and to draw compact zones around neighborhood schools. He expressed concern that the media has made this matter worse and helped to create public mistrust with CMS.
- Mr. White thanked everyone for participating in this process. Mr. White has listened to the public and read all the information that has been sent to him but he does not agree with all of their views. He has a simple agenda. His agenda is to represent all 138,000 students (including Pre-K) in CMS. He expressed concern that the community has misinformation. He said over the years, his family has lived every student assignment plan. His children and grandchildren have been bused and rebused across the district and they all are doing well. They are doing well because his wife ensured regardless of where they attended school that they were at the best possible place. Mr. White encouraged parents regardless of where their children attend school to be dedicated to making it the best place possible.
- Ms. McGarry said she has spoken to which plan is best and she relates to the people in the community who have come forth to discuss the boundaries. She believes parents want a qualified teacher, a neighborhood school, a safe environment, and stability. She will continue to support parents and families and she encouraged the Board to listen to the public. She was going to make an amendment to include the Sardis Forest neighborhood

in Butler High School but that will be addressed in Mr. Tate's amendment to the motion. She hopes that area will be fairly addressed.

- Mr. Gjertsen said he would not support this motion because there were promises made and this is intentionally ignoring those promises. He expressed concern that that this is building a new school in District 6 but not allowing a single student in District 6 to attend that school. Mr. Gjertsen said this is fraud being perpetrated on one quarter of the County and he and the community are going to be disappointed in the Board if they approve inflicting this on District 6.
- Mr. Merchant said he understands the concerns regarding the proposed boundaries. The original documents said the new potential high school would provide relief to Independence, Butler, and East Mecklenburg high schools and this plan provides that relief. Mr. Merchant said staff did present a option that allowed many of the Mint Hill students to attend the new high school but he heard the majority of the community say they wanted the Mint Hill students to stay together and this plan keeps those students together. Mr. Merchant said in reality there should be two new high schools opening in that area. Mr. Merchant said this is not his first choice but he will support the recommendation because it does keep the town together.
- Chairperson Griffin thanked staff for their incredible work in listening to the Board and the community, and developing a variety of options. Chairperson Griffin thanked the Board for being communicative and cooperative throughout the process. She said the Board has worked hard in trying to find the best answer. The Board is listening to the community but there have been many different opinions and ten different messages. Chairperson Griffin thanked staff, the Board, and the citizens for their hard work. She hopes this decision will show that the Board did its best to create logical boundaries that would work for all students in CMS.

The Board voted 6-3 on the original motion as amended and the motion passed. Chairperson Griffin, Mr. White, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Mitchell-Walker, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Tate voted in support of the motion. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted against the motion.

B. Recommend approval for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education to lease instructional space at 817 Hamilton Street, Charlotte, North Carolina

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to present the recommendation. Dr. Gorman called upon Mike Raible, Executive Director for Planning and Project Management, and Dennis LaCaria, Facilities Planning Specialist, to present the recommendation. Mr. Raible said for several years CMS has leased space at Spirit Square for Northwest School of the Arts. That lease expired this year and CMS was given an opportunity to renew the lease but it is on a year-to-year basis. CMS has found a new space at North Carolina Music Factory at the same cost of the space at Spirit Square and it provides dedicated space for classrooms and offices, two art studios, a subdividable dance studio, music and choral spaces, and free parking. The current facility for Northwest School of the Arts at Spirit Square no longer fully meets the needs of the student population. There is limited display and performance space for the students, there are student safety issues, and staff had to pay for parking. The proposed space located at 817 Hamilton Street, will expand display and performance opportunities for students and provide greater safety and parking for staff. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will pay to landlord an annual base rent of \$112,500.00 for the first year with subsequent increase of 3%

each year effective August 25, 2010. The term of the lease is August 25, 2009 through July 1, 2014.

Mr. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board approve the recommendation to lease instructional space at 817 Hamilton Street, Charlotte, North Carolina, and a discussion followed.

- Mr. Ross asked if CMS would have to share the space with anyone else? Mr. LaCaria said CMS has its own dedicated space and it has a dedicated, secure entrance for staff and students. Mr. Ross hopes the space can be used for others to practice.
- Mr. Tate thanked staff for finding this location. He has visited the facility and believes it will be a wonderful opportunity for the students to be close to working artists and performers.
- Mr. Merchant agreed with Mr. Tate and believes it is great that staff found a location that has working young artists with energy and creativity. Mr. Merchant believes this is an awesome opportunity for the students.

The Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.

V. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Opening of Schools for the 2009-2010 School Year

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman called upon Tyler Ream, Chief of Staff, to present the report on Opening of Schools.

Mr. Ream provided the Board with a brief update regarding the district's progress towards opening of school on August 25th. The report included student enrollment, staffing, transportation, and notable areas pertinent to the first day and week of school for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Ream said CMS is coming off one of the most successful and challenging years in recent memory and this year expects to be no different. When the school doors open on August 25th our expectation will be at an all time high. Budget shortfall or no budget shortfall our responsibility is to make certain that all our students are learning at the highest level possible. The team to ensure a successful school opening includes sixty members from thirty-one departments. This is a six month process that includes over six hundred deliverables which require completion in order to ensure an effective opening. Mr. Ream reviewed the key predictors of student enrollment, facilities, staffing, and transportation.

- Projected enrollment: 134,446 students in grades K-12 and an additional 3,200 students in Pre-K Programs.
 - The enrollment numbers may rise over the next two weeks and then drop off on the first day of school. Students who do not attend the first day of school are deactivated but not dropped. An enrolled student cannot be considered assigned until they actually report to school.
 - The enrollment number typically rises steadily over the first ten days of the school year. While the first day count is an indicator of enrollment decisions regarding staff assignments, resources, and other enrollment dependent factors are usually not made until after the 10th or 20th day of school.
 - CMS staff has processed 5,300 transfer requests to date.

- School facilities: 179 schools (including new schools scheduled to open).
 - Opening six new schools and one replacement school.
 - 968 mobile classrooms in service.
 - Took 300 mobiles out of service.
 - Permanently took twenty-two mobiles out of service.
 - New Schools: All locations are on time (many ahead of schedule) within budget.
 - Berewick Elementary School: West Learning Community, 7:30 a.m. start, 39 classrooms, 479 students, Cheryl Turner, principal.
 - Ridge Road Middle School: Northeast Learning Community, 8:00 a.m. start, 54 classrooms, 831 students, Jametta Martin-Tanner, principal.
 - River Gate Elementary School: West Learning Community, 8:30 a.m., 39 classrooms, 684 students, Aquanetta Edmonds, principal.
 - River Oaks Academy: West Learning Community, 8:30 a.m., 39 classrooms, 508 students, Marilyn Osborne, principal.
 - Stoney Creek Elementary School: Northeast Learning Community, 7:30 a.m. start, 39 classrooms, 629 students, Gina Smith, principal.
 - Whitewater Middle School: West Learning Community, 8:45 a.m., 54 classrooms, 520 students, Stephanie Wade, principal.
 - Reopening new Long Creek Elementary School (located to the old campus).
 - Major renovations completed this summer:
 - Alexander Graham Middle School.
 - Harding University High School.
 - North Mecklenburg High School.
 - Sedgefield Middle School.
 - South Mecklenburg High School.
- Employees/Staffing:
 - 18,077 employees (19,064 in 2008).
 - 9,492 Teachers/Instructional staff (10,013 in 2008).
 - 8,059 Non-Instructional/Support staff (8,491 in 2008).
 - Administrative:
 - 411 Principals and Assistant Principals (445 in 2008).
 - 8 New Leaders for New Schools (new program).
 - 106 Senior Managers and above (115 in 2008).
 - 333.5 District Vacancies:
 - 144.5 Instructional vacancies (31 candidates in process).
 - 73 vacancies in the critical needs areas of Math, Science, Foreign Language, and English as a Second Language.
 - 4 vacancies in Alternative Education.
 - Two vacant principal positions and three vacant assistant principal positions.
 - 182.05 Non-Instructional vacancies.
 - Bus Drivers: 0 vacancies - CMS has a full team of bus drivers.
- Transportation: Several significant changes in 2009.
 - Initiated additional consolidated stops in neighborhoods.
 - Consolidated buses for Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology and Harding University High School.
 - Bell schedule adjustments at Northwest School of the Arts and J. T. Williams Middle School.

- Elimination of grandfathered transportation (approximately 500 students).
- Elimination of transportation services as a result of recent audit (approximately 2,500 students).
- Transportation services this year compared to last year:
 - Decrease in students assigned from 112,000 to 111,000.
 - Decrease in total bus stops from 37,000 to 26,000.
 - Decrease in total bus runs from 5,975 to 5,643.
 - Decrease in total routes or buses from 1,255 to 1,155.
 - Decrease in average daily miles from 140,000 to 129,000.
 - Increase in average walk distance to bus stop from .07 to .12.
- Dry runs are scheduled August 17th through August 21st.
- Areas of Special Note:
 - Areas that are typically monitored during the first few weeks of school include scheduling, bus efficiency, immunizations, and text book deliveries.
 - H1N1 monitoring.
 - Call Center and Information Hotline: Telephone number 980.343.6192.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Ms. Mitchell-Walker asked clarifying questions regarding the number of buses and students involved in the consolidation of buses at Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology and Harding University High School. Staff will provide that information at a later time.
- Mr. Merchant asked did the teacher layoffs impact the vacancies in the critical needs areas and is there an existing pool of teachers for those vacancies? Dr. Gorman said the critical needs areas would not have been affected by layoffs if the teacher had an at-standard performance evaluation and there is not an existing pool of teachers to fill those areas. Mr. Merchant asked beyond sharing and posting information about H1N1, does CMS have a comprehensive plan that will be ready to execute? Barbara Pellin, Assistant Superintendent for Pre-K-12 Support Programs, said CMS has a H1N1 plan that includes members from all departments to discuss how to communicate, what to do with that communication, and involvement of students and families. Dr. Gorman said this issue also involves Mecklenburg County Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and CMS has received direction from the CDC. The CMS Website has a H1N1 section to provide information to staff and the community. Mr. Merchant said our top priorities are education, health, and safety. He hopes staff will take measures beyond monitoring and sending out information to ensure learning continues should a school need to close. Dr. Gorman said this is a part of the plan and it will be rolled out in the near future. The CDC is now not recommending closing schools except in real drastic cases so that the learning piece will not stop.
- Mr. Tate said does staff think the projected increase in student enrollment includes students who may have attended other schools last year and they are not going to those other schools this year? Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement Services, said the economy has had an impact on school enrollment from a variety of different standpoints. The final enrollment numbers will be determined until the first day of school and on tenth day of school. CMS will have some students returning from private schools and other schools. Mr. McCully said a significant factor in the decrease in students in kindergarten is the change in enrollment requirements in which a student must be five on

or before August 31st as opposed to October 16th. Mr. Tate asked do the teacher vacancies have any correlation to the number of teachers that are being rehired? Dr. Gorman said they are unrelated and this is a normal process of staff fluctuations two weeks before school opening. Dr. Gorman said additional information will be provided in the upcoming Budget report.

- Chairperson Griffin thanked staff for the report.

B. Report on Summer School 2009

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman called upon Ann Clark, Chief Academic Officer, and Ann Marie Clinton, Director Extended Day Programs, to present the report on Summer School 2009. Dr. Gorman said this was not the typical Summer School year compared to previous years because the Summer School Program was cut greatly as a result of the budget reductions at the State level. Ms. Clark said CMS did have a limited Summer School Program that was strictly focused on the high schools. There was State Board action that essentially eliminated Retest 2 in grades 3rd through 8th. CMS students in elementary and middle school were given an opportunity to take Retest 1 before the end of school and those students were advised of their promotion/retention in June rather than waiting until after Retest 2 and Summer School which typically has been the case. CMS did provide a number of extended learning opportunities offered for schools in Reading and Math, particularly in Title I schools. CMS also had Camp Invention in Title 1 schools and other schools. In each Learning Community there was an After School Enrichment Program available. Most of the Summer School activities were focused on the four programs: High School Graduation on Time, High School Gateway Remediation, English 1 New Coursework, and Exceptional Children Extended School Year. Ms. Clark called upon Ms. Clinton to provide an overview of the 2009 Summer School Programs. Ms. Clinton provided information regarding the number of programs offered, number of students served, budget, and results of the End-of-Course Retest administered at the end of the Summer School.

Summer School Overview:

- Organized through the Extended Day/Year Program Office.
- Served over 1,200 students during summer 2009.
- Four Programs offered:
 - High School Graduate on Time
 - High School Gateway Remediation.
 - English I New Coursework.
 - Exceptional Children Extended School Year.
- Budget:

2008-2009 Summer School Budget	
Graduate on Time and English I Program	\$ 565,598
High School Gateway	\$ 853,325
Extended Year – Exceptional Children	\$ 168,413
Transportation	\$ 462,000
Retention Review Committee	\$ 12,000
Curriculum Materials/Supplies	\$ 101,419
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,162,755

- Goals, Objectives, and Measures:

- Mission: Provide academic support for students and assist students in meeting promotion and graduation requirements.
- Offered four programs for students through Extended Day/Year Program Office.
- English I New Coursework Program targeted the students who had not previously taken English I during their 9th grade year.
- High School Gateway provided intensive remediation for students who passed a high School Gateway course but did not meet the Gateway standard of a Level III or IV on the End-of-Course test.
- High School Graduation on Time was designed for seniors who need to complete on new course or two repeat courses to graduate. Students graduate at the end of the summer with their appropriate class.
- Exceptional Children Extended School Year provides continuing support to students with special needs in two models: Itinerant Service Model and Site-Based Model.
- Major Initiatives:
 - North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS): Provides over seventy-two online courses and credit recovery opportunities for students.
 - Credit Recovery Program: Offered through North Carolina Virtual Public School for students who failed a course and/or did not pass the End-of-Course exam.
- Results:
 - 442 students graduated at the end of Summer School.
 - 723 students participated in Gateway Remediation courses. 317 students were successful making a Level III or IV on the test.
 - 130 students received first time instruction in English I. 108 students sat for the exam and 68 passed (63% pass rate).
 - 487 students enrolled in online courses offered through North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS).
 - 137 students participated in the Exceptional Children Extended School Year Program.
- Next steps:
 - Continue evaluation of programs.
 - Options for future Summer School Programs may include Dropout Prevention, Transition Programs for Elementary and Middle School Students, and Graduate-on-Time program.

Ms. Clark said additional information will be provided in the upcoming report on the Budget and CMS is awaiting information from the Department of Public Instruction to load the budgets for the schools systems and that will determine future cuts to the CMS programs. The Summer School and Extended Day funds have been restricted and staff anticipates fewer dollars in this area for next year and that the State will continue with the elimination of the Retest 2.

Board members were invited to make comments and ask questions.

- Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the number of High School Gateway courses students could take, what happens to the students who do not pass the Gateway test. Ms. Clark responded.
- Chairperson Griffin said she attended the Summer High School Graduations and it was a wonderful celebration of their success in high school.

C. Report/Update on Budget Modifications for the 2009-2010 School Year

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report on Budget Modifications for the 2009-2010 School Year. Dr. Gorman called upon Ann Clark, Associate Superintendent for Pre-K-12 Curriculum and Instruction; Sheila Shirley, Chief Financial Officer; and Maurice Ambler, Chief Human Resources Officer, to be available to answer Board member questions.

Dr. Gorman said the information to be presented is estimates based upon the current information available because CMS has not received the final allotments from the State. Ms. Shirley and her team do their best to determine approximate numbers but that information will not be finalized until CMS has received the exact numbers from the State. This is the proposed 2009-2010 Budget as adopted by the Board to be presented to the Board County Commissioners.

2009-2010 Proposed Budget:

State Reductions – 5% of Budget	\$35.7 million	
County Reductions – to cover growth, sustaining operations, and new initiatives	\$15.4 million	
Total Reductions in Proposed Budget Request		\$51.1 million*
Potential Budget Reduction Options Tiers 1 – 4		\$35.1 million**
Total Targeted Budget Reductions		\$86.2 million

* Reduction intended to be adequate to cover sustaining operations, growth/new schools and new initiatives resulting in a flat County budget request.

** Adequate to cover a full 10% reduction in County base budget. Note: County requested CMS identify options for a 10% reduction.

Dr. Gorman said the four tiers include classroom teachers and staffing changes in ratios which was not included in the first \$51 million. The State Human Resources requirements for employees do not align with the budget timeline and that makes it more difficult for the CMS employees who are being impacted by cuts, the staff that are working on the cuts, and the Board to make timely and appropriate decisions. CMS must notify administrators by May 1st and teachers and support staff by June 15th. This time frame also creates complications for those positions that have a right to an appeal hearing before the Board. Dr. Gorman said on June 23rd, staff presented to the Board a best case scenario with a Tier 5 (\$13 million) for a total budget reduction of \$99.2 million and a worse case scenario for budget reductions with a Tier 5 and Tier 6 (\$33.4 million) for a total reduction of \$119.6 million. On July 28th, staff operationalized parts of Tiers 5 and Tier 6 in for total reductions in the amount of \$14 .8 million. Staff has followed the strategy of planning for the worst and hoping for the best. This year, the budget process has ebbed and flowed. At this point, the final state budget has been approved and signed by the Governor. The financial impact appears better than expected due to a tax increase that has generated additional revenues. This is estimated to spare CMS approximately \$20.6 million in cuts. CMS should receive its allotments from the Department of Public Instruction in approximately ten days and that will help determine the exact amount of State reductions for CMS. The State’s budget did not include a salary increase, the retirement rate was slightly higher than expected, and the State ABC Bonus funding was eliminated.

Dr. Gorman reviewed the proposed 2009-2010 Budget based upon the most recent information.

State Reduction per approved Budget		\$32.8 million
County Reduction per Board of County Commission's approval		\$34.0 million
County increase for Sustaining Operations, Growth, and New Initiatives		\$15.4 million
Additional adjustments:		
Local Salary and Benefit Adjustment		(\$ 1.8 million)
State Salary and Benefit Adjustment		\$ 7.4 million
State ABC Bonus Reduction		\$ 7.6 million
Reductions Required		\$ 95.4 million
Proposed Budget Reductions	\$ 51.1 million	
Budget Reduction Options (Tiers 1-4)	\$ 35.1 million	
Additional Budget Reductions (Tier 5 and 6)	\$ 14.8 million	
State Salary and Benefit Adjustment	\$ 7.4 million	
State ABC Bonus Reduction	\$ 7.6 million	
Total Identified Budget Reductions		\$116.0 million
Reductions Over (Under)		\$ 20.6 million

Dr. Gorman reviewed the recommendation for Budget modifications or items to be reinstated from the \$20.6 million at this time.

Reinstate 286 teacher-level positions	\$ 13.8 million
Reinstate high school counselors positions (Tier 6)	\$.7 million
Reinstate high school secretary positions (Tier 6)	\$.4 million
State Technology to offset state reduction	\$.9 million
Textbooks for 2010-2011 funding reduction (\$9.0 million)	\$ 4.8 million

The recommendation to the Board is to use about \$13.8 million to restore teacher-level positions in the budget and to set aside about \$4.8 million for textbooks next year when we expect no state funding for new books. The remaining \$2 million will be used to reinstate some counselor and secretary positions in high schools and to offset the state reduction in money for technology. The focus of the recommendation is to restore teacher-level positions because that will most directly affect student achievement. Textbooks are also important and we want to be ready for the budget reduction on textbooks next year.

Dr. Gorman reviewed the teacher eligibility process for rehire for career-teachers, non-career teachers, retired teachers (not eligible for rehire if receiving retirement benefits), and part-time teachers (eligible for rehire as full-time teacher only). Dr. Gorman reviewed the impact of the stimulus dollars for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Title I	\$ 12,301,591 *
IDEA VI-B	\$ 15,452,591 *
IDEA Preschool	\$ 607,879 *
State Fiscal Stabilization Funding	\$ 33,695,609 **

- * Amounts represent one-half of the total ARRA funding to be received.
- ** Funds were used to offset the State's non-instructional support reduction.

Dr. Gorman expressed concern that the ARRA funding could result in a funding cliff because the ARRA funding will be exhausted by the 2011-2012 school year. It is not known if funding for ongoing expenditures will be available to replace the ARRA funding which is estimated at approximately \$46.6 million.

Dr. Gorman said staff will need to bring a final budget recommendation before the Board for adoption but that budget cannot be finalized until CMS receives the final allotments from the State. Dr. Gorman would like direction from the Board tonight that they are in support of this proposed recommendation for reinstating items in the budget. He hopes staff will be given the direction of aggressively rehiring teachers as well as counselors and secretaries at the high school level. This will be a first step in moving forward. Dr. Gorman said staff planned for the worst and hoped for the best. He would have never believed that cuts of this magnitude would be considered the best. Dr. Gorman said he was thankful that the budget picture has improved slightly and is very concerned about the major reductions.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Mr. Ross said Smartboards are a valuable tool and he is happy they will be allocated in the budget.
- Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the original proposed budget included funding for a salary increase and ABC Bonus and those dollars are being reinstated to the budget for approximately \$15 million. Ms. Shirley said that is correct and explained the reinstatement of those funds. Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the funding for the textbooks. Ms. Clark said textbooks are funded by State dollars and Local dollars and she explained the textbook allocation and textbook adoption. Mr. Merchant said he is happy that CMS is rehiring teachers. He expressed concern that the technology allotment is only for \$900,000 and the potential funding cliff because he believes capital expenditures on technology lasts longer. Dr. Gorman said staff will continue to make technology purchases and attempted to allow for technology purchases this year to prep for the funding cliff. At this point, the focus and desire is to bring back classroom teachers because they will have a positive impact on students even if it is only for two years. Dr. Gorman said at some point CMS will have to address the others items that impact the classroom such as operational, classroom support. Teachers are important but the Board will have to address redirecting dollars for technology. Staff implemented initiatives this year in the high schools so that teachers could teach classes across schools to prep for the poor budget. Ms. Clark said CMS purchased Video Conferencing equipment for all the high schools that did not have that capability and that is now available in all high schools in the district. Video Conferencing is particularly being used in foreign languages, math, and some Advanced Placement courses. Mr. Merchant said CMS not rehiring retired teachers is a result of the State sunset clause. Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the allotment of the \$34 million State Stabilization funding. Ms. Shirley said at this time we expect that is this year's allotment. Mr. Merchant expressed concern that this may result in more than just a two year funding cliff.
- Mr. Gauvreau expressed concern that staff is following the same track that they always follow and this is a game of how the superintendents in large school districts do business.

He shared his concerns regarding the CMS budgeting process with the State and County; reinflating the bubble; over spending the public's resources over the last decade, and being over staffed. He encouraged the Board to reengineer the school system to drive better performance, reduce costs, and increase value to citizens. CMS should focus on academically preparing students. Mr. Gauvreau said this is a management issue and he urged Dr. Gorman to properly direct resources that are available. Dr. Gorman said he is proud of the growth that the CMS teachers have achieved and he is happy that CMS is able to rehire some teachers. CMS has made strides in growth over the last three years and that is a result of teachers, principals, assistant principals, and teacher assistants doing a great job. He wants them back on the job, wants that done quickly, and to see CMS move forward in more students achieving growth. He has data to show student growth and that was achieved by great teachers.

- Mr. White said he would support Dr. Gorman's recommendation. He is happy that CMS is rehiring staff but he is more concerned with the quality of the staff being rehired and the utilization of the people being rehired. He wants to ensure the quality and the utilization has a positive impact on student achievement.
- Mr. Tate said he would support rehiring teachers. He expressed concern that this does not include support staff such as additional social workers. Those teams of people are effective in contributing to student growth because they deal with the other types of needs that many students deal with on a daily basis. Ms. Clark reviewed the decision to be strategic regarding the positions being reinstated which focus on the classroom. There is an opportunity to review in the early weeks of school an implementation of the new Student Support Service model in which social workers will be assigned to the Learning Communities and area superintendents will have the opportunity to evaluate student needs and to strategically use those social workers. Mr. Tate stressed the importance of dealing with some of the other needs that students bring to school because otherwise that may negatively impact the effectiveness of the teacher on student learning. Mr. Tate asked when will the budget be presented to the Board for adoption? Ms. Shirley said this would depend upon when CMS receives the allotments from the State and hopefully that will be by the next meeting.
- Mr. Merchant said he would support staff's recommendation. This is a management issue with many moving parts and CMS has done a good job meeting the statutory, State, and local requirements. This process has included difficult choices for CMS, the State, and County. He supports rehiring teachers and he encouraged the adults in the schools to step to the plate to do more. He encouraged the Board to develop a comprehensive actionable strategy to deal the potential of a future funding cliff as well as not building schools with the building freeze, an increase in the number of students, and the paradigm shift that is taking place. He encouraged CMS to be ahead of the curve rather than reacting to catch up. He wants to ensure CMS uses technology to leverage its talent and to find different methods to deliver education.
- Mr. Gauvreau shared his concerns regarding the budget process and blaming the economy because the financial peril happened two years ago. He said CMS is over staffed and until that is addressed CMS is not changing and will continue down the same path. CMS has dug a huge financial hole over the years and the Board should not blame the Board of County Commissioners for not giving CMS enough money.
- Ms. McGarry expressed concern regarding the budget reductions in campus security in view of the CMS Crime Report that included 167 assaults on teachers and staff. She asked

what is the plan to help alleviate the infiltration of discipline and crime at the schools? Dr. Gorman said CMS still has campus associates, administrators, and we expect teachers to monitor the halls and classrooms. The Board has previously received information on the process regarding school security.

- Ms. Mitchell-Walker said she likes the fact that CMS will rehire 286 teachers. She encouraged that this focus on reinstating the teachers with the highest performance and not the most popular teachers.
- Chairperson Griffin said she generally supports the direction that staff is following. She hopes there will be flexibility built in to give schools some choice because some schools need different items more than others. Dr. Gorman said schools already have flexibility to go through the exchange process and there is a group of schools participating in a pilot in which they have complete exchange authority as a part of strategic staffing. Dr. Gorman said CMS must provide the State a report for the items that are reinstated. Chairperson Griffin encouraged the Board and CMS, as an added incentive during tough economic times, to work together with the County and the City regarding the Human Services Plan because this will be an opportunity to fill in some financial gaps by taking a cooperative approach.

Dr. Gorman said he believes he has gotten general direction from the Board to move in this direction and to include some flexibility so that sites can adapt.

VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gorman said he did not have a report to present.

VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Tate said while the Policy Committee is considering several policies including the direction of the Equity Committee, the Equity Committee continues to meet. The Equity Committee is focused on a variety of activities and he will provide the Board a copy of their procedures and timelines for how they plan to conduct their work this year and, if they continue to meet, how they will work in subsequent years. The Equity Committee has worked hard the beginning of this year to develop a process for their projects and they have asked that this be communicated to the Board members. Mr. Tate will provide this information to the Board this week via their mail packets.

Kaye McGarry will hold her monthly meeting “Kaye About Town” on Friday August 21st from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Starbucks at Northlake Mall Commons (Exit 18 off I-77) and she will be available to discuss school related issues and to answer questions regarding CMS. She said regarding the Mint Hill School boundaries, as this Board moves forward they must be more transparent in this community to cement partnerships. She expressed her concerns regarding the Board’s boundary discussions and decisions and its impact on the community of Mint Hill. She believes the families of Mint Hill will make it work and they will join the families at Independence High School to make it the best school in the country.

Joe White said this year has been a very challenging year for the budget as well as the emotional issue of student assignment. He thanked and commended the Superintendent and his staff for their hard work in dealing with the issues of the budget and student assignment.

James Ross invited everyone to join him at the Prime Restaurant at Billy Graham Parkway and I-85 on Wednesday, August 12th at 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. He will meet with Dr. Dixon, principal at J. T. Williams Middle School, and a group of gentlemen who will be mentoring and buying supplies for J. T. Williams Middle School.

Kimberly Mitchell-Walker thanked CMS staff and the police department for assisting to control an incident that occurred at West Charlotte High School on Saturday. She thanked them for their quick response and their ongoing assistance to deter future incidents.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Merchant moved that the Board adjourn the Regular Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Tate, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Molly B. Griffin, Chairperson

Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board