

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
November 10, 2009
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

September 22, 2009

**REGULAR MEETING
of the**

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on September 22, 2009. The meeting began at 4:30 p.m. and was held in 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);
Kimberly Mitchell-Walker (District 2);
James Ross (District 3);
Tom Tate (District 4); and

Absent: Kaye McGarry, Vice-Chairperson, Member At-Large, and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; André F. Mayes, Acting General Counsel/Deputy General Counsel; Hugh Hattabaugh, Chief Operating Officer; 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 a pending litigation matter regarding *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education v. Earl Chronister (08-CVS-77785)*, *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education v. Margaret Chronister (08-CVS-7786)*, and *Sugar Creek Charter School, et al. v. State of North Carolina, County of Mecklenburg, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, et al.*; and**
- **To consider a personnel matter.**

The motion was made pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

The Board held a Closed Session meeting from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Chairperson Griffin reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 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 6:00 p.m. Chairperson Griffin welcomed everyone to the Board's second meeting of the month. She said this meeting is typically held in Room 267 but it is being held in the Meeting Chamber because the Board anticipated a large crowd regarding the boundary discussion. Chairperson Griffin said the Board appreciates the passion the parents have for their children and their schools. She reminded the audience that this is the Board's business meeting and she encouraged everyone to act accordingly. She noted that anyone who cannot abide by meeting protocol would be asked to leave the meeting.

A. Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson Griffin asked the Board to add an Action Item to the agenda as a result of business in Closed Session.

Add Action Item III. C. Recommend approval to amendment to Dr. Gorman's employment contract to extend by one year ending June 30, 2013.

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

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

II. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Recommend approval of a permanent construction easement on Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education property located at 3101 Wilkinson Boulevard to the City of Charlotte.

The City of Charlotte is requesting a 413 square foot permanent construction easement on Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education property located at 3101 Wilkinson Boulevard (tax parcel number 117-052-01. The property is the Wilkinson bus parking location. The easement area is needed to provide a site for bench and/or shelter which is part of the city's CATS West Corridor Enhanced Bus Stop Project. The proposed construction will not impair the parking of school buses. The City of Charlotte will pay Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education \$1.00 for the permanent easement area.

B. Bond Oversight Committee:

1. Recommend approval of one citizen appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee by District 6 Board member.

Ken Gjertsen, District 6 Board member, recommended the appointment of David Knoble as the District 6 representative to the Bond Oversight Committee to serve a three-year term ending September 30, 2012. Mr. Knoble is currently serving a partial term ending September 30, 2009.

2. Recommend approval of one citizen appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee by District 2 Board member.

Kimberly Mitchell-Walker, District 2 Board member, recommended the appointment of Cynthia McCullough as the District 2 representative to the Bond Oversight Committee to serve a three-year term beginning September 30, 2009 and ending September 30, 2012. This is Ms. McCullough first appointment to the committee.

- C. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.

Appointments:

- *Troy Moore named principal at Hawk Ridge Elementary School. Mr. Moore previously served as assistant principal at South Charlotte Middle School.*

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

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

III. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of a citizen appointment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority

Chairperson Griffin said this item is the Board's citizen appointment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority. Staff has followed the proper procedures for posting the availability of the position and that process included placing an ad in the *Charlotte Observer*. Before the Board for consideration is Patty Perkins who is currently serving a three-year term that expired June 30, 2009. This would be Ms. Perkins second three-year term ending June 30, 2012. Ms. Perkins is eligible for reappointment and has met the attendance guidelines. WBTVI supports the reappointment of Ms. Perkins and there were no other applications for this position.

Chairperson Griffin called for nominations for the citizen appointment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority.

Mr. White moved to reappoint Patty Perkins as the citizen appointment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority to serve a three-year term ending June 30, 2012, seconded by Mr. Tate, and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.

- B. Recommend approval of adoption of the 2009-2010 Proposed CMS Goals and 2009-2010 Individual Goals of the Superintendent

Chairperson Griffin said this is the adoption of the 2009-2010 Proposed CMS Goals and 2009-2010 Individual Goals of the Superintendent. Each year the Board is asked to adopt proposed

CMS goals and proposed Individual Goals both in the fulfillment of the evaluation form and requirements of the employment contract for Dr. Gorman, in particular Section 11 entitled "Performance Evaluation." The proposed 2009-2010 CMS Goals are the same as the prior year with a change in the growth target from 80.8 to 82. The proposed 2009-2010 Individual Goals are the same as the prior year, achievement of *Strategic Plan 2010* Goals. The document entitled "Superintendent Evaluation Criteria" will be made a part of the September 22, 2009 Regular Board meeting file.

Chairperson Griffin called for motion to adopt the 2009-2010 proposed CMS Goals and 2009-2010 Individual Goals of the Superintendent.

Mr. White moved, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the Board adopt the 2009-2010 Proposed CMS Goals and 2009-2010 Individual Goals of the Superintendent, and a discussion followed.

- Mr. Gauvreau said he would oppose both items as he has in the past. The goals are growth goals and are not substantial enough. This Board has an obligation to the public to ensure the goals are strengthened. Most people do not believe the State ABC process has validity but this ties performance goals and the CMS accountability on what we consider to be growth of our students in the school system. This is a mistake and has been a mistake for decades. Mr. Gauvreau said he does not believe the Superintendent should be concerned about growth and should be focused on bigger items. He encouraged the Board, and the future Boards, to be transformational and to focus on serious substantive measurements for the performance of the Superintendent and the Board itself. He said 50,000 students in CMS are still not reading and these growth goals are not changing that data.
- Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the proposed growth target measurements/goals and he noted that the proposed goals were aligned with the goals that the Board adopted. Dr. Gorman said Accountability staff has developed a scale based upon the State ABCs process that is equivalent to approximately 1.2 years of average growth for our students.
- Chairperson Griffin said last year's goal was for one year and one month and this year's goal is for one year and two months. She believes growth is an appropriate measurement to judge the Superintendent. We want our students to continue to grow in academic achievement across the district and she cannot think of any other goal that would be more appropriate.
- Mr. Gauvreau said the growth increments are so marginal and meaningless that nothing ever changes. Mr. Gauvreau continued to discuss his opposition to this item; he believes the State ABCs had low cut scores for years, and the established targets are not good metrics.
- Mr. Merchant noted that the goals are not percentages but an indexed number on a scale and 80.0 indicates one year of expected growth for a particular student when dropped in any school in the state of North Carolina. Mr. Merchant believes the goals are good goals. He is also concerned about the gap. The results are showing that the bottom is exceeding the growth goal but the top is exceeding the growth goal even faster. This means the high flyers are excelling and the low performers are doing a good job. He believes this is on the right track and he encouraged everyone to get the facts before making comments.
- Mr. Gauvreau wanted to speak to this item again and Ms. Griffin informed Mr. Gauvreau that he had already spoken to this item two times.

The Board voted 8-1 in support of the motion. Chairperson Griffin, Ms. McGarry, Mr. White, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Mitchell-Walker, Mr. Ross, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the motion. Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

- C. Recommend approval to amendment to Dr. Gorman's employment contract to extend by one year ending June 30, 2013

Chairperson Griffin called upon Mr. Merchant to present the motion.

Mr. Merchant moved that the Board of Education hereby modify the employment contract and where applicable, any amendments to the original contract of Dr. Peter C. Gorman in the following manner: to change the ending date that appears in Section 4, entitled "Term" to June 30, 2013, seconded by Mr. White, and a discussion followed.

- Mr. Gauvreau said he would oppose this item again for the third or fourth year to add another year or extend a contract for a paid employee of this Board. He does not believe anyone requires or deserves a one-year contract. He expressed concern that some Boards do this routinely because they are afraid of the public outcry; this is not a performance based contract; and nobody needs anything more than a one-year contract because it puts the County and the public at financial risk. He encouraged future Boards to review this item more seriously than the current Board has over the years. He does not believe it is in the public's best interest to extend this contract and he will vote "no" again.

The Board voted 8-1 in support of the motion. Chairperson Griffin, Ms. McGarry, Mr. White, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Mitchell-Walker, Mr. Ross, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the motion. Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

IV. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Report on Proposed Overcrowding Relief Options for the 2010-2011 School Year

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman said this report will be presented in a different format than previous reports. The report will be divided into two proposed boundary sections (East Mecklenburg/Myers Park high schools and Eastover Elementary). He will call upon several staff members to review the options and answer questions. The report is being video taped and it will be posted on the CMS website effective tomorrow. Dr. Gorman called upon Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement Services, to present the boundary options; Dennis LaCaria, Facilities Planning Specialist, and Mike Raible, Executive Director for Planning and Project Management, to address facilities and facilities capacity; Ann Clark, Chief Academic Officer, to address Curriculum and Instruction; Nancy Bartles, Area Superintendent for the East Learning Community; and Dr. Jeff Linker, Director of Magnet Schools, to answer questions related to Magnet Schools.

Mr. McCully said this is the first step of several steps and these are the initial boundary options developed for East Mecklenburg and Myers Park high schools and Eastover Elementary School. The community will have an opportunity to review the options and make comment. This process began shortly after the August 11, 2009 Regular Board meeting with the Board approval of the school boundaries for the new Mint Hill High School. That motion included direction to staff to expand consideration of the boundaries for East Mecklenburg

High School, Myers Park High School, and the feeders for both schools in an effort to increase the number of students at East Mecklenburg High School, decrease the number of students at Myers Park High School, and that a recommendation come back before the Board for approval in time for the enrollment process for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. McCully said the initial boundary options include the following four options:

- Option 1: Boundary change.
- Option 2: Modification of Myers Park High School IB Program.
- Option 3: Postpone until after the Board review of the student assignment guiding principles which most likely will take place next calendar year.
- Option 4: Postpone indefinitely until a new relief high school boundaries are drawn which would impact these two schools.

Mr. McCully said today, September 22, is the 20th day of school and our official enrollment count day. Effective tonight, staff will begin the process to review enrollment counts and update the data tables to reflect the official enrollment data for this school year. As a part of the data table presented with the staff recommendation for the new Mint Hill high school and associated boundary changes, the projected enrollment for East Mecklenburg for the 2010-2011 school year is 1,428. This projection is based on a 9th through 12th grade 20th day 2008 configuration without consideration of rising seniors who may opt to remain for their senior year (as adopted by Board). The students impacted reside in the Piney Grove and Crown Point (west) elementary zone feeders and they would be assigned to Butler High School. There are approximately 122 12th graders, based on the 20th day 2008 data, who live in this area and who would be assigned to Butler High School but would most likely opt to remain at East Mecklenburg High School.

Option 1: Boundary change:

Mr. McCully reviewed the impact on total enrollment, capacity utilization, and free and reduced priced lunch percentages of moving Cotswold Elementary feeder from Myers Park High School to East Mecklenburg High School. There are a total of 221 students (non-magnet, non self-contained Exceptional Children) of which 33% are on free or reduced priced lunch in the area reassigned. Mike Raible, Executive Director for Planning and Project Management, reviewed building capacity and utilization for the boundary recommendation which was based upon 10th day 2009-2010 data. Ann Clark, Chief Academic Officer, provided information regarding sustainability of a school consisting of approximately 1,500 students and the teacher impact. Ms. Clark said the high school schedule is driven by students' interest and demand for specific courses. Whether a high school has 1,500 students or 3,000 students, there will be courses that are undersubscribed and a principal will be forced to make a decision whether that class will be offered. Ms. Clark said regardless of the size of the school, Career Technical Education (CTE) courses will stand and there will be an allocation of CTE teachers to support those pathways and graduation requirements. Ms. Clark discussed program options for a high school consisting of 1,500 students which included single gender classes, master schedule development, prioritizing/combining classes, stand-alone classes, and the flexibility of individual staff members is critical. Mr. McCully reviewed the impact of the recommendation based upon 2008-2009 student enrollment data. Enrollment for East Mecklenburg would be 1,663 students and the enrollment for Myers Park High School would be 2,540 students. The building capacity would be lower because of the teacher allocation and ratio applied to the total number of classrooms. The building capacity for East

Mecklenburg would be 1,252 and utilization without mobiles would be 133%. The building capacity for Myers Park High School would be 1,818 and utilization without mobiles would be 140%. Mr. McCully reviewed the impact on achievement data for Levels I, II, III, and IV which reflected very little change. To align the current middle school boundaries with the high school option would affect the Alexander Graham and McClintock middle school boundaries. The Cotswold area would be assigned to McClintock Middle School.

Option 2: Modification of Myers Park IB Program:

Mr. McCully reviewed options to the Myers Park IB Program as follows:

Option A:

- For 2010-2011 school year, assign all Myers Park IB students in the home-school feeder of Ardrey Kell and South Mecklenburg to East Mecklenburg IB while assigning IB students from E. E. Waddell and Olympic to Harding University IB. Rising 11th and 12th grade students currently enrolled in the program may remain without transportation and sibling guarantee.
- Students living in the Myers Park attendance area remain at Myers Park IB Program.
- Transportation provided to the new IB school.
- No option for current students to stay at Myers Park IB if outside the Myers Park attendance area and no sibling guarantee.

Option B:

- For 2010-11 school year, assign all students in the Blue transportation feeder, other than Myers Park, to East Mecklenburg IB. Rising 11th and 12th grader students currently enrolled in the program may remain without transportation and sibling guarantee.
- Transportation provided to the new IB school assignment.
- No option for current students to stay at Myers Park IB if outside the Myers Park attendance area and no sibling guarantee.

Option C:

- For 2010-11 school year, assign all IB students including those who live in the attendance area from Myers Park, to East Meck IB. Rising 11th and 12th graders currently enrolled in the program may remain without transportation and sibling guarantee. This effectively closes the program.
- Transportation provided to the new IB school assignment.
- No option for current students to stay at Myers Park IB or Myers Park attendance if outside the attendance area and no sibling guarantee.
- Financial implication: The elimination of the IB program at Myers Park would result in the authorization status of Randolph IB being removed necessitating them to undergo a reauthorization process. The financial implications of authorization fees and training required of staff would be approximately \$25,000 to achieve re-authorization as a stand-alone program.

Option 3: Postpone until after review of the Guiding Principles:

Mr. McCully said during the boundary process this past spring and summer, the Board expressed interest in reviewing the student assignment Guiding Principles approved by Board

resolution in March 2005. Assuming the review would start in winter 2010 (January, February, March) and concludes in spring, review of boundaries could start in summer 2010 with Board consideration in fall 2010. This would be a comprehensive review of the high, middle, and elementary school boundaries. If Board action is taken, boundary changes would be effective for the 2011-12 school year.

Option 4: Postpone until new high school opens:

Mr. McCully said in accordance to the Long Range Master Plan, a new high school for relief of Myers Park and West Charlotte high schools is planned and the boundaries for Myers Park and most likely East Mecklenburg will be affected by the opening of that new high school.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Ms. McGarry asked when is the relief high school scheduled to open? Mr. Raible said to comply with the cash flow originally proposed by County staff the earliest would be a 2013 Bond referendum and it takes approximately 2.5 years to construct a new high school. Ms. McGarry asked clarifying questions regarding building utilization, capacity, and classroom capacity. Mr. Raible reviewed classroom capacity, staffing formulas for student-teacher ratios, and the impact of free and reduced lunch percentages.
- Mr. Tate asked clarifying questions regarding projections for East Mecklenburg High School for the 2010-2011 school year if it were to remain the same as this year. Mr. Raible said the calculation would be based upon current ratio and that would equate to 88.15 teachers and 82 classrooms and the ratio would be the same at 17.74. Mr. Tate asked clarifying questions regarding the requirements for offering IB classes. Ms. Clark said a student must take a certain number of courses and prerequisite courses in the IB Program and the program also includes options for electives. Mr. Tate asked with a decrease in the number of teachers is there the potential of offering fewer IB classes? Ms. Clark said student demand for classes would drive the answer to that question. AP courses can be merged with an IB course such as U.S. History, math classes that are AP/IB, and some foreign languages. A school has a requirement to offer any and all courses required for graduation. Mr. Tate asked is it the contention of staff that Myers Park High School is not overcrowded? Mr. Raible said Myers Park is overcrowded and the highest high school on the list of capital needs is relief for Myers Park High School and West Charlotte High School. Mr. Tate asked if Myers Park is overcrowded and there is an opportunity to reduce students why is there the impression from staff that Myers Park works as long as it is under 3,500 students? Dennis LaCaria said there is no doubt that Myers Park "works" in the state that it is in and no one believes that is the ideal condition. In addition, no one believes that East Mecklenburg is in its ideal condition at this time. When a school is over 100% utilization there is a negative impact on teachers creating floating issues and doing planning periods elsewhere. Those are not ideal conditions but it works. Mr. Tate asked in the history of CMS, has a school lost 600 students in one year and was that successful? Mr. McCully said, yes, there have been several circumstances. North Mecklenburg High School, which at one time was the largest high school in the state with close to 3,200 students. When Mallard Creek opened it was reduced to approximately 2,500 students. When the new Bailey Road School opens in 2010-2011, North Mecklenburg will have approximately 1,700 to 1,800 students. South Mecklenburg High School had close to thirty mobiles prior to Ardrey Kell High School opening. Typically, when a new high school

opens it is a dire situation for the school being relieved and the process usually results in substantial relief to the existing school. This also is the case for middle and elementary schools as well. Mr. Tate expressed concern that the school will be relieved by the third school farthest away from the new school. Mr. McCully said this is a unique situation because there are four schools relatively close together with a high density of student enrollment population. There are relief needs throughout that area and staff went through a lengthy process in order to identify the best possible attendance zone to provide as much relief as possible to those three schools. The most needed relief was for Independence, Butler, and East Mecklenburg high schools.

- Mr. White said he did not have any questions but he did want to share his thoughts on these issues. He has a great concern about overcrowding. He does not believe Myers Park is at a crisis point at this time. Two or three years ago, he thought North Mecklenburg had almost reached that point but the Board knew a new high school would be coming soon. Knowing the situation, it is dangerous to sit and do nothing but wait on the new high school to be built because under the best conditions it may not happen until 2016, 2017, or 2018. Mr. White does not believe Option 4 is a viable option if you are truly concerned about overcrowding. Mr. White said the Board has approved grants from the Gates Foundation to fund a smaller school initiative and, therefore, he cannot believe we are killing East Mecklenburg by it being a smaller school or learning situation. He believes this may be an opportunity to take advantage of a smaller learning environment. Mr. White said regarding guiding principles, the Board has a set of Guiding Principles but not all Board members abide by them. He does not believe revising the Guiding Principles will be a "silver bullet" to make student assignment easy. For example, there is a Guiding Principle regarding stability but stability is only important to the people that are happy with their current school assignment. There is a Guiding Principle regarding proximity but there are people who live across the street from East Mecklenburg and they do not want to attend that school. There is also a Guiding Principle that states the Board will not address student assignment unless it is connected with opening a new school but that did not stop recent student assignment recommendations for South Mecklenburg High School. Mr. White does not believe there will be a set of Guiding Principles that will make it easy to serve the public and provide an attendance zone to make everyone happy. He said there are valid concerns but he is not sure he would support making boundary changes because it may not be the best step to take at this time. He hopes some of the issues can be solved by considering other options.
- Mr. Gauvreau said the Myers Park High School boundary is contiguous and compact but irregularly drawn. He expressed his concerns regarding the student assignment for the district, the baggage of the IB and Magnet programs, and the feeder patterns. He encouraged staff to also look at the southern portion of the Myers Park zone and not just the area closest to the high school. He would like the overcapacity at Myers Park fixed this year. He encouraged the Board to fix the bureaucracy of the boundaries; to do a student assignment redo; to bring in a national expert to provide input; and to use a common sense approach for boundaries that are compact, contiguous, and regularly drawn. He said the Myers Park boundary recommendation should include options for the southern portion of that zone because the people on Hwy 51 do not live in Myers Park. He believes there is valid reason to make shifts because a new school will not be built any time soon.
- Mr. Merchant said he has discussed the options with staff and he does not have any questions. He said regarding the number, anything beyond now is a projection. He thanked staff for doing their best based upon the numbers available at this time. He said basically

this boundary recommendation is a net change of 154 students and that does not get us anywhere. While Myers Park is overcrowded, it is not at the level in which the Board would typically take action to change boundaries. And if we did, East Mecklenburg may not have been the side in which the Board would have taken action. Mr. Merchant said he wanted to take a vote on this tonight but he was persuaded that these were options and the process to review the options should be followed. He said he would not vote for the Cotswold Elementary School boundary shift because it is not the right thing to do. He encouraged the Board to not consider that option any further. Mr. Merchant commended the CMS staff for their hard work on developing the options for consideration. He will not support the Cotswold option and he was surprised that this option resulted in such a low utilization for Alexander Graham Middle School. He would not have thought about the Myers Park High School IB Program and does not understand why CMS would have a Magnet Program that attracts students into a zone that is already fully utilized and supported by its home boundary. Magnet Programs are typically used to draw students to a school or boost undersubscribed capacity at schools. At this time, that is not the case for Myers Park High School because the home zone can fully support that school. Mr. Merchant encouraged the Board to consider IB options to help some of the other schools that surround Myers Park. He agreed with Mr. White regarding the Guiding Principles but he does believe the Board should discuss the Guiding Principles at some point. He said if the Board did consider IB options at other schools that may help relieve overcrowding at Myers Park until CMS reaches a point in which it can open another new school to relieve that boundary. Mr. Merchant hopes this feedback is clear to Dr. Gorman.

Chairperson Griffin said Dr. Gorman is going to ask the Board to provide some direction going forward following the end of the Board discussion.

- Ms. McGarry said she has spoken with many people regarding the Myers Park and East Mecklenburg high school feeder patterns and they have presented valid issues and points, and she thanked staff for addressing some of those issues. She said she is distressed because following the difficult deliberation regarding the new Mint Hill high school boundaries she believed the Board needed a comprehensive review of student assignment. That review needed to be done right to eliminate the gerrymandered districts throughout the County. The Board needs transparency regarding the Guiding Principles and they need to be consistent and clear. She believes this has become an issue of neighborhood schools versus social engineering. She is in favor of neighborhood schools and bringing resources to the schools versus busing students throughout the County and using them as resources. She said the student assignment guidelines were last reviewed in 2005 and they need to be revised and updated. She encouraged the Board to review the guidelines before tackling another student assignment issue. She is disappointed that this will not happen prior to November. When she was elected in 2007, she made a pact that she would continue to insist on stability in student assignment and she stands by that statement. Ms. McGarry expressed concern that the recent high school boundary reviews (Bailey Road, Mint Hill, East Mecklenburg, and Myers Park) have been sloppy, unprofessional, and not the way to do business. She will not support the upheaval of a new set of neighborhoods and families that we have promised stability and predictability. Last week, she attended the 2009 Broad Foundation Prize for Urban Education in Washington, D.C. The finalists included five superintendents from a large school district. The winner of the \$1 million prize was Aldine Independent School District in Texas. One of the reasons this school district was selected

was they advocated that school level poverty does not appear to be statistically related to student achievement at any grade level in reading and math. High student achievement is just as likely in a low income school or a non-low income school. She encouraged CMS to emulate those best practices. Ms. McGarry encouraged everyone to not focus on the challenges at East Mecklenburg and Myers Park high schools but to look for the opportunities at each of these schools and to make it work until the relief for the overcrowding at West Charlotte and Independence high schools.

- Mr. Gjertsen asked is making it work at East Mecklenburg High School with 1,500 students good or bad and how do you make that work? Ms. Bartles said the key is scheduling and how much individual attention the school devotes to scheduling individual students. There will be classes in which there will not be enough students to sign up for them. The key will be to match the courses needed with the faculty. In a smaller school setting the faculty members will need to be flexible to teach different courses. Mr. Gjertsen said he has never been in favor of treating any one group of students as a resource for another group of students and he believes that is the basis for the request for this boundary change. Mr. Gjertsen said he would not support changing the boundaries between East Mecklenburg and Myers Park high schools. He may, at some point, support moving students that live near Hwy 51 to South Mecklenburg High School if the overcrowding issues at Myers Park should reach a crisis point. He would not support moving the Cotswold neighborhood. He encouraged staff to review other options.
- Mr. Tate said he is convinced that whatever the Board decides will ensure each school makes the best use of its teachers and students will have the best opportunity possible to learn. He would prefer keeping all the options on the table. He believes a boundary change is a viable option and it could be the best option. He asked Board members to review a slide that he had requested that depicted circles around the subject high schools to obtain a uniform 1,800 students for each school. This resulted in an overlap of boundaries especially with Independence High School and the new Mint Hill High School. He said this is why that boundary decision was so difficult and it did not involve gerrymandering. This slide displays the potential for making boundaries compact, contiguous, and regularly drawn and there are possibilities for the Cotswold area. He encouraged the Board and the community to review all the options. He said he has been concerned that there has been some bashing of individuals and schools. He said McClintock Middle School is doing fabulous work. He commended the great community partners that help support that school and the principal, teachers, and parents for the great initiatives they are doing to make that school successful. Mr. Tate said the students who are assigned or may be assigned to East Mecklenburg High School will get a great education because that is a fabulous school. He said while it may not be popular to discuss, East Mecklenburg High School comes the closest of any school in CMS of mimicking the district population at large in terms of race, demographics, and economic status. Mr. Tate commended the achievements of East Mecklenburg for having students on grade level while facing the challenges of mimicking the district as a whole. He said all students should be happy to attend East Mecklenburg and he commended the staff, alumni association, and the students for making that school strong. Mr. Tate wants to ensure East Mecklenburg remains strong. Mr. Tate discussed the challenges that CMS has faced recently with the uncertainty of the budget and the uncertainty of the potential boundary decisions. He encouraged the Board to avoid another level of uncertainty by making a change in the student assignment and to consider all options. Mr. Tate said he made the amendment that asked for this process because he could

not support the boundaries that recommended the student population at East Mecklenburg High School to drop to 1,400 students. He encouraged the Board to continue the spirit of jointly reviewing the options and to review all the options presented tonight. He believes the public forums may bring additional ideas. Mr. Tate believes it is possible to get a first rate education in every school in CMS and he expressed concern that this is not the perception in every community and every school. He encouraged the Board to work harder to change those negative perceptions and to ensure that the schools that may not be doing well will not get hurt in the process of making decisions as a Board. He looks forward to reviewing all the options and he encouraged the public to share their thoughts by participating in the upcoming public forums.

- Mr. Ross said as a Board member he must review the total picture. He said this can be viewed as a funnel that is narrow at the bottom and broad at the top. The narrow end is viewed by the parents as my child, my neighborhood, and my school. Board members must look at the broader end. He said terms such as “neighborhood schools” are defined differently by different people. The Board has several guidelines/policies that determine where a child will go to school but each Board member has that list in their own priority order. His top priority is reducing overcrowding. Mr. Ross said there is no “magic bullet” for student assignment and a list of policies will not solve those issues. He encouraged the Board to develop a list in prioritized order that states to the public that this is the list that we follow. It is difficult to provide stability in a school district the size of CMS but the Board has a responsibility to the community to provide some stability. A part of that stability should include being consistent in using that list of priorities for assigning students to a school. Mr. Ross supports leaving all options on the table and the Board discussing all the options. He said with the November elections, there will be at least three new Board members and perhaps five. He expressed concern that these new Board members will begin in December and will be immediately asked to make major changes. He believes the present Board should make a decision before the transition. He encouraged the Board to be careful about using certain words that are emotionally labeled and to guarantee parents that student assignment will be based upon a list of sensible rules.
- Chairperson Griffin asked how many students have choiced out of East Mecklenburg High School to Magnet Programs or to other CMS schools? Mr. McCully said this is as of the 20th day 2008-2009 enrollment and this number may change as the 20th day 2009-2010 numbers are finalized. There were approximately 105 students who choiced out of East Mecklenburg High School to a Magnet Program and approximately 244 students who choiced out to a non-magnet program. Chairperson Griffin asked what are the corresponding numbers for Myers Park High School? Mr. McCully said there were 129 students who choiced out to a non-magnet program and there were 86 students who choiced out to a Magnet Program. Chairperson Griffin asked has staff considered eliminating the cap on IB students at East Mecklenburg High School? Mr. McCully said, yes, we have in the past worked with the school in terms of recruiting students to the Magnet Program and we increased that cap for 9th grade. The principal ultimately makes the decision of how many students they can handle from an instructional standpoint. There may currently be students in the wait pool that instructionally they cannot accommodate at this time. Over the period of time, we have increased the 9th grade limit. Chairperson Griffin asked under our Equity Policy, do we have a minimum number of AP courses that a high school can offer? Ms. Clark said there was a minimum when the College Board had an AP Certified Program and schools could qualify for a gold or silver level. In recent years, we have

allowed schools to have flexibility to specialize in the number of AP courses they offer. When the College Board eliminated the AP Certified Program we have not held to a specific number and have allowed schools to match AP course offerings to the interest of the students and appropriate to the Magnet or school focus. Chairperson Griffin asked has staff and the Board considered making East Mecklenburg a half county magnet or a whole county magnet similar to Harding University High School and West Charlotte High School? Ms. Clark said during the lengthy Magnet review process, the Board opted to not increase the number of partial magnets and, if anything, review more opportunities for full Magnet Programs. This would be at the direction of the Board and that decision should involve a review of the number of Magnet Programs CMS can sustain and an evaluation of the Math and Science Magnet Programs at Harding University High School. Chairperson Griffin asked how many students at Myers Park are not Magnet students and do not live in the zone for Myers Parks? Mr. McCully said approximately 190 students and of those there are 59 seniors who would be allowed to stay under the current Board policy if they lived in the attendance area the year prior and this is based upon the 10th day enrollment of this school year. Chairperson Griffin said she has heard that there are students attending Myers Park in the IB Program who have dropped out of the program but have been allowed to remain at the school. Chairperson Griffin said she understood that this is against our policy. Mr. McCully said it is the responsibility of the principals and administrators to administer the entry of students into the school either through address verification or ensuring students are enrolled in the appropriate classes. Staff has conducted an IB audit which has provided additional information in how that is administered. We do not have any data on the number of students who have partial IB schedules. That rule has been changed so that any incoming students would be expected to participate in the full IB Program. Chairperson Griffin said that is our policy and she hopes it will be enforced. Chairperson Griffin said she did not realize that a student attending an IB Program at a high school could bring their younger siblings into that same high school even if they are not IB students. Mr. McCully said the younger sibling link applies to every student in all of our schools and that applies at the school level. Chairperson Griffin said that is not what she meant by the sibling link and she hopes the Board members will review that policy.

- Ms. McGarry said the enrollment at Myers Park High School has been approximately 3,000 students for several years and she does not understand why it is being scrutinized now. She has heard people state that this school “works” and she is not sure why the Board would want to dismantle a school that “works.” Ms. McGarry said most likely the seniors at East Mecklenburg High School would remain at the school regardless of the decision. Mr. McCully said approximately 122 seniors would be impacted by the boundary change from East Mecklenburg to Butler High School for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. McGarry said what is the number of students on the waiting list for East Mecklenburg High School IB Program? Mr. McCully said that number was forty-seven students but it is now below thirty students and the majority of those are for the 9th grade IB Program. Ms. McGarry encouraged that the cap be increased to keep high achieving students that want to be in that program at that school. Ms. McGarry said she would not support Option A and she encouraged that it be taken off the table. She is open to further discussing the IB options.
- Mr. Ross expressed concern that the enrollment at Alexander Graham Middle School is approximately 1,100 students and that adds to the difficulty of scheduling lunch for students. He expressed concern that some schools start eating lunch at 10:00 and finish at

2:00 p.m.; that students do not have much time to eat lunch; and the challenges for students having to eat lunch early as well as those who do not eat lunch until 2:00 p.m. He said this type of lunch schedule is not healthy and may contribute to students lacking energy, being non-productive, and obesity. He encouraged staff to keep in mind practical applications such as how long should a child have to eat lunch and what is the appropriate span of time for a lunch period?

- Mr. White said he finds it hard to believe that based upon the Board's rules that there are over 200 students that have opted out of East Mecklenburg High School into non-magnet programs. Mr. McCully said this can be for a variety of reasons. Staff audited those students that opted out and determined that there was a valid reason such as a transfer, McKinney Vito, or sibling guarantee.
- Mr. Gauvreau said he has fought for neighborhood schools for many years and he is not going to try to fix it after all these years. He has been seeing this data since 2001 when he joined the Board and it has not changed. The utilization data is presented to the Board, the Board asks questions, and it goes back and forth. There are 3,000 students at Myers Park and 1,400 students at East Mecklenburg High School but the percentages are very close. That is why we do not have neighborhood schools in Mecklenburg County and why we have the lunch debacle. Another reason is we are not building smaller schools. He encouraged the Board to direct an institutional change. He said every student assignment debate that has occurred over the last four years has been based upon meaningless data that has no structural foundation. He expressed concern that the Board guidelines have negated neighborhood schools and have labeled it schools as close to home. The public wants neighborhood schools and not schools close to home. Mr. Gauvreau does not believe you can deliver a public education program successfully without instituting a form of a smaller neighborhood school plan. He said this is another variation on the same discussion and it is a hopeless scenario until the Board makes changes.
- Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the current classroom capacity and building utilization for Alexander Graham Middle School. Mr. Scott said the school currently has 1,141 students with a building capacity of 2,004 and utilization of 114%. Mr. Merchant said this school has experienced renovations and is not impacted by long lunch periods. Mr. Merchant said there are approximately 392 IB students at Myers Park who do not live in the Myers Park zone. He said he did not realize siblings would be allowed to also attend that school and he asked how many siblings of IB students attend Myers Park? Mr. McCully said he does not have that data at this time and would provide it at a later time. Mr. Merchant said those numbers could be significant. He said the Myers Park home zone could fully support that school and the facility could be fully subscribed by the people who live in the zone. He does not understand why that school would have a Magnet Program that pulls students into the program and their siblings into the facility. Currently this equates to 392 students plus their siblings and that equates to more than the 154 projected to be impacted by the proposed boundary change. Mr. Merchant discussed the negative impact of isolating a group, the impact on the student achievement rate, and the difficulty of making all schools uniform with an 1,800 student campus because the facilities have different capacities. He does not see this as a solution. He said he does not believe the discussion in the community has been sincere and that it is just about numbers because if it was there would have been more discussion to keep Piney Grove, which is basically across the school from East Mecklenburg High School, at the school. He does not believe it is logical to eliminate Piney Grove but later add another school. He voted for that change

because staff said, "This is a good size for East Mecklenburg High School." Mr. Merchant said if the majority of the Board and the community do not believe reassigning Cotswold Elementary School to East Mecklenburg High School is the right step to take then that conversation should be closed because it has the potential to dominant the conversation. He expressed concern that this has created two groups pitted against each other and it has the potential of getting nastier and raising anxiety levels. Mr. Merchant encouraged the Board to focus on the options that are more viable, that may have a chance for success, and may be able to good things for a lot of schools at the same time.

- Chairperson Griffin said this has been a divisive issue in our community and she is concerned that it will not end tonight. She believes it is great when parents are passionate about their children; passionate about their schools; and that passion can be harnessed into productivity. She is disappointed that this has veered away from being productive. She said pivotal questions for her are what is a good size for East Mecklenburg and have we harmed or helped East Mecklenburg? Chairperson Griffin said East Mecklenburg is a great school and she does not want it hurt. She understands from staff that East Mecklenburg is a good size and that is a starting point for her. She will not question if anyone should be unhappy about going to East Mecklenburg because she does not believe they should be unhappy. She appreciates that students and parents appreciate stability and when we can have stability we should. There are times that we must redraw boundaries but boundaries should be a last resort. Chairperson Griffin said she hopes Dr. Gorman has gotten some direction from the Board. She wants to keep East Mecklenburg strong and to provide as much stability to the families as possible in the process.

Dr. Gorman said this leaves it to him to make inferences. Dr. Gorman said he believes he heard that five Board members would not support a boundary that included the move from Cotswold Elementary School and those members were Mr. Gauvreau, Mr. White, Mr. Merchant, Ms. McGarry, and Mr. Gjertsen. If he is wrong he would like to know it. Ms. Mitchell-Walker said she would not support that option. Dr. Gorman said he did not hear to not look at other options such as the IB Program. He will direct staff to begin reviewing additional options and to have it completed in a timely fashion. He will also have staff release a timeline for holding Community Meetings tomorrow. That process will begin quickly and in the community meetings we will not bring back to the Board a recommendation involving moving Cotswold Elementary to East Mecklenburg High School. Staff will bring back other recommendations digging deeper on the IB piece and listening to the community for feedback on other options which could be viable. Dr. Gorman said he is open for clarification on his summary of the Board discussion. Chairperson Griffin invited Board members to respond.

- Mr. Gauvreau expressed concern that the Board discussion aimed at the target but missed the bull's eye. He encouraged the Board to do a better job because the student assignment options do not improve the enrollment at Myers Park High School. He said this is a no win situation and he would not support the options.
- Mr. Tate asked are any of the boundary options off the table? Dr. Gorman said, no, he did not hear that from the majority of the Board members.

Chairperson Griffin called for a five minute recess at 8:10 p.m.
The Board reconvened the Regular Board meeting 8:27 p.m.

Chairperson Griffin said many of the people attending the meeting in audience have left and many people have joined the meeting. She said for those just arriving please be aware that this is the Board's business meeting. The Board appreciates your passion but we must ask that you be respectful of our meeting and to act accordingly.

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the second portion of the Report on Proposed Overcrowding Relief Options. Dr. Gorman said this is the Eastover Elementary Student Assignment Options for Overcrowding Relief. Dr. Gorman called upon Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement Services, to present the boundary options for Eastover Elementary. Mr. McCully said in the past few years, Eastover Elementary School has experienced resurgence in its enrollment as a result of enrollment initiatives. Eastover was designated a workplace transfer school in 2001 and on the vacant schools list from 2002 to 2005 in order to attract students. Two years ago, staff presented options to the Board to address the increasing enrollment. At that time, staff believed the best option was to postpone changes for a couple of years and we have now reached that point. The Eastover attendance area is a geographically large area that includes Eastover, Myers Park, Dilworth, Elizabeth, and Midtown. There are also three Magnet elementary schools located within the Eastover attendance zone: Myers Park Traditional, Elizabeth Traditional, and Dilworth Visual and Performing Arts. A significant number of students who live in the attendance boundary attend Magnet Programs in the area. Mr. McCully reviewed the enrollment data for Eastover Elementary School based upon the 10th day enrollment data for the 2009-2010 school year.

10th Day 2009 Enrollment	Enrollment History – 10th day data
All students in home school area: 843	2003-2004: 392
Total non-magnet assigned in: 81	2004-2005: 411
Total non-magnet assigned out: 31 (transfers to other schools)	2005-2006: 395
Total magnet students assigned out: 296	2006-2007: 448
EC self-contained assigned in: 2	2007-2008: 521
EC self-contained assigned out: 6	2008-2009: 563
Total attending: 593 (including EC self-contained)	2009-2010: 593

Since 2006, the kindergarten class has been the largest grade with 5th grade the smallest. For 2009-2010, the entry age for kindergarten was moved back from five years of age on or before October 16th to August 31st. This year, the kindergarten class as of the 10th day of 2009 remains the largest with 118 students. With the potential of adding even more students for the 2010 school year makes now a viable time to review enrollment at Eastover. To further compound overcrowding at Eastover, the space on-site to add mobile units is extremely limited. All instructional classrooms must be contained within the existing facility. To accommodate growth for 2009-2010, the auditorium has been temporarily converted into classrooms. Mr. McCully said staff has developed the three following options for the Board's review.

- Option 1: Boundary change involving Eastover and First Ward elementary schools.
- Option 2: Boundary change and facility swap between Dilworth Art Magnet and First Ward Elementary School.
- Option 3: Facility swap between Myers Park Traditional and Eastover elementary schools.

Option 1: Boundary change involving Eastover and First Ward elementary schools:

This option moves the portion of Eastover attendance area to First Ward. As of the 2008-2009 school year, Eastover had 562 students and First Ward had 434 students. First Ward has a significant Magnet Program (Accelerated Learning Program) which will be eliminated effective the 2010-2011 school year. The capacity at Eastover is 522 students. Mr. McCully reviewed future growth of Eastover that included the proposed 2010-2011 school boundaries. Based upon the 2009-2010 school year, Eastover would have approximately 360 students and 126 choiced in students for a total of 486 students. This option would take approximately 100 students out of the Eastover attendance area and assign them to First Ward. First Ward would have approximately 226 students and 250 Magnet students for a total of 476 students.

Option 2: Boundary change and facility swap between Dilworth Arts Magnet and First Ward Elementary School:

In conjunction with boundary Option 1, this option would swap the location of the schools so that First Ward would house the full Magnet Program from Dilworth Arts and Dilworth would become a neighborhood school for that particular attendance area, and First Ward would serve as the Visual and Performing Arts Magnet. This options results in both schools being under utilized and enrollment fits within the facilities.

Option 3: Facility swap between Eastover and Myers Park Traditional elementary schools:

This option does not include a boundary change. This option swaps Eastover (26 classrooms) with a larger building Myers Park Traditional (37 classrooms). Myers Park Traditional does not have an attendance area since it is a full Magnet School. Myers Park Traditional is projected for 2009-2010 to have 732 students (non-EC self-contained). This is clearly larger than the school capacity at Eastover Elementary School. Through the 2009-2010 lottery, 51 siblings (guaranteed admission) were assigned and assuming that approximately the same number of siblings would be assigned for the 2010-2011 school year a conservative estimate of students attending Myers Park Traditional would be 652 students. This exceeds the capacity of the Eastover building which is 573 students. Staff understanding that too many students would be assigned to Myers Park Traditional reviewed the radius beyond Myers Park and expanded it to slightly over a half mile radius to determine the number of students whose home attendance area is Eastover Elementary School but elect to go to Myers Park Traditional. Staff reviewed the half mile radius and made the broad assumption that because of logistics those students may elect to attend the school closest to home. The total number of students in that radius was 78 students and the total count of the school is 652 (which included a much smaller kindergarten class). Subtracting the 78 students from the total count equates to 574 which is one student slightly over the building capacity of 573 students. Mr. McCully reviewed that the current capacity at Eastover is 573 students (26 classrooms x 22.03 = 573). There are other factors that may influence a smaller enrollment in the Traditional Magnet Program such as natural attrition at all grades from year to year and the decision families may make to change the assignment from Myers Park Traditional to remain at the current facility. Under this option, Myers Park Traditional would become the neighborhood school. The capacity at Myers Park building is 815 (37 classrooms multiplied by 22.03) for a capacity utilization of 82.3%. Mr. McCully said there are other options to consider and staff has spoken with many parents. Staff looks forward to attending the upcoming Community

Meetings to hear constructive comments and dialogue regarding other options. Staff will return to the Board with the information from those meetings.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Chairperson Griffin asked clarifying questions regarding capacity at Eastover Elementary School. She noted that if the school can hold 573 students and the current enrollment is 476 students she does not understand why this has reached a crisis situation. She knows there are classroom issues at the school because there are classrooms in the auditorium and the art room has been divided into two classes. Mr. Raible explained the formula for capacity and he noted that some of classrooms in front of building are smaller classrooms and they are being used as classrooms. The classrooms in the auditorium are considered temporary classrooms and are not included in the capacity numbers. Chairperson Griffin asked is the principal okay with the capacity numbers of having 573 students. Mr. Raible said, yes, and the enrollment is adjusted every year based upon the allotments.
- Mr. Mitchell-Walker said the enrollment includes non-EC self-contained students and she asked how many EC self-contained students attend Myers Park Traditional? Mr. McCully said there are three classrooms dedicated to EC self-contained students and that averages about ten students per classroom. He believes there are approximately twenty-two EC students at the school. Ms. Mitchell-Walker expressed concern that based upon the enrollment data and should the facility swap take place, Eastover Elementary would still be over capacity the following year. Mr. McCully said based upon this option, the projection is 574 students and the capacity is 573 students. Next year, this would be one student over capacity and that would not be a significant number. In future years, staff will have further opportunity to manage those grades and it can be managed through future lotteries as well.
- Mr. Tate said when Dilworth Elementary School was rebuilt it was built with a Magnet Program in mind and it is set up as a school for the Performing Arts. Mr. Tate asked if the Magnet Program moved to First Ward what is the estimated cost to up fit the new facility? Mr. Raible said the cost estimate to change the First Ward facility into a facility to accommodate the Visual and Performing Arts Program is approximately \$750,000. Mr. Tate asked clarifying questions regarding the feeder pattern to middle and high school for the proposed recommendation. Mr. Tate said he understands that the feeder pattern for First Ward would be different from the rest of the boundary area. Mr. McCully said that is correct and there would be a split in this attendance area. The current students in the Dilworth area would continue to feed to Alexander Graham Middle School and First Ward would continue to feed to Bishop Spaugh Middle School. Mr. Tate expressed concern that the process that has been followed by CMS (options put on the web and a Board meeting prior to the public engagement process) has caused the people in the community to come together to discuss what is best for them and that has created two very different points of view. There are also people coming together from the two groups to develop other options. Mr. Tate asked will staff bring other options before the Board prior to the public engagement process? Mr. McCully said staff will be involved in the public engagement process and that process will begin soon. Traditionally, staff presents the proposed options to the public and the public provides feedback. Following that process, staff develops one to three community options using common themes based upon community feedback. Staff then presents those additional or redefined recommendations to the Board for Board discussion and a Board vote. Mr. Tate asked when will the Board vote on this item? Dr.

Gorman said most likely it will be the first meeting in November. Staff will release the timeline for Community Meetings tomorrow (September 23rd) and they are scheduled to begin next week.

- Ms. McGarry expressed concern regarding the costs to up fit First Ward for an Arts Magnet. She suggested that staff review options to utilize the services available in the surrounding area because the school is located in an arts community. Mr. LaCaria said those are several considerations that can be utilized. The school would need some renovations to be able to deliver the curriculum within the building on a daily basis.
- Mr. Merchant said he would need certain information to be able to make an informed decision. He requested charts for all the options, the components needed for the facility to transition it for an Arts Program (dance room, mirrors, lighting, modified stage, etc.), and options for using the ImaginOn facility which is close to the school. Mr. Merchant said regarding the facility swap between Eastover and Myers Park Traditional, this is a magnet that has been around for thirty-five years and it has been really successful. Recently with the Magnet review process, the Board decided this was a Magnet that they wanted to keep. The Board also decided they wanted to keep the Arts Magnet. Mr. Merchant said he is mindful of those decisions as we move forward. Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding student enrollment, sibling guarantee enrollment, and the number of Myers Park students zoned for Eastover. Mr. McCully provided the information. Mr. Merchant expressed concern that the best case scenario presented by staff may not work for next year and it may be necessary to do a boundary change in order to make it work. He would like to avoid creating a disruption for these families twice. Mr. Merchant said just as the Dilworth campus was designed for a Magnet Program, the Myers Park Traditional School was designed for a Magnet Program that included access to the school and transporting students. He would like to know the transportation implications associated with the recommendations. Mr. Merchant said this is new information and the initial options. He encouraged the community to follow the process and to not get locked in on any one solution. Mr. Merchant believes a solution may be a boundary change that makes either First Ward or Dilworth a community school that includes a different boundary line.
- Chairperson Griffin asked what happened to the idea of developing new innovative Magnet Programs at First Ward. Ms. Clark said the First Ward School Leadership Team (SLT) is exploring potential Magnet themes and a possible focus for the school and these options will become a part of that consideration. The SLT will continue to explore possible options to expand the existing partnership with ImaginOn, extension of school day/year, as well as directives from the Board. The Magnet Fair is scheduled for January and staff will be on a tight timeline to identify that Magnet Program and be ready for the pupil assignment process in January. Chairperson Griffin shared her concerns and thoughts regarding the recommendations. She feels the same as she did during the last boundary discussions in that boundary changes should be used as a last resort. Sometimes, boundary changes are necessary but they can be disruptive. She would prefer a solution that had as little disruption as possible for this group of students. She understands there has to be some disruption because there is a problem that has to be solved. She hopes staff can develop additional options that provide a better solution. She does not believe it is realistic to have a school this crowded and have a large total Magnet school nearby. She understands it is a wonderful school and she is interested in an option that may draw a bigger boundary around Myers Park Traditional Elementary because a little disruption would be better than the other options being considered. She believes if more choice

Traditional seats are needed some of the other schools may benefit from adding that partial magnet. Chairperson Griffin hopes staff and the community can develop some creative ideas and that everyone can work together in an effort to find a workable solution.

- Mr. White said boundary changes would not be his first choice but that method may be necessary. There is no one option that he would consider a great solution but none of the options are so bad that he would not consider them. There is nothing that he can buy into with a good feeling. He hopes staff will continue to be innovative and with the input from the Community Meetings they can develop an option that may provide the perfect solution.
- Mr. Tate expressed concern that the enrollment data included the number of students in the Magnet Program at First Ward because those are the students in the Accelerated Learning Magnet Program which will be eliminated in the 2010-2011 school year? Mr. McCully said staff wanted to provide as much detail as possible in the breakout of data. The charts will be updated to reflect the current enrollment and staff will include enrollment without the Magnet Program. The updated charts will make it clearer.
- Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the number of students in the Magnet Program that live within the proposed boundary for First Ward Elementary School. Mr. McCully said some of the students live in the boundary which is very small. It was designed in a way to enhance the Magnet Program at First Ward in an effort to provide as many seats as possible.
- Mr. Gauvreau asked what are the three classroom counts for those three schools? Mr. McCully said First Ward has thirty-four classrooms; Myers Park Traditional has thirty-seven classrooms; and Eastover twenty-six classrooms. Mr. Gauvreau does not see that this is a crisis situation. He has a crisis situation in Huntersville. Mr. McCully said the situation is impacted because we do not have the ability to add any additional mobile units. The space is gone in the core facility. We have already extended that into the auditorium and that is as far as we can expand. Mr. Gauvreau believes there are other schools in a more severe crisis situation. Dr. Gorman said the word "crisis" has not been used but when students are having classes in the auditorium decisions must be made sooner rather than later because those students are not being provided equal opportunity and educational services. Mr. Gauvreau discussed his concerns regarding the Board spending time on this issue. He believes this problem has been created as a result of the Board over magnetizing CMS. He does not believe 600 students in a school equate to an overcapacity issue because in Huntersville there are 1,300 students in a school which is an overcapacity issue.
- Chairperson Griffin said staff will bring back additional information as they conduct the Community Meetings. She believes the Eastover parents will share stories about their concerns regarding the overcrowding issues at Eastover. Dr. Gorman said this is important because there is not a relief school scheduled in the area. Eastover is overcapacity because they are holding classes in the auditorium and changing the boundaries may provide opportunities for the students attending those schools. Mr. Raible said there are thirty-one teachers assigned to Eastover but there are only twenty-six classrooms and five teachers do not have a place to teach.
- Mr. Ross said regarding community input, he encouraged staff to design a process to get more feedback from the community. He has received e-mails from the public and they have shared innovative and creative ideas. He encouraged the public to provide the Board a prioritized list of the Board's Guiding Principles and policies used for student assignment. He would like to know what is most important to the community regarding student assignment because this will help the Board share the responsibility with the

community in the decision making process.

- Ms. McGarry said two years ago there were meetings at Eastover and Cotswold elementary schools to discuss boundaries to relieve overcrowding at Eastover and that resulted in doing nothing. She said doing nothing has brought us to that same point again. One of the possibilities at that time was making Dilworth Elementary School a neighborhood school. At that time, many parents said they would go to Dilworth because they lived in Dilworth and would like to attend school in a neighborhood school. She asked how many students would that impact? Chairperson Griffin said this is basically Option 2. Mr. McCully said Option 2 makes Dilworth a neighborhood school but it also includes the current First Ward students which is approximately 110 students. Ms. McGarry asked how many Eastover students live in the Dilworth attendance zone if it were a home school? Ms. McGarry said two years ago there were many parents who wanted to attend Dilworth but because it was a Magnet school they opted to attend Eastover Elementary School. Mr. McCully said Dilworth is a full Magnet school and it does not have an attendance zone at this time. There is a proximity zone which by Board policy is one third of a mile and 20% of the available seats are allocated to the students that live in that radius. Mr. McCully said the attendance zone for a home school would depend upon how the Board would like to construct the boundary. Option 2 essentially captures the Dilworth community but also includes the current First Ward attendance zone. The option takes approximately 110 students out of Eastover and puts them into a new zone which would be comprised of the Dilworth and First Ward communities.
- Mr. Gauvreau said Billingsville Elementary School is within a mile of this area and it is half empty with less than 400 students. Mr. Gauvreau asked why is that school not being considered? Dr. Gorman said Billingsville could be reviewed as an option but part of the challenge is Billingsville is the closest school to Eastover. In drawing a boundary to create other attendance zones and move students it is best to look at other areas farther away. The students closest to Eastover would also be closest to Billingsville. Staff can discuss this option at the Community Meetings but it is the school closest to Eastover and it could cause the boundaries to be irregularly drawn. Previously, the Board addressed a concern that there are so many Magnet schools within the boundary of one school. Mr. Gauvreau believes Billingsville should be included in the mix of options.

Chairperson Griffin said she hopes this will be a productive and engaging community process

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McGarry moved that the Board adjourn the Regular Board meeting, seconded by Ms. Mitchell-Walker, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Molly B. Griffin, Chairperson

Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board