

Approved by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education July 23, 2013 Regular Board Meeting

Charlotte, North Carolina

April 9, 2013

# REGULAR MEETING of the CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on April 9, 2013. The meeting began at 5:03 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

Present:

Mary T. McCray, Chairperson, Member At-Large;

Timothy S. Morgan, Vice Chairperson, Member At-Large;

Ericka Ellis-Stewart, Member At-Large; Richard Allen McElrath, Sr., District 2; Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell, District 3;

Tom Tate, District 4; and Eric C. Davis, District 5

Absent:

Rhonda Lennon, District 1, and

Reverend Amelia Stinson-Wesley, District 6

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Heath Morrison, Superintendent; George E. Battle, III, General Counsel; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

Upon motion by Dr. Waddell, seconded by Ms. Ellis-Stewart, the Board voted unanimously of those present for approval to go into Closed Session for the following purpose:

- 1. To discuss specific personnel matters; and
- 2. To consult with the Board's attorney on matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.

The motion was made pursuant to Sections 143-318.11 (a)(3) and (a)(6) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

The Board held a Closed Session meeting from 5:03 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in Room CH-14.

Chairperson McCray reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:09 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS TV televised the meeting.

Present:

Mary T. McCray, Chairperson, Member At-Large;

Timothy S. Morgan, Vice Chairperson, Member At-Large;

Ericka Ellis-Stewart, Member At-Large;

Rhonda Lennon, District 1:

Richard Allen McElrath, Sr., District 2; Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell, District 3;

Tom Tate, District 4; and Eric C. Davis, District 5

Absent:

Reverend Amelia Stinson-Wesley, District 6

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Heath Morrison, Superintendent; George E. Battle, III, General Counsel; Members of Executive Staff; Judith Whittington, Manager of Board Services; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McCray welcomed everyone to the April 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Board meeting which was held in the Meeting Chamber.

# A. Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson McCray called for a motion to adopt the proposed agenda.

Ms. Ellis-Stewart moved that the Board adopt the proposed agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Lennon, and the motion passed upon 8-0 voice vote of the Board. Reverend Stinson-Wesley was absent.

# B. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>

Chairperson McCray introduced the student to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and to speak on the April character trait of perseverance. Martha Gonzalez is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Oaklawn Language Academy, has attended Oaklawn since the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and plans to attend through her 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, and her two siblings also attend Oaklawn. Martha is an honor roll student and an exemplary leader across the Oaklawn campus. Attending the meeting with Martha were her father, Jorge Antonio Gonzalez; health teacher, Ann Waller; math teacher, Matthew Dehaan; Director of Elementary Title I, Kevin Paige; and principal, Carmen Concepcion. Martha invited everyone to stand and join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Martha said to her perseverance means work, self-esteem, patience, and not giving up. It is the dedication in doing something regardless of the difficulty or delay in achieving your success.

# C. Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Policy JRA, "Name on Pupil Records"

Chairperson McCray opened the Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Policy JRA, *Name on Pupil* Records. Chairperson McCray reported there were no speakers signed up to speak and she called the hearing closed at 6:13 p.m.

# D. Public Hearing on 2013 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Chairperson McCray opened the Public Hearing on the 2013 Capital Improvement Plan. Chairperson McCray reviewed the protocol for the public speakers which included each speaker would be given three minutes to address the Board. Seven people were scheduled to speak before the Board.

• Michelle Estrada Abels represented a diverse group of Charlotte Neighbors for Education in the Chantilly/Commonwealth area. They support the proposal to reopen Oakhurst

- School and hope it includes a STEM/STEAM Program. She asked the Board to include their neighborhoods in the Oakhurst zone because they live two miles from the school.
- Amelia Cary, junior at South Mecklenburg High School, talked about the benefits of a well-rounded experience and vouched for the rigor of the courses at South Meck. She enjoys the school environment and participating in academic opportunities such as seven AP courses, Choir, Theatre, and National Honor Society. She hopes all students can have a well-rounded high school experience.
- April Marten, student at West Charlotte High School, is an advocate for all students. She
  enjoys attending West Charlotte and has faith in the administration. She expressed
  concern that all is not equal in CMS because West Charlotte does not have some of the
  advantages of Myers Park High School and other schools. She asked the Board to review
  the disparity between schools in the urban and suburban areas.
- Michelle Smolowitz, Collinswood Language Academy parent, addressed safety issues and concerns about the age of the facility; lack of infrastructure to accommodate the overcrowding issues; mobile units located on the athletic fields; and a replacement school is ranked 73<sup>rd</sup> on the priority list. She asked the Board to take some of the funding slated for E. E. Waddell to build a middle school wing for Collinswood on the Waddell campus or consider moving the Collinswood middle students to Waddell.
- Andrena Goodwin, social studies teacher at Performance Learning High School, said the
  school is well-suited for students needing a nontraditional educational approach. At the
  school, everybody is somebody and teaching is focused on learning to real world
  experiences. Graduation rates, attendance, and academic growth have increased. She
  wants to ensure more people are aware of expressed concern that many people do not
  know the school exists and urged CMS to develop a positive marketing plan to make the
  school a school of choice.
- Ericka Logan-Gales, West Charlotte PTA president, highlighted that the school recently received an award for increasing its PTA membership by 50%. This recognition indicates the families of West Charlotte are engaged and she urged the Board to include the school in the Capital Improvement Plan because that will provide the students a facility and environment in which they can be proud.

Chairperson McCray called the Public Hearing closed at 6:35 p.m.

# II. REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairperson McCray said the Public Request section is an opportunity to hear from the public. Each speaker will have three minutes to address the Board on any topic of their choosing but personal and individual matters should not be addressed in this forum. CMS employees and their families should not be addressed in the comments and the use of profanity or inappropriate language should not be used. The Board reserves the right to cut off any speaker who violates these rules. Six people were signed up to speak before the Board.

• Pam Grundy represented a group of parents who are advocating against standardized tests (Mecklenburg ACTS Petition). Standardized tests are like zombies, mindless and just keep coming. Students, teachers, and families have suffered from the onslaught of these high stakes tests and they zap time and money from teaching and learning and hamper students from learning 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. She urged everyone to stand together to advocate against standardized tests.

- J.B. Spurrier, 1949 Harding High School graduate, urged the Board to consider an athletic field house at Harding University High School and to include it in the upcoming Bond package. Harding is one of the few schools without a field house and in the past the families of Harding had to raise \$250,000 to build their own sports stadium and other amenities while CMS provided those items for other schools.
- Andrea Hendee, Garinger High School teacher, talked about the Garinger High School Garden and the importance of nutrition for students and families. She advocated for students to be learners in and out of the classroom, be healthier, serve locally and globally, and work to bring the community together.
- Ethan Randall, president of the Graduate Social Work Association at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, wants to raise awareness that race matters and invited everyone to attend a Dismantling Racism Workshop conducted through Race Matters. The organization strives to get involved with the community and to build a new world without racism. They want to help students build better international relations and this should start in the schools.
- Bobbie Mabe, parent and PTA member at Shamrock Gardens Elementary, volunteers and works in the garden. She believes in the power of the garden and the opportunities it provides for CMS students. She urged the Board to continue to support this initiative to keep it sustainable because it brings families together. Parents, students, and staff get involved and the garden helps all students to be more successful. She invited everyone to join them at their Garden Workday on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until noon.
- Alison Bonlding, PTA president at Druid Hills Academy, addressed concerns about the
  condition of the school which has had a negative impact on the students causing them
  mental and physical deprivation. The school has been neglected, sports have been
  eliminated, and because of the overcrowded conditions the school needs more classrooms
  or trailers for the upper classmen as well as furniture in the cafeteria for the upper
  classmen.

Chairperson McCray called the Requests from the Public closed at 6:57 p.m.

#### **Board of Education Announcements:**

Chairperson McCray announced Board of Education citizen appointment vacancies to Local Board of Trustees, Commissioners, and Committees. Terms of service have ended on various committees and applications for the following Board of Education citizen appointments are now being accepted. Applications must be received in the Board Services Office by 5:00 p.m. April 19th. The Board of Education will approve appointments at the May 14, 2013 Board meeting. To request applications, please call the Board Office at 980-343-5139.

- Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees, four-year term.
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, three-year term.
- Citizens' Transit Advisory Group, two -year term.

#### III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of Closed Session meeting minutes.
  - March 12, 2013.
  - March 21, 2013.
- B. Recommend approval of Open Session meeting minutes.

February 26, 2013 Regular Board Meeting.

#### C. Construction Items:

1. Recommend approval to grant permanent easement and temporary construction easement for Sanitary Sewer and Water Lines to the City of Charlotte on Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (CMBE) property Located at 251 South Street, Davidson North Carolina, otherwise known as former Davidson IB Campus.

A permanent easement will be widened to allow for installation of new water lines that serve the neighborhood. Temporary construction easement is needed to complete the work planned for summer and fall of 2013. Fiscal implications: No cost to CMBE.

2. Recommend approval to grant permanent Sanitary Sewer Easement and Temporary Construction Easement to the City of Charlotte on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (CMBE) property located at 329 N. Irwin Avenue, Charlotte, North Carolina otherwise known as Irwin Academic Center.

The temporary easement will allow for the replacement/enlargement of an existing sanitary sewer line that serves the school and the neighborhood. The permanent easement will be increased by 843 square feet to allow for future maintenance. Fiscal implications: None.

3. Recommend approval to convey to City of Charlotte a Utility Easement and Fee Simple Interest in .293 acres of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (CMBE) property located at 3101 Wilkinson Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina, otherwise known as the Wilkinson Boulevard Main Bus Staging Facility.

The sale of the easement and a portion of the driveway will allow for redevelopment of the adjacent site to the east, which is supported by the City of Charlotte. Buses will continue to access the facility using the newly created "Ashley Road Extension." Fiscal Implications: The City will pay CMBE \$66,000 for the easement and 0.293 acres of the driveway.

4. Recommend approval of Fire Alarm Replacement Project at Northridge Middle School.

The Fire Alarm Replacement project is for a complete fire alarm system at Northridge Middle School. Staff recommends the approval of the project to the lowest competent bidder, Lefler Electronics. The contractor agrees to provide the labor, services, equipment, and materials needed to remove and replace the existing fire alarm with a Notifier Onyx 640 Fire Alarm System. All work is to be performed in accordance with the standard terms and conditions outlined in the contract. MWSBE participation is 0%. Fiscal Implications: 2007 Bond Funds-\$167,760.00.

D. Recommend approval of Licensed/Non-Licensed Hires and Promotions for March 2013

Monthly hire report includes prior month(s) hires not processed when report was presented to the Board of Education last month.

- Total Hires July 1, 2012 June 30, 2013: 3,447. (Licensed Hires: 1,879/Non-Licensed Hires: 1,568).
- Total Promotions July 1, 2012 June 30, 2013: 309. (Licensed Promotions: 175/Non-licensed Promotions: 134).
- E. Recommend approval for supplementary funding request for CMS After School Enrichment Program: Academic and Cultural Enrichment Centers (ACE) grant proposal.

The proposed project will expand CMS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers programs to Reid Park Academy (K-8), Whitewater Middle School, and Harding University High School. It

will continue the successful ACE Program at Sedgefield Middle School. Serving 240 students, the project will feature after school programming throughout the school year and five-week summer program - all emphasizing Math, Literacy, and STEM achievement and employing CMS teacher tutors toward the goal of increasing student proficiency in the focus areas. Fiscal Implications: Funding requested from North Carolina Department of Public Instruction 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers - \$1.6 million over 4 years.

- F. Recommend approval of administrative personnel appointments. *Appointment:* 
  - M. Jo Rasati Shirley named principal at Irwin Academic Center. Ms. Shirley has a Master of Education, School Administration; Master of Arts, Teaching, and Master of Business Administration from the University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, from University of California.
- G. Recommend approval of licensed employees for career contract.

Based on licensure information received, two employees are recommended to receive career contracts.

Chairperson McCray called for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as written.

Dr. Waddell moved that the Board adopt Consent Agenda Items A. through G. as presented, seconded by Ms. Ellis-Stewart, and a discussion followed.

Dr. Waddell pulled Consent Item E.

Ms. Ellis-Stewart moved that the Board adopt Consent Items A. through G. excluding E., seconded by Mr. Davis, and the motion passed upon 8-0 voice vote of the Board. Board member Reverend Stinson-Wesley was absent.

Dr. Waddell asked questions regarding Consent Item E. in an effort to inform the public. Colette Jeffries, Director of After School Enrichment Programs, provided information on the locations of the schools and focus of the grant as noted above in Consent Item E.

Dr. Waddell moved that the Board adopt Consent Item E., seconded by Ms. Ellis-Stewart, and the motion passed upon 8-0 voice vote of the Board. Board member Reverend Stinson-Wesley was absent.

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Morrison to review the personnel appointments. Dr. Morrison provided an overview of the principal appointment of M. Jo Rosati Shirley who was not present.

#### IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommend approval of proposed amendments to Policy JRA, Name on Pupil Records

Chairperson McCray called upon Tom Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to present the recommendation to approve proposed amendments to Policy JRA, *Name on Pupil Records*. Mr. Tate said Policy JRA, *Name on Pupil Records*, is before the Board for action on proposed amendments. Mr. Tate reported that as a result of recent changes in federal law he would present a recommendation to amend the proposed amendments to Policy JRA that were presented to the Board for First Reading on March 12, 2013.

Mr. Tate reviewed the proposed amendments and the revised recommendation for Board action. The proposed amendments rewrite the brief policy, which was last revised in 1987, to bring it into compliance with the federal Family Education Records Privacy Act (FERPA), which governs the disclosure of education record information. The new policy text is in nine sections covering the following topics:

- 1. Definitions.
- 2. Management of directory information, including the legal duty to inform parents of the right to object to the release of their child's directory information.
- 3. Notice requirements.
- 4. Access to education records and the Board's authority to set and charge fees for copies.
- 5. Disclosure of education records, including the exceptions to when parental consent is required to disclose information.
- 6. Parental right to challenge education records.
- 7. Use of juvenile court information.
- 8. Creation, maintenance, and disposal of records.
- 9. Serving students in military families.

The Policy Committee unanimously approved this policy at its meeting on February 14, 2013. The Board held a First Reading on March 12, 2013, a public hearing on March 26, 2013 and April 9, 2013, and the information was posted on the CMS Website.

Mr. Tate proposed additional amendments to the policy to conform to amendments to federal law enacted by the United States Congress in January 2013. Mr. Tate presented the following amendment to the motion for Board approval.

Mr. Tate moved to amend the main motion to amend Policy JRA, Name on Pupil Records, which was presented to the Board on March 12, 2013 for First Reading and for Public Hearing on March 26, 2013 and April 9, 2013. The additional amendments to the policy reflect recent changes in federal law. On January 2, 2013, the United States Congress passed the Uninterrupted Scholars Act that amended provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 ("FERPA"). FERPA is the basis for the majority of the provisions in the proposed Student Records Policy and therefore this amendment is appropriate at this time. The additional amendments include the following:

- Add an exception to proposed new Section V.B.9;
- · Add an entirely new section, numbered as V. B. 12; and
- Add an additional citation to the legal references section.

For Section V.B.9 (page 6), it is proposed that the following language be added at the end of the paragraph, after the word 'compliance' and before the period: , except when a parent is a party to a court proceeding involving child abuse and neglect or dependency matters, and the order is issued in the context of that proceeding, additional notice to the parent by the educational agency or institution is not required. Child abuse and neglect is defined as any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

Thus, Section V.B.9 as further amended would read: The disclosure is to comply with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena when the school system makes a reasonable effort to notify the parent of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, except when a parent is a party to a court proceeding involving child abuse and neglect or dependency matters, and the order is issued in the context of that proceeding, additional notice to the parent by the educational agency or institution is not required. Child abuse and neglect is defined as any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

Proposed new Section V.B.12. would read as follows: The disclosure is to an agency caseworker or other representative of a State or local child welfare agency, or tribal organization who has the right to access a student's case plan when such agency or organization is legally responsible for the care and protection of the student. Tribal organization means the recognized governing body of any Indian tribe as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 450b).

The following citation is added to the Legal References section: 25 U.S.C. § 450b, 42 U.S.C. § 5101 note.

Mr. Tate reported the amendment to the motion is not being presented through the Policy Committee and would require a second. The motion to amend the main motion to approve proposed amendments to Policy JRA, *Name on Pupil Records*, was seconded by Mr. Morgan, and the motion passed upon 8-0 voice vote of the Board. Reverend Stinson Wesley was absent.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board adopt proposed amendments to Policy JRA, *Name on Pupil Records*, as amended, seconded by Mr. Morgan, and the motion passed upon 8-0 voice vote of the Board. Reverend Stinson-Wesley was absent.

#### V. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Report on Budget Amendments for February 2013

Correlation to Board of Education Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs: Operating effectively and efficiently with fiscal accountability.

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Morrison to present the report on Budget Amendments. Dr. Morrison reported this is the monthly report and as presented.

# B. Report on Financial Statements for February 28, 2013

Correlation to Board of Education Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs: Operating effectively and efficiently with fiscal accountability.

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Morrison to present the report on Financial Statements. Dr. Morrison reported this is the monthly report and as presented.

C. Report on Superintendent's Proposed Recommendation for the 2013-2014 Board of

# **Education Budget**

Correlation to Board of Education Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs: Operating effectively and efficiently with fiscal accountability.

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Morrison to introduce the report on the Superintendent's Proposed Recommendation for the 2013-2014 Board of Education Budget.

Dr. Morrison and staff provided an overview of the proposed budget for the 2013-2014 school year. Dr. Morrison reported just prior to the start of the Board meeting a message via Email was sent to all CMS employees to inform them about the information being presented along with a video message from the Superintendent. We strive to communicate to employees where we are in our District and where we are proposing to go. Dr. Morrison said one of the most important responsibilities he, as Superintendent, and the Board have is to work collaboratively with the community to craft our budget. The CMS budget allows us to execute our Vision, Mission, and strategic direction. The information shared with staff included the process of creating the CMS budget which is similar to creating a household budget. We reviewed available sources of revenue and expected areas to allocate resources. It is advantageous to have more income than expenses because that may provide a family some discretionary opportunities to enable a family to have a better tomorrow. This is exactly where we find ourselves at CMS. Unfortunately over the past several years in CMS, we have looked at the availability of revenue as opposed to the need to expend dollars to enhance learning opportunities for every student in CMS. In addition, CMS has had to make painful cuts while challenging ourselves to increase academic opportunities for our students.

Dr. Morrison said with the presentation of the budget it is important to commend our Chief Financial Officer, Sheila Shirley and her team. This year, Ms. Shirley was the recipient of the highest national financial officer award for her financial expertise which was presented to her by the Council of Great City Schools. Dr. Morrison thanked staff for their hard work and long hours in developing the proposed budget.

The budget process is challenging because we must develop a budget without knowing our federal, State, and local dollars. This year, we know the federal dollars will be less because of Sequestration. There are also uncertainties at the State level because they have not finalized their budget. The State budget timeline does not align with the CMS timeline for presenting a budget to the Board of County Commissioners. There is also uncertainty at the local level because the County is still determining their budget revenues. CMS will work collaboratively with the County Commissioners to determine a budget. This year, there will be an additional challenge and uncertainty as a result of the County property revaluation.

Over the past several years CMS has had to make extreme cuts to the budget which equate to over \$236 million. The proposed budget includes over \$9 million in cuts and redirections as we consider new investments that we believe are important. This step was taken because we believe it is prudent to first look inward at our existing budget for available dollars to fund new initiatives. The proposed budget is 2.68% higher than last year's operating budget; however, on a per pupil level it is less than the 2009 per pupil expenditure. The proposed budget is based on the best information available today. Dr. Morrison thanked the Board for their hard work in developing a budget because it is challenging to create a budget without knowing the available revenues from our funding partners. The only method for CMS to get additional revenue is to request additional funds from our local and State partners. The

budget was developed with a focus on the CMS priorities utilizing the Board's Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs, and the goals of *The Way Forward*. Feedback from the community indicates the community wants to help CMS better educate our students. Dr. Morrison provided an overview of the initiatives to move CMS forward and deliver a better education for every child for a better tomorrow. The majority of the \$28.5 million County increase is for growth and sustaining operations. The budget strives to look forward and not back, create the schools we need for tomorrow, and to lay a strong foundation for academic success for the 2013-2014 school year.

Dr. Morrison reported through numerous efforts to seek input from the community, staff, students, task forces, and the Board and based upon that feedback there was a focus on six central themes which included technology, professional learning opportunities, school choice and innovation, literacy, accountability, and strengthening partnerships with businesses, houses of worship, and other organizations. The budget was developed utilizing those central themes in an effort to incorporate the voices of the CMS stakeholders.

Dr. Morrison called upon Valerie Truesdale, Chief Information Officer, to present ideas for new initiatives to lead to academic success for every child, every day, for a better tomorrow. Dr. Truesdale reported technology was one of the key themes that emerged from the efforts to seek input from CMS stakeholders. The technology initiative is aligned with Goal 7: To increase technology access and integration to support inspired teaching and learning.

- Technology Tools for Teachers and Students: This initiative continues the work the Board began a year ago with shoring up the infrastructure to support digital teaching and learning in 21<sup>st</sup> Century classrooms. CMS has made great progress. To date, CMS has grown from 0% of our schools being fully wireless in June 2012 to 65% and we are on track to reach 100% by August 2013. Dr. Truesdale thanked the Board for their support to build the bandwidth and the wireless access in our schools to support digital teaching and learning. The investment funds for this initiative include \$5.7 million in State funding and \$3.6 million in County Funding.
- Technology Instructional Integration and Access: The next step is to ensure teachers have the tools needed to teach in the classrooms and mobile environments and the tools for student learning while they are at school. The initiative begins at the middle school level with class sets of tablet computers and carts that can be used from classroom to classroom as teachers share materials with project based learning. The initiate will help prepare students for Common Core State Standards as well as begin to provide the materials and hardware needed to support Common Core Online testing that is scheduled to begin the following year. Equipping classrooms to support digital teaching and learning includes projection systems and connectivity for portable classrooms to ensure equitable access to digital learning. The investment for this initiative is \$7.3 million.
- Professional Learning and Common Core Prep: To support teachers in digital teaching and learning, teachers need access to the tools and know how to use the tools in order to stretch toward more rigorous standards in the Common Core. This initiative will embed school-based professional development in elementary and middle school and provide a focus on key areas of need. This will ensure an effective teacher in every class is led by an effective principal in every school served by quality support staff. The proposal will provide a professional development specialist in each middle school and each elementary school will share one professional development specialist. The investment for this initiative is \$700,000 State funding and \$3 million County funding.

• PowerSchool: The budget request asks for the continuance of the three trainers hired to support the PowerSchool implementation. Deep understanding is necessary for a strong implementation of the State's student and staff data system which is being upgraded from the NCWise system. This conversion touches every piece of data from students and staff as well as all the metrics of the school system is being converted. This is a massive conversion and to do it well requires personalized training. The training opportunities include face training, webinars live or pre-recorded, and videos. To date, we have completed the 1,400<sup>th</sup> staff person trained in PowerSchool in order to be ready for next fall. Staff will continue to be trained throughout the spring and summer. Data quality is essential and necessary for smooth operation of our schools. This investment is estimated at \$190,157.

Ann Clark provided the Board with an overview of proposed innovative programs and increased educational options for students.

- Choice Options and Innovative Programs: The initiative will accelerate academic achievement for every child and close achievement gaps so every child graduates college or career ready. The initiative will enhance educational programs at home schools; expand existing high demand magnet programs; create new magnet programs; deepen partnership with Central Piedmont Community College; and expand the Career Technical Education pathway programs. Proposed investment \$1,990,792.
  - *i*Meck Academy at Cochrane: Expand college and career readiness options for students using informational technology and project-based learning in a partial magnet program. The initiative will focus on internships built into the curriculum; implement *i*Meck Academy starting with 11<sup>th</sup> graders in 2013-2014; initially target one hundred students; and grow the program by one grader per year (9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014-2015 and 10<sup>th</sup> grade in 2015-2016).
  - Rama Road Elementary/McClintock Middle Programs: Provide for 927 students in wait pool for K-9 STEAM Magnet Program. Rama Road will be designated a Discovery School with STEAM focused professional development and programs; McClintock Middle to implement Teach to One Program; McClintock to begin planning for STEAM Partial Magnet opening in 2014-2015. Magnet options may include Robotics theme; partial magnet program beginning with 6<sup>th</sup> grade and growing a grade each year; STEAM Program accessible to all students at McClintock; and students from Green Transportation Zone assigned to School. East Mecklenburg High School will be the feeder school for Rama Road and McClintock Middle.
  - Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences: Expand college and career readiness in health sciences. Begin Health Science Academy with grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> partnering with Central Piedmont Community College's central campus; 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades at Hawthorne High School and Tate Teenage Parent Services programs will continue to be offered onsite for 2-13-2014; academics taught at Hawthorne and labs on CPCC Central Campus; basic health sciences curriculum will be Project Lead The Way. Health Sciences Program consisting of four courses: Principles of Biomedical Sciences, Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, and Medical Innovations. The initiative will use a School Improvement Grant (SIG) to design Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences that staff will present to the Board at an upcoming meeting.
  - Central Piedmont Community College Levine Campus: The expanded Middle

- College Program will be offered to rising juniors to begin enrolling in January 2014 and expanding that to juniors and seniors in the 2014-2015 school year. The initiative will place 10-classroom modular units on the CPCC Levine campus for 2013-2014 school year.
- Long Creek Montessori PreK-6: Meet demand of 686 students in wait pool of current Montessori elementary magnets. Implement Montessori PreK-6 school starting with grades PreK-K in 2014-2015 and growing a grade each year. Provides a Montessori program in geographic area currently underserved.
- Derita Montessori High School: Expand Montessori offerings in grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. Implement starting with 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014-2015, growing the program a grade per year. No athletics will be offered.
- K-3 Extended Learning Literacy Initiative: The North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation (Read to Achieve) requiring 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to be reading on grade level to be promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The initiative will impact approximately 5,000 students and accelerate academic achievement for every child and close achievement gaps so all students graduate from CMS college or career ready. A personalized literacy plan will be developed for all K-3 students identified as reading below grade level utilizing a blended learning instructional strategy. Proposed investment is \$1,200,000.
- Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams and Career Technical Education (CTE) Certification Fees: Budget reductions in the 2010-2011 school year led to the decision to no longer pay for students to take AP and IB exams. The total number of students testing dropped over 30% in 2012. Reinstatement of district funding for AP and IB exams for all students as well as funding for CTE Industry Certification Programs. This initiative will elevate the CMS focus and commitment to rigorous, college-level coursework. This will impact approximately 12,000 students across the district at an estimated investment of \$1,400,000.
- Accountability Staffing: The provision of information on the efficacy and impact of initiatives, programs, and core instruction efforts is a key operational function of CMS. The addition of two positions in the Office Accountability will increase the district's research capacity and strengthen existing efforts to improve data integrity. The intuitive will maximize performance utilizing data-informed and evidence-based decision making. The estimated investment is \$199,541.
- Partnerships: The Partnerships Department was created to connect community resources with student and school needs. The initiative will establish the department as the central point of contract for families and partners and engage the community in meeting the needs of individual students and schools. The initiative will cultivate innovate partnerships with parents and community to provide sustainable wraparound support for all children. The proposed recommendation includes ten positions to support a cluster of schools and help engage the community partners; one volunteer coordinator to handle increased volume of engagement, and a technology tool to automate engagement strategies.
- Summary of New Investments for Academic Success: Anticipated funding from the State is \$6.6 million and from the County \$19.9 million.

Sheila Shirley provided the Board with a review of the proposed CMS 2013-2014 Budget which included historical background, budget uncertainties, CMS reductions and redirections, and factors increasing the proposed budget. Ms. Shirley commended staff for

their diligent hard work over the past several months to develop a budget designed to move CMS forward. Enrollment over the past five years has increased by 5.3% but overall funding for that period has only increased by less than 1%. The County funding has decreased since 2009 by 4%. On a per pupil basis both State and County funding has decreased by 7% and 8% respectively. The overall federal funding has increased by 36% but that is beginning to decline. Federal funding is very restricted and designated for specific populations and represents about 11% of the overall CMS budget. Over the past five years, CMS has made approximately \$236 million in reductions.

# • Superintendent's Proposed 2013-2014 Budget:

State Request	\$716,464,515
County Request	365,885,032
Federal/Other Grants	135,778,555
Other and Special Revenue	18,677,131
Total Operating Budget	\$1,236,805,233
Capital Replacement	4,960,000
Child Nutrition	66,706,245
After School Enrichment Program	13,661,595
Total Proposed 2013-2014 Budget	\$1,322,133,073

# • Comparison to Prior Year:

2013-2014 Proposed Operating Budget	\$1,236,805,233			
2012-2013 Adopted Operating Budget	1,202,538,670			
Increase	34,266,563			
% Change over the prior year	2.8%			
Operating budget only does not include Capital and Enterprise funds				
Operating budget only does not include Capital and Enterprise funds				

# • Funding Sources:

- State: \$716.4 million or 58%.
- County: \$365.9 million or 30%.
- Federal and Other Grants: 135.8 million or 11%.
- Other and Special Revenue: \$18.7 million or 1%.
- Funding Usages:
  - Salaries: \$744.9 million or 60%.
  - Benefits: \$261.7 million or 21%.
  - Purchased Services: \$126.8 million or 10%.
  - Supplies and Materials: \$79.2 million or 7%.
  - Other: \$23 million or .2%
  - Furniture and Equipment: \$1.2 million or below 1%.
- Proposed Budget Reductions and Redirections: \$30.5 million.
  - County Reductions and Redirections: \$9 million.
  - State Reductions (estimates based on Governors Budget: \$15.3 million. State reductions include reductions in State programs allotments for Teacher Assistants and Limited English Proficiency. The reduction in teacher assistants is of high concern and CMS has informed the State of our concerns. This is a significant reduction, \$12.5 million, and should it occur staff will review options to address it.
  - Federal Reductions (estimates due to Sequestration): \$6.2 million.

• Factors Increasing the Proposed Budget:

Sustaining Operations	State (millions)	County (millions)
Salaries and Benefits:		
• 1% salary increase (as proposed by the	\$5.7	\$2.2
Governor)		
• Estimated Health Insurance Increase (\$5,192	4.0	.8
to \$5,503)		
• Estimated Retirement Rate Increase (14.23%	1.7	.7
to 14.59%)		
Program Continuation:		
CMPD School Resources Officer Contract	-	.7
Increase		
Utilities Rate Increase	-	1.2
Fuel Cost Increase	-	.4
Response to Instruction	-	1.2
Telecommunications  – Bandwidth Increase	-	.6
Communities In Schools Cost Model	-	.1
Adjustment		
Unemployment Insurance	-	1.7
Insurance Increase	-	.1
Total Sustaining Operations	\$11.4 M	\$9.7 M

• Factors Increasing the Proposed Budget:

Student Growth/Additional Instructional Space	State (millions)	County (millions)
Student Enrollment Growth:		,
• Enrollment – Staff and Non-Personnel – 2,665	\$11.6	\$3.9
students		
• Charter School Enrollment Growth – 1,653		2.7
students (4 new charters to open)		
Total Student Enrollment Growth	\$11.6	\$6.6
Additional Instructional Space: Includes one		
new (Grand Oak) and three replacement schools		
Maintenance and Operating Costs	-	1.0
Additional Staffing Allotments	.2	.2
Total Student Growth and Additional Space	.2	1.2
Total Sustaining Operations, Growth and New Space	\$23.2	\$17.5

Proposed 2013-2014 County Budget Request: \$28.5 million increase.

	County
2012-2013 Base Budget	\$337.4 M
Sustaining Operations, Student Growth, and New Space	17.5 M
New Investments for Academic Success	19.9 M
Reductions for Redirections	-9.0 M

2013-2014 Proposed County Request	365.9 M
Increase Requested from County	\$28.5 M

- Key Budget Process Dates
  - April 9<sup>th</sup>: Superintendent presents 2013-2014 Budget Recommendation.
  - April 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>: Budget Community Meetings.
    - April 16<sup>th</sup> at West Charlotte High School, 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
    - April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Rocky River High School, 6:00 pm. 7:30 p.m.
  - April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Public Hearing on Superintendent's Budget Recommendation.
  - April 30<sup>th</sup>: Board of Education Budget Work Session.
  - May 14<sup>th</sup>: Board of Education vote on Proposed 2013-2014 Budget Request.
  - May 15<sup>th</sup>: Board of Education 2013-2014 Budget Request submitted to the County.
  - May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Board of Education/Board of County Commissioners Budget Work Shop.
  - May 30<sup>th</sup>: Public Hearing on County's Budget.
  - June 18<sup>th</sup>: County adopts 2013-2014 Operating Budget.
  - June-Sept: State funding approved for 2013-2014 Operating Budget.
  - July-Sept: 2013-2014 Operating Budget finalized and approved by Board of Education.

Dr. Morrison thanked Ms. Shirley for her hard work and he addressed the challenges of the budget process. Dr. Morrison believes the proposed budget is a reflection of the CMS priorities and he looks forward to the Board's consideration of the proposed budget.

Chairperson McCray thanked Dr. Morrison and staff for the proposed budget and she invited Board members to make comments and ask questions. Board members thanked Dr. Morrison and staff for their hard work in developing the budget and addressed concerns that included the reductions in teacher assistants, the desire to push for employee raises, and the need to develop a Plan B or funding tiers to accommodate the potential of reduced funding. Board members asked several questions regarding the proposed budget and new initiatives and Dr. Morrison and staff provided clarification. Ms. Shirley noted as the information becomes clearer about the proposed funding for CMS and should there be a need to create a tier of reductions, staff will prepare plans and share those with the Board.

Ms. Lennon addressed concerns that even though there has been an outcry from parents regarding the Late Bell Schedule it was not given consideration in the budget. Dr. Morrison thanked the parents, teachers, and staff for their work on the Late Bell Schedule Task Force. Dr. Morrison reported staff reviewed the options developed by the task force to address concerns and that information was shared with the Board today. The options to change the 4:15 p.m. dismissal would result in high costs (millions) in the short and long term, negatively impact the State efficiency rating, and require the community to be comfortable with different ways to approach the CMS schedule (alter start times for high schools and elementary schools and change Magnet transportation at the elementary level). Staff will continue to engage the community on this issue and review the options to strive to think out of the box solutions. At this time, staff could not find the dollars in the budget to ask the Board for consideration on this recommendation. Ms. Lennon suggested that staff develop a Plan A for the best case scenario and a Plan B to accommodate no additional funding because there are rumblings from the County and State that there may not be any additional money. The County property revaluation will definitely impact the tax revenue. She suggested staff rank the new initiatives in priority

- order to accommodate the funding allotted to CMS. Ms. Lennon supports the Hawthorne Health Sciences Program, partnerships with Central Piedmont Community College, the Long Creek Magnet and Derita Montessori options, and funding the AP, IB, and CTE exams. She suggested that students not passing the course should not be allowed to take the exams as she wants to ensure CMS is not wasting money on those tests. Ms. Lennon hopes CMS will look for grant funding to cover the cost for the Partnership initiative because it is not focused on academics and that is the core business of CMS.
- Dr. Waddell said the Board has discussed the budget for several months and this information is not new but it is important to lift up some items to ensure the public is informed. Dr. Waddell commended Dr. Morrison for holding the numerous community meetings and other opportunities to get feedback from the CMS stakeholders and she is pleased the proposed budget incorporated that information. Dr. Waddell addressed concerns that the PreK-8 schools lack some of the course offerings, electives, and sports that the regular schools offer and she is pleased the budget puts forth efforts to address the inequities at the PreK-8 schools. Dr. Morrison provided information on the budget community meetings and incorporating that feedback into the budget and Ann Clark provided information on the new initiatives at the PreK-8 schools. Dr. Waddell likes the Community Engagement/Partnership initiative and urged staff to ensure it is managed appropriately. Dr. Morrison provided information that CMS has an enthusiastic community that wants to get involved to help CMS and we are excited about the initiative because it will tap into the strength of the community. Dr. Waddell is pleased that CMS is not looking at reductions in force at this time and she hopes staff will develop a plan to address reductions in teacher assistants should that happen. Dr. Waddell encouraged the public to attend the upcoming Community Meetings.
- Mr. Tate said the two most important decisions made by the Board are hiring a superintendent and approving the budget. Approving the budget is done on an annual basis and the Board must put their priorities out to the public and ensure students get what they need. Mr. Tate hopes this is the right budget for today and where we are in history. Mr. Tate asked is this the 2013-2014 Budget we need to do what we believe we must do in CMS in order to educate children? Dr. Morrison provided clarification and noted that this is a complex question. CMS does not have an unlimited budget and we are not allowed to control our own revenues or exceed our budget. We strive to be respectful of our funding partners, work in collaboration, and seek partnerships with businesses, higher education, and faith-based agencies. CMS is tasked to develop a budget and we believe the CMS priorities are reflected in the proposed budget. Dr. Morison said one area he would like to put more focus is salary increases for our employees and making teachers' salaries more competitive. This is the budget we need and it will move our district forward. Mr. Tate wants to ensure at least a 1% salary increase for employees and he hopes we can do more. Mr. Tate urged staff to consider the potential of unintended consequences as a result of changes to educational choices and opportunities. He hopes the new initiatives will strengthen the home schools and the magnet changes will not negatively impact home schools. He likes the innovative initiatives and looks forward to continuing the discussions in order to fully understand
- Mr. Davis commended Dr. Morrison and staff on the capital and operating budget recommendations. He appreciates the innovative ideas because they continue to shift CMS from compliance to performance driven with a focus on outcomes and results. He supports the positive trends of the Rama Road and Derita Montessori initiatives. Ms.

Clark provided clarification and noted Rama Road will be one of a few Discovery Schools in the nation. Mr. Davis urged staff and the Board to continue to keep the budget information fresh in the community, with the Board of County Commissioners, and in Raleigh. Mr. Davis discussed the important role of teacher assistants in the classroom and addressed concerns about the potential of losing an additional 400 CMS teacher assistants because that position experienced cuts by the State in previous years. Mr. Davis expressed concern that the State mandated costs for employee benefits and retirement continue to have a significant increase year after year. He also addressed concerns about the increase in utility (water, sewer, gas, electricity) costs and that the City will reduce the funding for CMS School Resource Officers. Dr. Morrison reported the increase to CMS will be \$2.7 million and staff is working with the City in hopes of reducing that increase. Mr. Davis said he has heard concerns about the bell schedules, security, technology, and class size but the overwhelming concern he has heard throughout the community is the importance of ensuring salary increases for employees. He believes if we take care of our team, our team will take care of our students. Year after year, CMS staff has been subjected to no raises and compensation cuts. Last year, there was a meager 3% increase but that was negated by increased employee benefits and taxes. Mr. Davis believes it is important to increase employee salaries because that impacts CMS' ability to attract, attain, and retain quality teachers. Dr. Morrison discussed the importance of increasing employee compensation in order to recruit and retain the very best and addressed concerns that teacher salaries in North Carolina are approximately \$10,000 below the national average. Dr. Morrison believes this should be a North Carolina issue and as a State we need to do better to provide teachers a more competitive salary. Mr. Davis urged the Board ask the State for a 3% salary increase for all employees and ask the County to match the complimentary funding for local employees. Mr. Davis believes CMS needs the new initiatives for academic success recommended by staff and employee raises.

- Ms. Ellis-Stewart urged the Board to move forward for staff raises because they have faced cuts in salary for several years. Ms. Ellis-Stewart asked Dr. Morrison to review the importance of PowerSchool. Dr. Morrison provided clarification noting that the State has selected PowerSchool to replace NCWise as the new student information system. Staff believes this is the right investment to complete the conversion appropriately to ensure employees have a smooth transition as this system will translate to how we service our students and parents. Ms. Ellis-Stewart supports the initiatives to enhance technology and professional development. She hopes staffing strategies are in place to retain teachers in the Math, Science, and CTE programs because those can be hard to staff areas. Ms. Ellis-Stewart addressed concerns about the potential of CMS losing 400 teacher assistants while at the same time the State is initiating a K-3 reading initiative. Dr. Morrison discussed the importance of teacher assistants in the classroom to enhance the teaching and student learning process. Ms. Ellis-Stewart is excited about expanding the Middle College opportunities for additional students and she hopes in the future there may be some opportunities to create an Early College program. Ms. Ellis-Stewart expressed concern about the potential of unintended consequences as it relates to the Hawthorne Health Services partnership and she wants to ensure the students at the Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology have the same medical learning opportunities. She would also like to have a Plan B to accommodate the potential cuts because that will allow the Board to be proactive rather than reactive.
- Mr. Morgan expressed concern about the State reductions in teacher assistants with the

implementation of the K-3 Reading initiative. Mr. Morgan asked Dr. Morrison to provide clarification regarding the proposed Governor's budget. Dr. Morrison provided clarification noting that the CMS budget is developed using the Governor's budget and staff believes it is a valid benchmark to start the budget process. Mr. Morgan noted the challenges of developing the CMS budget because CMS as well as the County are dependent upon State funding and cannot finalize their budgets until after the State has finalized its budget. Mr. Morgan wants to be clear that CMS is using assumptions to develop it proposed budget because it is pending the final budgets of the State and County. Mr. Morgan said this is his third budget process and it is exciting because we are striving to start moving forward again. The budget themes focused on technology, staff development, choice options, and partnerships should not be surprising to anyone because those are themes Dr. Morison and the community have discussed as priority items. Mr. Morgan thanked Dr. Morrison for initiating community involvement in the budget process and incorporating the community feedback in the budget. Mr. Morgan is excited about the choice options, expanding the CTE and Magnet programs, and allowing schools to create their own themes. Mr. Morgan said there will be some concern about the Partnership Department and the addition of ten positions and he asked Dr. Morrison to provide clarification of that investment. LaTarzja Henry, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships and Family Engagement, provided an overview of the initiative, the partnerships, and the importance of understanding the needs of a particular school. Each school will have their unique needs and this initiative will develop relationships to provide enrichment opportunities. The initiative will provide an infrastructure to make clear the needs of the school and seek the help to address the needs. Dr. Morrison talked about the importance of partnerships, collaborations, and return on investment. Mr. Morgan supports the Partnership initiative. Mr. Morgan said the Board will hold a Budget Work Session on April 30<sup>th</sup> and he looks forward to the opportunity to discuss the budget in more detail.

- Mr. McElrath said this has been a good discussion because have learned that we are better off now than we were four years ago. The budget is not where we want to be but we are moving forward and that is the message we want to send to our teachers and employees. Mr. McElrath said we are a part of something that will be great and we must stick with the plan. Dr. Morrison addressed the challenges of the economy and he believes this is a responsible budget that was developed with thought and being reflective of our funding partners.
- Chairperson McCray agreed with Mr. Davis and her priority is compensation and preserving teacher assistants. She highlighted the importance of teacher assistants in the classroom and their impact on student learning. She has heard from parents and staff about the issues regarding the Late Bell schedule and she understands those concerns. She lived a late bell schedule and they made it work. Chairperson McCray would prefer keeping teachers in the classroom for the extra thirty minutes because the extended day program will help CMS move forward. She expressed concern that the reduction in teacher assistants may impact the Title I and Exceptional Children classrooms. Dr. Morrison said that will be hard to determine because we do not have the impact of the Sequestration cuts at this time. Ms. McCray is excited about the professional learning and technology initiatives and she hopes teachers will take advantage of those training opportunities. Chairperson McCray likes the Rama Road and McClintock programs and that they feed to East Mecklenburg High School. She hopes the process includes assisting middle school students to be independent thinkers as they enter the program

next year. Chairperson McCray urged staff to strengthen the elementary and middle schools that feed to Olympic High School.

## VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Morrison reported on the following:

- Community Engagement Meetings: CMS has a series of Community Engagement
  meetings scheduled at several schools to give the public an opportunity to discuss and
  provide feedback on the proposed CMS Capital Improvement Projects. This will
  continue the community listening and learning process and feedback will be shared with
  the Board. The information was previously sent to the Board and made public. The
  meeting schedule is as follows:
  - April 9<sup>th</sup>: Meetings were scheduled at Huntingtowne Farms and Montclaire elementary schools.
  - April 10<sup>th</sup>: Collinswood Language Academy at 9:30 a.m., Albemarle Road Elementary at 6:00 p.m., and Davidson Elementary at 6:30 p.m.
  - April 11<sup>th</sup>: Oaklawn Language Academy at 6:00 p.m. and Mountain Island Elementary at 6:30 p.m.
  - April 15<sup>th</sup>: E. E. Waddell Language Academy at 4:30 p.m.
- Coffee with the Superintendent: Dr. Morrison will continue to hold Coffee with the Superintendent meetings which provide a great opportunity to listen to the community. The meetings have been well attended and involved robust conversations on a variety of topics. On April 15<sup>th</sup> Dr. Morrison will hold the fourth of a series of meetings at Rocky River High School from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Previously, Dr. Morrison held meetings at South Mecklenburg High School, Cochrane Collegiate Academy, and Harding University High School.
- Budget Community Meetings: CMS has scheduled several opportunities for the public to attend meetings to discuss the proposed 2013-2014 Board of Education Budget. The meeting schedule is as follows:
  - April 16<sup>th</sup>: West Charlotte High School at 6:00 p.m.
  - April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Rocky River High School at 6:00 p.m.

#### VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Rhonda Lennon will attend the meetings scheduled at Davidson Elementary and Mountain Island Elementary and she encouraged the parents who cannot attend the meeting to contact her with feedback. Ms. Lennon invited everyone to join her for *Coffee Chats* in the morning on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Summit Coffee in Davidson, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Coffee House in Mountain Island, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Burkedale, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Davis Lake, and May 1<sup>st</sup> at Catawba Road in Cornelius, and May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Dilworth Coffee House in Highland Creek. Ms. Lennon looks forward to meeting with constituents over the next several weeks.
- Joyce Waddell enjoyed attending an event at Cochrane Collegiate Academy in which students received new socks and tennis shoes. She also visited the new computer labs at Northeast Middle School, attended a Bill and Melinda Gates Symposium at the Westin Hotel, and attended an event at the Performing Arts Learning Center. She congratulated students at Olympic High School and Harding University High School on winning State championships. She encouraged the community to attend the upcoming Community Meetings.

- Ericka Ellis-Stewart thanked the Lakewood Community for inviting her to attend their community meeting. She congratulated the Board of Education for being the first place recipient of the Magna Award which will be presented at the Best Practices School Leadership Luncheon at the National School Boards Association Conference held in San Diego next week. Ms. Ellis-Stewart commended Dr. Morrison and staff for putting forth the proposal on behalf of the Board. Ms. Ellis-Stewart read a statement regarding the importance of the development of an operating budget and capital request.
- Tim Morgan reported the Board will hold an Intergovernmental Relationships Committee on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., 5<sup>th</sup> floor, of the Government Center. Mr. Morgan also invited everyone to attend the Ballantyne Breakfast Club meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Ballantyne Hotel in which Dr. Morrison will be the guest speaker.
- Mary McCray enjoyed talking with staff and volunteers at Reid Park Academy about initiatives at the school to help students. She will become an advocate for this program in the near future.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson McCray called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Upon motion by Ms. Ellis-Stewart that the Board adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms Lennon, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Mary T. McCray, Chairperson