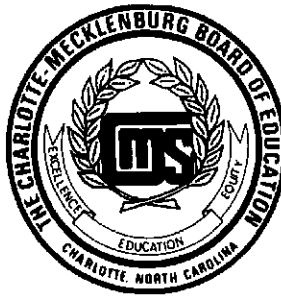


Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
July 23, 2013
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

May 14, 2013

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on May 14, 2013. The meeting began at 4:30 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;
Eric C. Davis, District 5; and
Reverend Amelia Stinson-Wesley, District 6

Absent: Rhonda Lennon, District 1

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Heath Morrison, Superintendent; George E. Battle, III, General Counsel; and Judith Whittington, Manger of Board Services who served as Clerk to the Board.

Upon motion by Joyce Waddell, seconded by Tom Tate, the Board voted unanimously of those present for approval to go into Closed Session for the following purpose:

- 1. To discuss student information that is privileged, confidential and not a public record as set forth in Title 20, Section 1232g of the United States Code and Section 115C-402 of the North Carolina General Statutes;**
- 2. To discuss specific personnel matters; and**
- 3. 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)(1), (a)(3) and (a)(6) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

The Board held a Closed Session meeting from 4:30 p.m. until 5:52 p.m. in Room CH-14.

Chairperson McCray reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 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;
Eric C. Davis, District 5; and
Reverend Amelia Stinson-Wesley, District 6

Absent: There were no absences.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McCray welcomed everyone to the May 14th 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 Dr. Waddell, and the motion passed upon unanimous voice vote of the Board.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Waddell to introduce the student to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and to speak on the May character trait of *hope*. Dr. Waddell introduced Yanick Gomez who is a sophomore at Garinger High School. Yanick is an ambitious young man who came to the United States from Niger, West Africa. He is youngest in a family of four children and before coming to the United States he attended a private institution where he was taught the fundamental education skills. He came to CMS at age thirteen and scored high enough on placement tests to enter 8th or 9th grade. Yanick was determined to enter high school and enrolled in The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program because his native language was French and English language presented barriers to him. Working at a fast and arduous pace to learn English, he tested out of the ESL Program by his sophomore year and is now enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition. Yanick is very involved in school and the community and is a member of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society. He has made A/B Honor Roll throughout his high school career and tutored middle school students with the One7 organization. Yanick has been accepted to North Carolina A&T University, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, East Carolina University, and North Carolina State University. Yanick plans to study Aerospace Engineering and was recently awarded the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship which will fund his bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees. Yanick is a true example of how hard work and hope can guide you in fulfilling your lifetime. Yanick was accompanied by his mother, Solange Gomez, and principal, Kondra Rattley. Yanick invited everyone to stand and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, Yanick said students attend

Garinger to get a glimpse at their future and search for hope. In a life of trials and challenges, hope is real. In a world of global chaos and instability, hope is real. Everyone has hope and it can empower a person to accomplish great things in life such as graduate from high school and go to college.

Board Announcement: Mr. Morgan acknowledged that in 1962 President John Kennedy signed a proclamation that designated May 15th *Police Officer's Memorial Day* and the week in which that date falls as *Police Week*. Mr. Morgan invited everyone to join him in celebrating *National Police Week* and honor the men and women in our school district, our community, and across our nation who work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our students, staff and all citizens. Special recognition should be given to those that made the ultimate sacrifice to protect us. Mr. Morgan asked that all police officers in the audience stand and be recognized.

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. Speakers were:

- Joyce Edmonds, represented Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and she recognized three CMS high school students who won the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Art Contest. The contest was in conjunction with the Sorority celebrating its centennial year.
- Darlene Sowell-Darby, retired educator, voiced concern about the CMS K-8 conversion schools and cited research that shows a student coming from economically disadvantaged home or school should not be a part of K-8 school. She does not believe young students should be immersed with older students and she requested CMS consider dissolving the CMS PreK-8 schools.
- Kevin Strawn, CMS teacher, voiced concern with the Algebra II new student learning test that was written to support Common Core Standards. The test will cost more than two hours of instruction time and preparation lesson time will be minimized. Students will be required to take the test but it will not be part of their grade for the course. The test will be a first year score for a three-year average used to measure teacher effectiveness.
- Three people urged the Board to support House Bill 75 which places a moratorium on testing. Two people represented the Charlotte Mecklenburg Association of Educators (CMAE).
 - Larry Bosc, CMS teacher, discussed concerns regarding the harmful effects of testing on teachers and students next year and in the future; teachers are angry they are required to spend many hours grading tests; flaws can be seen in other states attempting to attach student performance to teacher pace/evaluation; value-added method has been discredited by many educational experts; and the company using the flawed method refuses to share the formula used to calculate the value-added score.
 - Charles Smith, CMAE Co-President, voiced concerns with the measure of student learning tests currently being administered; teachers have received little training on how to score tests; little consistency across the district in how and when the scoring

will be done; the amount of time required to grade tests; and teachers will not receive any additional compensation.

- Erlene Lyde, CMAE Treasurer, voiced concern with the measure of student learning tests because the process has not been standardized, validated, or designed to ensure objectivity in scoring. She planned to be a “conscientious objector” and refuse to grade the tests but decided to participate because her not participating would place an additional burden on fellow teachers. Her school scheduled the scoring with planning periods on Wednesday which was the regular meeting time.
- Lisa Allen, CMS parent, requested CMS implement a formal program to help students who are chronically ill by writing an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) that works to support a sick student. She has worked tirelessly to get her daughter an education despite her having an autoimmune disease which causes her to miss close to forty days per year. Over the years, she has attended many meetings with CMS staff in an effort to get her daughter IEP accommodations but because she cannot get the help she needs she now plans to take her daughter out of CMS. They have moved to another county that will give them the support they need to give their daughter the opportunity to finish high school. She hopes CMS will be more mindful of this issue with other students.

Chairperson McCray called the Requests from the Public closed at 6:55 p.m.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of Closed Session meeting minutes.
 - March 26, 2013.
 - April 18, 2013.
 - April 24, 2013.
- B. Recommend approval of Open Session meeting minutes.
 - March 12, 2013 Regular Board Meeting.
 - March 13, 2013 Joint Meeting with BOCC.
 - March 18, 2013 Work Session.
 - April 30, 2013 Work Session.
- C. Recommend approval of resolution authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to approve purchase orders for items required for the 2013-2014 school year.

In order to be prepared for opening of school in August, there may be some instances in which the purchase orders for certain items must be issued prior to July 1 in order to have those items on hand at the start of school. Approval of this resolution authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to approve 2013-2014 purchase orders for those items. Fiscal implications: Any purchase order issued prior to July 1 would be from local funds only and will be charged to the proper appropriation in the 2013-2014 Operating Budget upon adoption.

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO APPROVE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR THE 2013- 2014 SCHOOL YEAR.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the Chief Financial Officer to approve purchase orders for the items required for the 2013-2014 school year.

- D. Recommend approval of licensed/non-licensed hires and promotions for April 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: 3,535. (Licensed Hires: 1,900/Non-Licensed Hires: 1,635).*
- *Total Promotions July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013: 329. (Licensed Promotions: 180/Non-licensed Promotions: 149).*

E. Recommend approval of gym construction phase of work at Myers Park High School.

The Gym Construction Phase was publicly bid for the Myers Park High School's construction project and final pricing was received on April 30, 2013. Staff recommends approval of the construction phase to KBR Building Group (f.k.a. BE&K Building Group). The project scope includes the construction of a new gymnasium and numerous site utility relocations and interior road and parking lot realignments associated with the new gym building. The project is scheduled for occupancy in August 2014. MWSBE participation for the construction contract is 25.6%. Fiscal Implications: 2002 and 2007 Bonds, \$7,274,967.

F. Recommend approval of administrative personnel appointment.

Appointments:

- *Tonya Faison, named principal at Hawthorne High School. Ms. Faison has a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from East Carolina University and Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Ms. Faison previously served as principal at Goldsboro High School in Wayne County Public Schools in Goldsboro, North Carolina.*
- *Tyler Ream, named principal at Albemarle Road Elementary School. Mr. Ream previously served as CMS Zone Superintendent Central Secondary Zone.*

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

Ms. Lennon moved that the Board adopt Consent Agenda Items A. through F. as presented, seconded by Mr. Morgan, and motion passed upon unanimous voice vote of the Board.

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Morrison to review the personnel appointments. Dr. Morrison recognized Tonya Faison who is coming to CMS from another North Carolina school district. Ms. Faison has an extensive background in Career and Technical Education and she will lead the implementation of the School Improvement Grant at Hawthorne High School and the creation of a new Academy of Medical Science. Tyler Ream will be the new principal at Albemarle Road Middle School. Mr. Ream has a distinguished resume and is one of the best administrators and leaders in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. His desire to return to a principalship is both a professional and personal decision. Dr. Morrison said based on conversations with teachers and families at Albemarle Road Elementary School, this is the most popular decision we have made regarding the school.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen appointment to local board of trustees, commission, or committees

Correlation to Board of Education Vision, Mission and Core Beliefs: Partnering with community members to maximize student learning.

Chairperson McCray reported this item is approval of citizen appointments by the board to three community committees for various terms of service. The committee vacancies were

announced at the April 9th Board meeting and posted on the CMS Website. This item will have three parts, each of which will be handled separately and according to the following procedure. The Chairperson will:

- Call for nominations that any board member has in addition to the names already before the board for consideration.
 - After board members have had the opportunity to place names in nomination, the Chairperson will entertain a motion to close the nominations.
 - After nominations are closed, the board will vote on candidates in alphabetical order by last name.
 - After a candidate receives five votes, the voting will cease and that individual will receive the board's appointment.
1. Recommend approval of citizen appointment to Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees to serve a four-year term beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2017.

Chairperson McCray said there is one name, Violeta Moser, before the board for consideration and asked if any board member wished to place any other name in nomination. Board members did not have any other name for nomination.

Upon motion by Tim Morgan that the nominations be closed, seconded by Eric Davis, the motion passed upon unanimous voice vote of the board. The board moved to vote following the procedure as stated. Upon unanimous voice vote of the board, Violeta Moser was appointed to the Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees to serve a four-year term ending June 30, 2017.

2. Recommend approval of citizen appointment to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission to serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016.

Chairperson McCray said there are two names, Randall Fink and Margaret Nealon, before the Board for consideration and asked if any board member wished to place any other name in nomination. Board members did not have any other name for nomination.

Upon motion by Tim Morgan that the nominations be closed, and seconded by Eric Davis, the motion passed upon unanimous voice vote of the board. The board moved to vote following the procedure as stated. Upon unanimous voice vote of the board, Randall Fink was appointed to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission to serve a three-year term ending June 30, 2016.

3. Recommend approval of citizen appointment to Citizen Transit Advisory Group to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2015.

Chairperson McCray said there is one name, Christy Beth Kluesner, before the Board for consideration and asked if any board member wished to place any other name in nomination. Board members did not have any other name for nomination.

Upon motion by Tim Morgan that the nominations be closed, and seconded by Reverend Stinson-Wesley, the motion passed upon unanimous voice vote of the board. The board moved to vote following the procedure as stated. Upon

unanimous voice vote of the board, Christy Beth Kluesner was appointed to the Citizen Transit Advisory Group to serve a two-year term ending June 30, 2015. Ms. Kluesner is currently serving a partial term and this will be her first full term.

Chairperson McCray congratulated the appointments as follows:

- Violeta Moser named to the Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees to serve a four-year term ending June 30, 2017.
- Randall Fink named to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission to serve a three-year term ending June 30, 2016.
- Christy Beth Kluesner named to the Citizen Transit Advisory Group to serve a two-year term ending June 30, 2015.

B. Recommend approval of 2013-2014 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education Budget

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

Chairperson McCray reported this is the approval of the 2013-2014 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education Budget and she called upon Dr. Morrison to introduce the recommendation. Dr. Morrison said among the many decisions the board must consider the operating budget is one of the most important to move forward the work for all students in CMS. Many months have been spent talking about the budget and staff strived to conduct a tremendous outreach to the public through town hall meetings, surveys, small group meetings, coffees, and meetings with principals who offered outreach to their staffs and PTAs. Staff worked hard to create a budget that reflected the number of voices heard and the direction of the school district which included the desire to be intentional about every child, every day for a better tomorrow. The proposed total budget (State, County, Federal, and other aspects) equates to approximately \$1.3 billion. At this time, we are still awaiting final funding from our Federal and State partners because those entities are still working through their budget processes. Staff will continue to collaborate with the CMS funding partners including the Board of County Commissioners to finalize the budget. This is a lot of money but it is important to put this in context. The Board of Education with Montgomery County Schools in Maryland which is a little larger than CMS recently approved a \$2.2 billion budget.

The proposed 2013-2014 Budget is 2.8% higher than last year but we must remember we continue to be a growing school district. This year compared to last year, CMS welcomed over 3,000 new students and we anticipate similar growth next year. With this slight increase, we are still behind the CMS per pupil expenditure when compared to per pupil expenditure in 2009. Dr. Morrison highlighted points about the budget:

- \$9 Million Redirections/Reductions: Reductions/redirections were initiated prior to staff considering new initiatives and improvements for our schools and students.
- County Request Increase \$28.5 Million: A huge portion of this increase, \$17.5 million, is for growth and sustaining operations. This includes an increase in student enrollment and increased costs in items such as fuel and healthcare benefits.
- New Initiatives \$19.9 Million: Much discussion has taken place on the new initiatives that include technology; professional development; opportunities for students to pursue Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification; Literacy; and Partnership Coordinators. We believe the

initiatives will make for a better school district.

- Proposed 2013-2014 Board of Education 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	

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

	County
2012-2013 Base Budget	\$337.4 M
Sustaining Operations	9.7 M
Student Growth, and New Space	7.8 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

Dr. Morrison said this is an important night and he asked the Board for consideration of the budget proposal which was drafted with input from the Board and community. Dr. Morrison highlighted key budget dates.

- May 14th: Board of Education vote on 2013-2014 Budget request.
- May 15th: 2013-2014 Board of Education Budget request submitted to the County.
- May 23rd: Budget Work Session - Joint Meeting with Board of Education and Board of County Commissioners.
- May 30th: Public Hearing on County's budget.
- June 18th: Board of County Commissioners vote on 2013-2014 Operating Budget.
- June – Sept: State funding approved for 2013-2014 Operating Budget.
- July – Sept: 2013-2014 Operating Budget finalized and approved by the Board of Education.

Chairperson McCray thanked Dr. Morrison for the report and invited Board members to ask questions.

- Dr. Waddell asked is it realistic that the Hawthorne High School initiative will begin in 2013-2014? Dr. Morrison reported Hawthorne will have two programs. Under the

leadership of the new principal appointed tonight, Ms. Faison, students will continue to be served in the existing program and a new Academy of Medical Science will be added. Ms. Faison and staff have had numerous discussions on how to operate two programs within one building and they are focused on a good strategy. We are all here to serve the students of Hawthorne and we will provide tremendous support for the new principal and her staff. Ann Clark, Deputy Superintendent, highlighted that partnerships have been established with the hospitals in the area and today CMS received the news that Hawthorne was granted The School Improvement Grant and we are excited about the next steps for Hawthorne.

- Mr. Davis said he fully supports the Superintendent's recommendation for the 2013-2014 Budget. The budget request covers three broad areas which include training for teachers to prepare for Common Core, expanded opportunities for students in a number of areas (such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Career and Technical Education), and Technology. Mr. Davis highlighted the importance and benefits of students having access to technology to compete in a global society. In addition, the State has mandated but not funded that school districts be ready to administer all standardized tests Online by 2015. The technology initiative will be costly and students will be required to master both the content of their lessons and the ability to manipulate technology. Mr. Davis expressed concern that there are many items not included in the budget that our students need to achieve our goals for them and their own aspirations. Over the past several years, CMS has seen the damage caused by debilitating budget cuts and those cuts now need to be restored. The budget cuts have impacted numerous areas in CMS and resulted in late bell schedules; overcrowded schools; early or late lunch times; increased class size; students having to pay to take exams and participate in sports, band, and arts; reduction of teacher assistants who are a valuable asset in the classroom and student learning; and teachers who have left the system because they cannot live on their meager salary. Our staff, students, and families have felt the pain of the budget cuts. The Board of Education has exercised great discipline and fiscal restraint in asking for only a small fraction of what our students need to succeed and our Superintendent needs to ensure an effective principal in every school and an effective teacher in every classroom. This budget impacts all schools and all students and that is why it is so important the full request be funded. To do otherwise, will only continue to dismantle this education system at time when it should be rebuilt. Mr. Davis urged the entire community to join CMS in getting support for the budget because that will ensure our students get a great education in order to leave America a better place for our children and grandchildren.
- Mrs. Lennon thanked Mr. Davis for his heartfelt and on point comments. There are items in the budget that she does not love but overall it is the right thing to do. She expressed concern that the budget does not include a salary increase for CMS employee but the CMS funding partners will give their employees a 3% salary increase again this year.
- Mr. Tate expressed concern that CMS often gets criticized for asking for more funding even though in reality we focus on the funding we anticipate we can get opposed to what we actually need to educate students. Mr. Tate thanked Mr. Davis for his comments. CMS know the needs of all our students including those who are gifted as well as those who are falling behind. The Board designed a Vision and Mission to strive to provide the education that each student needs. We do not ask for everything we need because we know it is not possible because of limited funding. CMS strives to ensure every child

gets the best education available anywhere. We must focus on that endeavor and continue to raise the issues regarding the needs of our students. Mr. Tate commended the CMS teachers and teacher assistants who work hard to teach our students. He also commended the hard work of the CMS administrators, staff, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and custodians who are instrumental in ensuring students get an education. Mr. Tate will support the budget recommendation.

- Mr. McElrath addressed the importance of teacher assistants and expressed concern that the State budget may cut more teacher assistants. Teacher assistants know how to keep the classroom going and actually serve as a substitute teacher. Mr. McElrath urged the State to find the money to keep teacher assistants in the classrooms. He believes if the State cuts teacher assistants, CMS should find the money to keep teacher assistants especially at the elementary level. To lose teacher assistants would be a big loss.
- Chairperson McCray said simply, "If not now, when? Now is the time." Students do not have voices and this Board is the voice for our students, employees, parents, and the community. Chairperson McCray will support the budget.

Chairperson McCray called for a motion to adopt the budget.

Dr. Waddell made the motion that the board adopt the 2013-2014 Board of Education Budget totaling \$1,322,133,073 including a \$365.9 million County budget request as presented, seconded by Ms. Ellis-Stewart, and the motion passed upon unanimous voice vote of the Board.

C. Recommend approval of request to the Governor and Legislature of the State of North Carolina to Enact a 3% Salary Increase for School District Employees Whose Salaries Are Paid By The State of North Carolina

Correlation to Board of Education Vision, Mission and Core Beliefs: Public education is central to our democracy.

Chairperson McCray reported this item is a Board recommendation to request the North Carolina Governor and Legislature to Enact a 3% Salary Increase for School District Employees Whose Salaries Are Paid By the State of North Carolina and she called upon Eric Davis to present the motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Davis that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education formally add to its 2013 Legislative Agenda, a request that the General Assembly and the Governor of the State of North Carolina enact, in the biennial budget to be adopted this year, a 3% salary increase for school district employees whose salaries are paid by the State of North Carolina. The board's request shall be communicated to the General Assembly and the Governor by the General Counsel, who is responsible for advocating for the board's legislative priorities, or his designee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tate. There was no Board discussion and the motion passed upon unanimous voice vote the Board.

Dr. Morrison thanked the Board for their positive support of the 2013-2014 Budget and their courageous stance on trying to fund salary increases for our hard working employees.

Ms. Lennon left the Regular Board meeting at 7:07 p.m. and Reverend Stinson-Wesley left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

V. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Budget Amendments for March 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 March 31, 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 North Carolina Read to Achieve Initiative

Correlation to Board of Education Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs: Preparing all students to be successful in institutions of higher learning or the workforce without the need for remediation.

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Morrison to introduce the report on North Carolina *Read to Achieve* initiative. Dr. Morrison reported staff will present an overview on North Carolina *Read to Achieve* initiative in response to House Bill 950/Session Law 2012-142 Section 7A. CMS and other school districts are tasked to accomplish a lot in public education. We talk about the importance of technology and 21st Century teaching, learning, and expectations. Fundamentally, we must teach students how to do numeracy skills, write well, and be 21st Century readers. We all have a great passion for literacy and it is important to ensure our students are reading on grade level. Last year, the North Carolina State Legislature adopted legislation that requires students to be reading at proficiency and tasked school districts to not socially promote students to further grade levels when they are not reading at grade level. Due to the importance of that legislation and in an effort to inform the Board and community, staff will present information on the *Read to Achieve* Program and the new legislation. Dr. Morrison reported the Board just adopted the 2013-2014 Board of Education Budget and that included support for the *Read to Achieve* initiative and the infusion of over \$1 million of initial funding to ensure students are reading at an early grade level. Dr. Morrison called upon Ann Clark, Deputy Superintendent, to introduce staff to present the report. Ann Clark introduced Anna Renfro, Executive Director of PreK-12 Curriculum and Instruction, to present the report. Ms. Clark said Anna Renfro is the CMS expert on the *Read to Achieve* Program and House Bill 950 and she represents CMS at the at the North Carolina Board of Education meeting each month.

Anna Renfro provided the Board with an overview of the *Read to Achieve* Program and House Bill 950.

- House Bill 950/Session Law 2012-142 Section 7A – *The Excellent Public Schools Act*. This legislation became law in July 2012 and includes the *Read to Achieve* Program. The State goal is to ensure every student can read at or above grade level by the end of third grade and continues to progress in reading proficiency so he or she can read, comprehend, integrate, and apply complex texts needed for secondary education and

career success. The legislation applies to all schools at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. The guidebook serves as a structural framework for the North Carolina *Read to Achieve* Program. The charts, narratives, and descriptions are the beginning phase of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's (NCDPI) work with this initiative. The law can be accessed via at the following link: <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2011/Bills/House/PDF/H950v7.pdf> (pages 38-45). The guidebook gives a basic overview of all of the components of the program. There are many more details to be considered and developed. As those details are established and finalized, updates of the document will be communicated to all Local Education Agencies (LEAs).

- Seven Components of North Carolina *Read to Achieve*:
 1. Comprehensive Reading Plan: The State Board of Education (SBE) is responsible for developing, implementing and continuously evaluating a comprehensive plan to improve reading achievement in the public schools. It must be based on research-based instructional practices; be developed with active involvement of teachers, colleges, and university educators, parents/guardians and other interested parties; and reflect research, including revision of North Carolina Standard Course of Student (NCSCOS) licensure and renewal standards, and revision of teacher education program standards.
 2. Developmental Screening and Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA): The SBE is responsible for creating and administering a developmental screening of early language, literacy, and math skills within thirty days of enrollment and ensuring that every student entering kindergarten completes an entry assessment within sixty days of enrollment. The assessment will include language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches toward learning, and physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development. The assessment must be administered in all Local Education Agencies; aligned with the North Carolina early learning and development standards and the NCSCOS; and reliable, valid, and appropriate for use with all children, including those with disabilities and English language learners. Results will be used to inform the status of children's learning at kindergarten entry; instruction of each child; efforts to reduce the achievement gap at kindergarten entry; and continuous improvement of the early childhood system.
 3. Facilitating Early Grade Reading Proficiency: K-3 students are assessed with valid, reliable, formative, and diagnostic reading assessments approved by the SBE (Reading 3D). The process should be able to provide data to support the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS). Formative and diagnostic assessments and supports will address: oral language; phonological and phonemic awareness; phonics; vocabulary; fluency; and comprehension. LEAs are encouraged to work with local partners to provide volunteers, mentors or tutors.
 4. Elimination of Social Promotion: The SBE shall require that a student be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency appropriate for a third grade student, as demonstrated on a state-approved standardized test of reading comprehension administered to third-grade students. The law allows for Good Cause Exemptions which are Limited English Proficient students with less than two years of instruction in an English as a Second Language (ESL) Program, students with disabilities whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicates the use of alternative

assessments and reading interventions, and students who demonstrate reading proficiency appropriate for third grade students on an alternative assessment approved by the SBE. Other exemptions are students who demonstrate proficiency through a student reading portfolio and students who have received reading intervention and have been retained more than once in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade. The State decided the components of the reading portfolio and LEAs will not develop their own portfolio process. The superintendent shall determine whether a student may be exempt from mandatory retention on the basis of a good cause exemption based on the principal's written recommendation.

5. **Successful Reading Development for Retained Students:** Parents/guardians are notified in writing if a student is not eligible for good cause exemption. The notification must include proposed interventions designed to address student reading deficiency. Students who are not proficient at the end of third grade must enroll in a summer reading camp prior to being retained. Per the NCDPI, enrollment in summer reading camp is the decision of the parent. If the parent opts to not enroll in summer camp, the student will be retained in third grade. Summer camp is six to eight weeks long, four to five days per week, and at least three hours of instructional time per day. Students must be taught by compensated, licensed teachers selected on demonstrated student outcomes in reading proficiency and allow volunteer mentors to read with students. Students retained after summer reading camp shall be provided with teacher selected based on demonstrated student outcomes in reading proficiency in an accelerated reading class or transitional third and fourth grade class combination. In addition, student classroom instruction will be at least ninety minutes of daily reading instruction. Parents/guardians will be provided a home reading plan.
 - NCDPI has notified CMS that the Year-Round Schools may provide their Summer Reading Camp/Summer School Option during their regularly scheduled intersession.
 6. **Parent/Guardian Notification:** Parents/guardians are notified in writing, and in a timely manner, that the student shall be retained, unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good cause if the student is not demonstrating reading proficiency by the end of third grade.
 7. **Accountability Measures:** Each LEA must publish on their website and report to the SBE an annual (September 1st) report that includes the number and percentage of third-grade students demonstrating and not demonstrating reading proficiency; number and percentage of third-grade students who take and pass the alternative assessment; number and percentage of third-grade students retained for not demonstrating reading proficiency; and number and percentage of third-grade students exempt from mandatory third-grade retention by category of exemption.
- **Next Steps:**
 - CMS staff will continue to work with NCDPI as they develop additional support materials and provide training.
 - CMS Literacy Department is serving as the conduit for all the information related to *Read for Achieve*.
 - NCDPI anticipates providing letter templates and portfolio guidelines by September 1st.
 - CMS has a working committee representing the following departments/individuals: Rtl, Literacy, Instructional Technology, principals, Professional Development,

academic facilitators, Health/PE/Arts, Accountability, Pre-K, Student Services, ESL, EC, parents, STEM, Legal, and Communications.

- Subgroups are being identified to support implementation.

Chairperson McCray thanked Ms. Renfro for the report and invited Board members to ask questions. Following is a sampling of the Board member's questions and staff's responses.

1. What happens if a child fails Kindergarten Entry Assessment, has the work been completed on the course of study licensure renewal standards revision and how the data supporting EVVAS will work? KEA is truly an assessment and is a diagnostic tool, a lot is still in progress on revising the standards and data will be downloaded and fed into the system which will be electronic. Reading 3-D is the next generation of Dibbles.
2. How will the intervention work? CMS will be proactive rather than reactive by starting initiatives in the early grades and not waiting until third grade which would be too late. An Rtl framework would assess sooner than third grade. Kindergarten Entry Assessment would be the first intervention and indicator of where student is reading and which students will need additional help. Also, there will be extended learning opportunities before and after school as well as six summer school sites for rising third graders at Shamrock Gardens, Crown Point, Hidden Valley, Croft, Steele Creek and Beverly Woods elementary schools. We also have partners that tutor, mentor, and work with our students year round.
3. What year is *Read to Achieve* to take effect and where is funding for the program? It will take effect 2013-2014 for the rising third graders. There is over \$1 million allocated to early reading initiatives in the 2013-2014 operating budget just adopted by the Board which will allow CMS to prepare for the program. The summer program will be implemented with extended day at-risk dollars that are used for summer school. Many Title I schools are offering their own summer programs. We believe that there are funds allocated to this legislation in the second year of the State biennium budget but we do not want to wait.
4. What happens if a student never becomes proficient in third grade reading? Following the third grade or the repeat of fourth grade transition or the pull-out class, the principal determines grade and placement.
5. What is the percentage of the parent's responsibility and if they don't participate will the student be held back? The only time a parent's involvement would be problematic is their refusal to allow their child to participate in the summer reading program in order to develop a portfolio and take the alternate assessment.
6. How do we avoid labeling students and putting them in categories as failures from the start? Eliminating the achievement gap starting in Kindergarten. One of the best ways to do that is with our PreK programs which will close the achievement gap at its narrowest and the Kindergarten Entry Assessment which will show where the gaps exist. Research is clear that the three biggest determinations of how a student starts and finishes school are if a student is impacted by poverty, the student has a parent that didn't graduate from high school, and if they did not have access to quality PreK.
7. What will we do differently as a result of the legislation than what we were already doing to catch students up and make them successful? The committee will be amassing recommendations to the executive staff. We will be looking at class sizes, transitions in third and fourth grade classes, and what is the cumulative effect needed in terms of a certified reading teacher. Foundationally with our Balanced Literacy Program we are

already addressing the key components of the legislation. We will be expanding that balanced literacy PreK through 12th grade. Staff will continue to rise above because they do every day. Just give us the tools we need and let us turn our teachers loose.

8. How are we going to collaborate with other providers (Freedom Schools, Bells, Citizen Schools, etc.) to make sure they are also on board with what we are doing this summer? A very important component of the alignment piece is ensuring they know and what they are working with is aligned with our Balanced Literacy focus. We are fortunate to have partners who say here is what you need rather than this is what we can offer and this has helped to avoid misalignment.
9. What is the estimated number of students expected to attend the summer program this year? We are projecting 300 students per site (six sites).
10. Is September 1st report when we will have all of the testing reports for third graders and is September 1st the date from now on? This year we will not receive the official results until October and we will have to adjust based on the availability of that information. The results for the 2013-2014 school year will be reported in September 2014.

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Morrison reported the following announcements:

- *Coffee with the Superintendent*: The community outreach initiatives have been very well attended. The final two for this year are on May 20th at Hough High School from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. and on June 3rd at Vance High School from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.
- Key Budget Dates:
 - May 21st: County Manager will present his proposed budget to BOCC, 6:00 p.m.
 - May 23rd: Budget Work Session - Joint Meeting with Board of Education and Board of County Commissioners, 3:00 p.m.
 - May 30th: Public Hearing on County's proposed operating budget.
- Task Surveys: The Task Surveys are now closed and the Task Forces have done an incredible job. Over 6,500 employees and community members took part in the survey. Data is being compiled into a report which will be shared with the board and the public upon completion.

VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Dr. Waddell recognized that CMS had a lot of positive publicity and it is good that we keep positive things about our system in the news. She highlighted meetings and events she had recently attended, e.g., Planning Coordinating Committee Spring Luncheon, National School Board Annual Conference in San Diego, Hidden Valley Elementary School playground work day, ROTC awards at Bojangles Coliseum, and teacher appreciations conducted throughout Charlotte. Dr. Waddell reminded the public that volunteers would be needed during the upcoming week of testing.
- Chairperson McCray said she recently attended graduations at East Carolina University and three former CMS students, Bryon Austin, Kristin Everett and Asha Thomas, graduated Summa Cum Laude. Chairperson McCray was proud to say Asha Thomas is her granddaughter. During the graduation ceremony she met parents from Charlotte and they wanted her to convey to the board and Dr. Morrison their comments on what a fine job they are doing and to keep up the good work. Chairperson McCray announced that the next Regular Board meeting on May 28th would be held at East Mecklenburg High

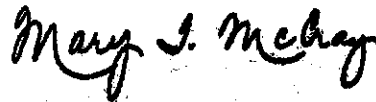
School with a 6:00 p.m. start time.

ADJOURNMENT

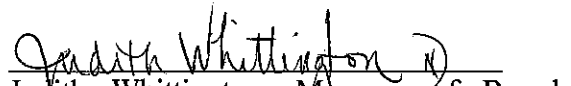
Chairperson McCray called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Tate that the Board adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ellis-Stewart, and the Board voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting. Board members Lennon and Reverend Stinson-Wesley were absent.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Mary T. McCray, Chairperson



Judith Whittington, Manager of Board Services, served as Clerk to the Board