

Approved by the Charlotte-  
Mecklenburg Board of Education  
December 9, 2014  
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

September 23, 2014

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on September 23, 2014. The meeting began at 5:05 p.m. and was held in Room 267 of the Government Center.

Present: Mary T. McCray, Chairperson, Member At-Large  
Timothy S. Morgan, Vice Chairperson, Member At-Large  
Rhonda Lennon, District 1  
Thelma Byers-Bailey, District 2  
Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell, District 3  
Tom Tate, District 4  
Eric C. Davis, District 5

Absent: Ericka Ellis-Stewart, Member At-Large  
Paul Bailey, 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. Joyce Waddell, seconded by Thelma Byers-Bailey, the Board voted unanimously of those present 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 consider certain personnel matters, and**
- 3. To consult with the Board's attorneys on matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.**

**The motion was made pursuant to Sections 143-318.11(a)(1), (3), and (6) of the North Carolina General Statutes.**

The Board held a Closed Session meeting from 5:05 p.m. until 6:10 p.m. in Room 267.

Chairperson McCray reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:20 p.m. in Room 267 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  
Thelma Byers-Bailey, District 2  
Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell, District 3  
Tom Tate, District 4  
Eric C. Davis, District 5

Absent: Paul Bailey, 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; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McCray welcomed everyone to the September 23, 2014 Regular Board meeting which was held in a Work Session format.

### A. Adoption of Agenda

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

**Upon motion by Dr. Joyce Waddell that the Board adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Ericka Ellis-Stewart, and the motion passed upon 8-0 voice vote of the Board. Paul Bailey was absent.**

## II. CONSENT ITEMS

### A. Recommend approval of Board member appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee.

*At-large Board member Mary McCray named Latrice McRae as her appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee. Ms. McRae will serve a three-year term beginning October 1, 2014 and ending September 30, 2017.*

### B. Recommend approval to renew Lease Agreement with Silver Hammer Properties, LLC for Instructional Space at 817 Hamilton Street, Charlotte, North Carolina.

*The space located at 817 Hamilton Street will continue to provide classroom, display, and performance opportunities for the students attending Northwest School of the Arts. The Music Factory site will also offer parking for buses and staff. Fiscal Implications: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will pay to Landlord an annual base rent of \$135,000 for the first year with subsequent increase of 5% each year effective July 2, 2014. The term of the lease is July 2, 2014 through June 20, 2017.*

### C. Recommend approval of administrative personnel appointments.

- Merita Brown-Little named principal at Steele Creek Elementary School. Ms. Brown-Little previously served as assistant principal at Blythe Elementary School and Alexander Middle School.*
- Diann Weston named principal at Hawthorne High School. Ms. Weston has a Bachelor of Arts, English Literature, from University of Colorado and Master of Arts in Teaching, Elementary Education, from National-Louis University, Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Weston previously served as principal at Daniel Hale Williams Preparatory School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois from 2007 to present.*

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

**Upon motion by Ericka Ellis-Stewart that the Board adopt Consent Items A. through C., seconded by Tom Tate, and the motion passed upon 8-0 voice vote of the Board. Paul Bailey was absent.**

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Morrison to present the personnel appointments. Dr. Morrison highlighted the personal appointments of Merita Brown-Little and Diann Weston and invited Ms. Brown-Little who was attending the meeting to stand to be recognized by the Board.

### III. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Recommend approval of proposed 2014-2015 Board of Education Operating 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 recommendation on 2014-2015 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education Operating Budget. Dr. Morrison said the adoption of the proposed 2014-2015 Budget should be an easy process as a result of the numerous budget discussions over the past several months. The proposed budget was first presented to the Board in April and the final State Budget was approved on August 7, 2014 amidst a flurry of activity by the General Assembly. As a result of action by the State, a number of items in the budget process have changed that will impact CMS. An important part of the budget process is the number of students CMS is currently serving and anticipated future student growth. The student growth for school districts has been the foundation of the budget development process for decades but with the adoption of the new State Budget the Legislators took action that growth will no longer be built in the assumption of the funding process in North Carolina. Dr. Morrison commended Sheila Shirley, Chief Financial Officer, and Dennis Covington, Executive Director Budget Development and Management Services, for the great work they do in developing the CMS budget and staying abreast of the changes taking place at the State, federal, and local levels. Dr. Morrison called upon Sheila Shirley to provide an overview of the impact the adopted State Budget had on the proposed 2014-2015 Board of Education Operating Budget adopted by the Board in April 2014.

Sheila Shirley said the budget process is a team effort and she thanked the members of the Finance Department, the Board of Education, and the community for their input. Ms. Shirley provided an overview of the budget process and proposed 2014-2015 Board of Education Operating Budget.

- **State Adjustments to Biennial Budget:** Every two years the State adopts a biennial budget outlining the allocation of State resources for the next two years. State funding represents 57% of the CMS Operating Budget making that funding a significant driver in the CMS budget process.

	Key Adjustments outlined in 2014-2015 Biennial Budget	Actual cuts to CMS
Classroom Teachers	+77 positions (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade class size reduction)	+ 156 positions Added K-1 Grade Class size reductions

Teacher Assistants	+1.1 million (In 2012-2013 the CMS State teacher assistant funding was cut by \$12.3 million)	(\$10.6 million)
Academically Gifted	AP/IB exams covered	AP/IB exams covered
Transportation	No changes	(\$ .6 million)
At-Risk	No changes	(\$ .9 million)
Central Office	No Changes	(\$ .1 million)

- Enrollment Growth Process and Impact on Funding: CMS continues its strong enrollment growth trend. The anticipated 20<sup>th</sup> day student enrollment count for CMS is 145,112 students, up 2,500 or 1.8% over last year. This is an increase of 11,000 students or 8.2% since 2009. Based upon projected student enrollment by charter schools, the State allotment for charter school growth adjustments for 2,773 students equate to a reduction of \$12,000,630 for CMS. It is anticipated the charter school growth will not equate to what they projected to the State which will most likely increase the overall enrollment for CMS. The budget has not been adjusted for the additional expected growth in CMS at this time. CMS will request additional funding from the State and will adjust the budget when resources are received. The addition of 3,267 students in CMS could generate approximately \$14 million in additional State funding. Should this come to pass, CMS will request an adjustment and following the receipt of those funds will bring a budget amendment before the Board.
- Significant Budget Changes Over the Prior Year:
  - Salary Increases: Total budget impact over the prior year for salary increases is \$51.6 million.
    - Teachers and certified staff received increases ranging from .3% to 18%, with an average of 7% to 9%.
    - CMS non-certified staff received \$500 annually if a full time employee. It is important to note that all other State employees, excluding K-12 education, received a \$1000 increase and five bonus days.
    - Local cost impact is \$12.2 million, net of longevity reduction of \$1.2 million.
    - Board of County Commissioners approved the CMS request to provide the full amount for the local impact of the State salary increase. During the budget process the Board of County Commissioners set aside \$7.3 million and they recently approved an additional \$4.9 million for a total of \$12.3 million.
  - Benefits/Retirement: The total budget impact over the prior year for State mandated benefit increases is \$5.3 million.
    - Health Insurance: Increased from \$5,285 to \$5,378 or \$1.6 million.
    - Retirement: Increased from 14.69% to 15.21% or \$3.7 million.
    - Since April, the State launched a new benefit plan for employees eligible for healthcare coverage under the *Affordable Care Act*. Employer cost is lower than current State Health Plan that equates to a savings of \$327,000 which will be used to partially cover the local impact of benefit increases.
  - Salary and benefit increases total \$57 million and represent 82% of the overall budget increase over the prior year.

- 2014-2015 Board of Education Total Proposed Budget:

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
State of North Carolina	\$ 749,327,262	57.1%
Mecklenburg County	388,236,594	29.6%
Federal and Other Grants	153,673,260	11.7%
Other and Special Revenue	20,658,033	1.6%
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$1,311,895,149</b>	<b>100%</b>
Capital Replacement	4,960,000	
One-Time Capital Funding to be used for maintenance and technology	5,040,000	
Enterprise Funds:		
Child Nutrition Program	67,079,095	
After School Enrichment Program	13,369,706	
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$1,402,343,950</b>	

- 2015-2016 Budget Challenges:
  - Enrollment growth funding to be considered as part of ‘expansion’ budget items: This is a significant change in financing school operations because it has historically been considered a part of the continuation budget process. School districts with growing enrollment will not be able to count on additional funding for new students. The long standing assumption that the State will provide funding for ‘growth’ is no longer valid. The funding for the addition students or growth will now have to compete with all the other expansion items and legislative budget priorities. In the past, the State Legislature can and has made cuts to education funding and those cuts were applied after enrollment growth was covered. Under the new process, projecting the CMS State funding will be virtually impossible until the State budget is adopted. This year, the State Budget was adopted in August and that will negatively impact the CMS hiring process. This uncertainty will affect our ability to conduct responsible financial planning and staffing decisions, i.e., hiring teachers and other spending plans made in the spring in preparation for the upcoming school year. If additional funding is not provided for new students, the current funding level must be spread across more students which will effectively cause a decrease in per pupil funding.
  - Teacher Assistant Funding: Minimum of a \$4 to \$5 million gap in funding.
  - Charter school enrollment/funding process must be examined as more significant impacts will result with growing number of charters.

Ms. Shirley urged the Board to approve the proposed 2014-2015 Budget. Dr. Morrison said we are pleased the State Budget included teacher salary increases and happy the Board of County Commissioners funded the CMS local supplement to the State recommendation. Dr. Morrison noted he has talked with June Atkinson, North Carolina State Superintendent, to express concerns about the changes the State made to funding student growth and they are discussing options to reclaim some of those allocations. Should the CMS student enrollment remain at the current level, we will need to make adjustments. Dr. Morrison hopes the State will make changes to the charter school process and the method they are allowed to verify enrollment in an effort to lessen the potential of students being enrolled in more than one school. We must be good fiduciary officers of the taxpayers’ dollars and there are challenges that need to be addressed with the State. With the increase in CMS enrollment, which could be the result of several charter schools closing, CMS is short of funding and teachers to serve its

students. Sheila Shirley addressed concerns that as a result of the increase in population, classrooms were bursting at the seams and until the 20<sup>th</sup> day student enrollments are finalized there is not much CMS can do to address these concerns.

Chairperson McCray thanked Dr. Morrison and Ms. Shirley for the budget recommendation and invited Board members to ask questions and make comments. Chairperson McCray thanked Ms. Shirley and Mr. Covington for speaking before the Board of County Commissioners to urge them to approve the local supplement for CMS employees.

Chairperson McCray called for a motion on the 2014-2015 Budget recommendation.

**Ericka Ellis-Stewart moved that the Board approve the 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget as presented, totaling \$1,402,343,950 including a \$388,236,594 budget request from the Board of County Commissioners, seconded by Thelma Byers-Bailey, and a Board discussion followed.** Board members Lennon, Waddell, Davis, Ellis-Stewart, Morgan, Tate, and McCray asked questions and provided comments. Dr. Morrison and Ms. Shirley provided clarification to questions.

- Rhonda Lennon said CMS uses a weighted-student staffing formula for K-3 and in most allocations they are better than the State required teacher-student ratios. Ms. Lennon expressed concern about the State requirements for charter schools and how they are allowed to verify student enrollment because that is resulting in dual enrollment projections for school systems. Ms. Lennon believes the State should make parents commit to a school for their child by August 1 and mandate cross-checks, monitoring, and reporting to ensure charter schools meet the same requirements as CMS schools. CMS has awesome schools and there is disconnect for why parents take their children out of CMS to go to a charter school just to have them return to CMS at a later date.
- Dr. Joyce Waddell addressed concern that there are some families whose children are not in school and she hopes CMS staff is working to get kids back in school like they did last year. Dr. Morrison said staff is engaged in the Door-to-Door campaign to get students back in school. Dr. Waddell expressed concern about overcrowded classrooms and she hopes adjustments can be made soon. Dr. Morrison said school districts are experiencing problems with the State PowerSchool system and staff is working with the Department of Public Instruction to work through those issues which include enrollment growth. Dr. Waddell said CMS has overcrowded schools and she urged CMS will to reopen some of the previously closed schools to deal with the overcrowding issues.
- Eric Davis thanked the Board of County Commissioners for approving the funding for the locally paid CMS employees. Mr. Davis said CMS has a Task Force committee reviewing Bell Schedules and he asked Dr. Morrison would the State budget cuts to transportation make it easier or harder for CMS to adjust Bell Schedules? Dr. Morrison said it will make it more challenging. As a result of the State cuts, CMS will incur a \$600,000 reduction in transportation funding and the State cuts could also impact the efficiency ratings of school districts which could cause further reductions in transportation funding. Ultimately, the CMS State funding for transportation could be reduced by an additional \$3.6 to \$5.6 million. Mr. Davis expressed concern about the Sate cuts to teacher assistants because teacher assistants are very important to the academic success of students. Dr. Morrison said teacher assistants are valuable to the success of students and provide a great service to teachers. Teacher assistants make very little and provide a great return on investment. We

carried the message to Raleigh that teacher assistants are vital to teaching and learning and we must continue to advocate for teacher assistants. Mr. Davis expressed concern that since 2008-2009, the number of teacher assistants in CMS decreased by 400 but the number of students increased by 2,500. This is tracking in the wrong direction. Mr. Davis addressed concern about the State requirements for school districts to tell teachers if they have a job for the next school year (mid-May) and the timeframe when the State finalizes the budget (mid-July or August). In addition, the budget process has been negatively impacted by the State increase in charter schools and the confusion of properly documenting student enrollment. The cost of choice in North Carolina has impacted every student in our State. The State budget timeframe is resulting in CMS not being able to plan for staffing in a timely manner and creating instability for our teachers and students. Mr. Davis said the State in its current year is running about \$200 million behind in revenue receipts and the pain of the State cuts is being felt in K-12 education. We hope growth and revenue will speed up before more school systems are damaged beyond repair.

- Ericka Ellis-Stewart expressed concern that next year the new State funding formula will no longer include funding for growth which will negatively impact funding for CMS. Dr. Morrison said the new State funding process will not guarantee funding for growth and that will negatively impact our ability to allocate teachers and teacher assistants for our schools in a timely manner. School districts will now have to wait until the final budget is adopted by the State (mid-July to August) to understand if the projected enrollment/growth in CMS will be honored. Ms. Ellis-Stewart said it is important to know that this decision was made by Legislators without input from school districts and understand how it is landing on public education. We all must advocate to our State leaders to support public education. Ms. Ellis-Stewart urged voters to be educated voters in November. This year, CMS expected certain funding from the State and at the last minute Legislators did not follow through with their financial commitments to education. Ms. Ellis-Stewart said the increased budget cuts to transportation will further negatively impact our ability to provide transportation for students and could result in additional shuttle stops. Shuttle stops created issues for families getting their children to shuttle stops and some had to change schools. This could result in an access and equity issue and we must get ahead of this issue so we can be proactive rather than reactive. Ms. Ellis-Stewart said after the 40<sup>th</sup> day of school the funding does not follow the student should they change school districts and she asked how many students came back to or enrolled in CMS after the 40<sup>th</sup> day? Dr. Morrison said that information can be provided at a later time and he commended Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement for doing a phenomenal job.
- Tim Morgan thanked the eight members of the Board of County Commissioners who voted to match the State salary for the CMS employees paid by the County. Mr. Morgan discussed concerns about the State Budget cuts to transportation, At-Risk Program, and teacher assistant positions. He said some people reference budget reductions as non-funded items but in reality they are a 'budget cut.' Mr. Morgan said the State also made severe cuts to the Drivers Education Program. Starting next year, all funds for Drivers Education will be taken out of the State Budget. The State will allow school districts to charge students \$65 in an effort to recoup the cost for Drivers Education. Unfortunately, the average cost to provide Drivers Education per student is \$250 to \$325. As the Board prepares for next year's budget, we will not know what we will get for growth until the State Budget is finalized and we must also factor in the additional costs for Drivers Education. Mr. Morgan expressed concern that the North Carolina State Budget included a \$1,000 salary increase and five annual leave days for all State paid employees except for

those in K-12 public education who got \$500 and no annual leave days. People are realizing that teachers and staff in public education are not valued and they are not choosing public education as a profession. From a public education standpoint, this is scary. College students are not pursuing education majors because they know they will be more valued and make more money in the private sector. This will also impact charter schools and private schools. Mr. Morgan said developing the budget for next year is concerning and asked staff to let the Board know their concerns so they can be included in the Board's Legislative Agenda.

- Chairperson Mary McCray urged staff to review transportation options to address the pending additional State budget cuts to transportation. Dr. Morrison staff is reviewing options for efficiency in operations and will consider using some of the restorations to the allocations and additional monies CMS may receive to add to the fund balance which may be applied to the State cuts in transportation. We would like to avoid making transportation changes mid-year. Staff is working with the State to determine the potential cuts but they may not be finalized until December. Chairperson McCray said parents are concerned their kindergarten and elementary children may have to walk to school. In the City, many areas have sidewalks but many areas do not and students are walking in the street which can be very dangerous. Chairperson McCray expressed concern that the virtual charters the State is mandating will negatively impact State funding for school districts and their ability to verify student enrollment. Dr. Morrison said the virtual charters are a new concept and most of the recommendations submitted by a committee consisting of teachers, superintendents, principals, Board members, and members of the Department of Public Instruction were not followed by the State. Virtual charters will impact funding, enrollment verification, and should students choose to leave that program after the 40<sup>th</sup> day the funding will remain with the virtual charter. The virtual charters approved by the State are for profit and includes Pearson which is the company the State contracted to provide school districts PowerSchool.
- Tom Tate commended Ms. Shirley and her team for their ability to keep abreast of the many budget changes that came forth from the State and the County. The Board strives to develop a budget that will be good for all students even though we do not have all the teachers and teacher assistants we need. The lack of funding can be frustrating but we will make it work. We are thankful to the Board of County Commissioners for helping CMS fund the salary increases for the County funded employees. It is important the Board and CMS staff maintain healthy relationships with our funding partners because that will help us move forward. We care about our students, teachers, and employees and believe this budget will help CMS move forward and give all our students the opportunity to grow.

**Chairperson McCray called for the Board vote on the recommendation to adopt the 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget and the motion passed upon an 8-0 voice vote of the Board. Board members McCray, Morgan, Ellis-Stewart, Lennon, Byers-Bailey, Waddell, Tate, and Davis voted in support of the motion. Paul Bailey was absent.**

Rhonda left the Regular Board meeting at 8:25 p.m.



## IV. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Report/Update on Project L.I.F.T.

*Correlation to Board of Education Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs: Providing all students with the opportunity to perform to their fullest potential and ensuring that there is no discernible difference between the achievement levels of students by race, gender or economic level.*

Chairperson McCray called upon Dr. Morrison to introduce the report on Project L.I.F.T. (Leadership and Investment for Transformation). Dr. Morrison called upon Denise Watts, Project L.I.F.T. Community Superintendent, to provide an update on Project L.I.F.T. Ms. Watts provided the Board with an update on Project L.I.F.T.'s initiatives of talent, time, community and parent engagement, and evaluation.

- Talent: Ms. Watts reported one of her goals is to remove the label of 'hard to staff schools' from the schools in Project L.I.F.T. Ms. Watts shared a video that highlighted students praising their teachers for inspiring their hearts and minds, caring about them, and ensuring they learn and do their best. They admire their teachers and appreciate their hard work.
  - 4 vacancies on first day of school (3 career and technical education, 1 media specialist).
  - 194 total vacancies filled between April and August.
  - Promotions to district leadership positions: 2 assistant principals promoted to principal; 1 dean promoted to principal; 1 facilitator promoted to principal; 1 One Laptop Per Child Facilitator promoted to district technology specialist; and 3 teacher leaders promoted to assistant principals.
- Time: Increased Out-of-School Time
  - CMS After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) awarded Federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning grant. The \$1.3 million grant over 4 years will serve students at West Charlotte High School and Druid Hills Academy. The grant will provide students with academic, cultural, and ASEP enrichment and support social, emotional, and physical development.
  - Wings Program debuts at Bruns Academy on August 25<sup>th</sup>. **Year 1:** 120 student capacity with 107 students currently enrolled in grades K-4. **Year 2:** Expand enrollment from 120 to 140 students and serve grades K-5. Program is facilitated by two fulltime staff and fourteen part-time college student mentors. Program recently awarded a \$280,000 Federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning grant dispersed over 4 years. Initial \$40,000 funding provided by a family foundation.
  - Community and Parent Engagement events included Million Father March (national initiative to solicit positive father figures to have ongoing relationships with students at school); 2<sup>nd</sup> West Fest held and hosted 1,700 participants (goal is to move this to a community led initiative) portions of the proceeds will go to the West Charlotte High School Athletics Program; and Dental Clinic scheduled for November 18, 2014 which will be sponsored by TeamSmile and Carolina Panthers.
- Evaluation Update: Research for Action's, third party evaluator, Year II Report will be out in the next few weeks. Like last year, the report includes student outcomes, behavioral incidents, academic data, and attendance but will be expanded to provide additional information. This year, the report will also provide an analysis of the partners and major strategies. If a program or strategy serves at least 200 students, Research for Action can conduct a multiple variant analysis of the impact that the strategy or the partnership has had on student outcomes.

- Outline for Year II Report.
  - Section I: Context for Year II Implementation.
  - Section II: Implementation and Descriptive Analyses:
    - Sub-Analyses of Year II Implementation: Key LIFT Partners and Strategies.
  - Section III; Student Outcomes Analyses:
    - Sub-Analyses of the Effectiveness Year II Activities: Key L.I.F.T. Partners and Strategies.
  - Section IV: Recommendations/Implications.
- Upcoming Deliverables:
  - Year II LIFT External Evaluation Final Report: Product Delivery: October 31, 2014.
  - Year I Opportunity Culture Implementation Report: Product Delivery: January 31, 2015.
  - Internal Memo of LIFT Partner Effectiveness: Product Delivery: January 31, 2015.

Chairperson McCray thanked Ms. Watts for the report and invited Board members to ask questions and make comments. Board member Byers-Bailey, Ellis-Stewart, Waddell, Davis, and McCray asked questions and provided comments. Ms. Watts provided clarification to Board member questions.

- Thelma Byers-Bailey is happy the video showed how much students love their teachers and that the Project L.I.F.T. initiative is restoring the roar and the love in the West Charlotte area. She urged Ms. Watts to reach out to the neighborhoods in the corridor to make West Fest a neighborhood initiative because they have an interest in supporting the event.
- Ericka Ellis-Stewart thanked Ms. Watts for the report and asked questions regarding vacancies, ASEP at West Charlotte High School, Dental Clinic, how Research in Action will isolate the partner strategies to assess the data, and metrics to determine success. Ms. Ellis-Stewart said Project L.I.F.T. is in the third year of a five year initiative and she asked how will the initiative be funded when the L.I.F.T. dollars conclude? Ms. Watts said this is a focus area and top discussion point for the L.I.F.T. Board and those conversations will continue. It was important to have two evaluation reports completed to understand what is working and what is not working. Future funding will be focused on strategies that are working. Ms. Ellis-Stewart urged the Board of Education to discuss the future of the Project L.I.F.T. initiative sooner than later. CMS may want to replicate some of the Project L.I.F.T. programs and funding options will need to be discussed. Dr. Morrison said we will be more informed after the evaluation but we should have one more year of data. Project L.I.F.T. is building and may eventually become a broader community goal of investment and public education and showing what can happen when the public and private sectors come together. Ms. Watts said Project L.I.F.T. has changed the vernacular in the City about trying to solve problems and combining the public and private businesses, schools, and churches have created synergy around different community problems. Communities are having conversations and are applying that methodology. Ms. Ellis-Stewart agreed this should be a larger conversation of the community. CMS is the legal responsible party of the Project L.I.F.T. schools and it is important that CMS and the Project L.I.F.T. partners have ongoing conversations. Ms. Ellis-Stewart looks forward to seeing the data because we must assure Project L.I.F.T. is supporting academic success for students and community change.
- Dr. Joyce Waddell thanked Ms. Watts for the report and asked questions regarding steps to

promote West Fest for next year, vacancies, and student enrollment. Dr. Waddell noted that last year's report included more detail. Dr. Waddell looks forward to getting the results of the forthcoming evaluation because it is important to ensure the funds are supporting academic achievement of students. Dr. Waddell urged that CMS put football and more electives at the Pre-K-8 schools. Ms. Watts said this is a focus area and we are seeking opportunities in those areas.

- Eric Davis commended Ms. Watts and her team for their tireless dedication and support of our schools and students. Mr. Davis thanked the philanthropists for their financial support to our schools at a time when public support for public education seems to be waning.
- Chairperson McCray said people are excited about the revitalization of West Fest. People are much more invested in the community and want to know what they can do to support students and community events.

Chairperson McCray reported the Board will hold its second Public Hearing on Policy BBA, *Board Self-Evaluation*, and the Board vote at the October 14, 2014 Regular Board meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

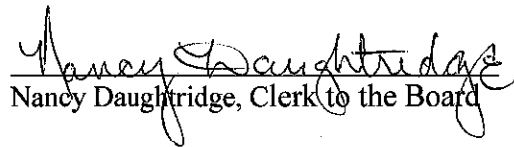
Chairperson McCray called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Upon motion by Tim Morgan that the Board adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Joyce Waddell, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.**

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Mary T. McCray, Chairperson



Nancy Daughtride, Clerk to the Board