

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
December 14, 2010
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

November 9, 2010

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on November 9, 2010. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and was held in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center.

Present: Eric C. Davis, Chairperson, (District 5);
Tom Tate, Vice-Chairperson, (District 4);
Kaye Bernard McGarry, Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large;
Rhonda Lennon (District 1);
Richard Allen McElrath, Sr. (District 2);
Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell (District 3); and
Timothy S. Morgan (District 6)

Absent: There were no absences.

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; George E. Battle, III, General Counsel; Members of Executive and Senior Staffs; Judy Whittington, Manager of Board Services; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairperson Davis welcomed everyone to the Board's first meeting of the month.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Davis invited everyone to stand and join him reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Adoption of Agenda

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

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Tate, and a discussion followed.

Dr. Waddell moved to amend the motion that the Board hereby delay action on IV.B. until the first Regular Board meeting in February 2011, seconded by Mr. McElrath, and a discussion followed.

- Dr. Waddell said Action Item IV.B. is the Board vote on the Comprehensive Review regarding

school closures, boundaries, and adjustments. She is calling upon the Board to postpone the vote to allow more time for community consideration of the new school assignment plan that involves the closing of numerous intercity schools serving primarily African-American and economically disadvantaged students. She expressed concern that the process did not allow enough time for the community to analyze and respond responsibly to the proposed plan. The series of forums held by the Board dealt with surface facts of particular schools and there were incidences in which the community needed more involvement. Dr. Waddell believes the Board is putting most of the burden on the economically disadvantaged students and she encouraged the Board to delay the Board vote until the February meeting.

- Mr. McElrath said he would support the motion for a number of reasons. He said when we talk about the CMS school system we should talk about the entire system. If we were talking about the entire system this would include more options. If there were more options there would be better choices than some of the choices in the recommendations. He encouraged the Board to delay the vote and to make this process a truly Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools system issue.
- Mr. Merchant thanked Dr. Waddell for the motion and her thoughtfulness. Mr. Merchant said when this process began June 8th he discussed his concerns regarding the timeline, the process was directionless and unclear, and the Board would embark on a philosophical discussion during the summer months when families were not engaged and thinking about school. CMS did a good job of engaging the public during the summer but it is easy to engage on matters of philosophy. But, when the Board discussed actual schools, students, and the people involved the Board did not do a good job with public engagement. Mr. Merchant believes there are a number of good ideas in the Superintendent's recommendations. Some ideas save a little bit of money, some save a lot of money, and in most cases the recommendations put students in situations that are good as or better than their current environment with the exception of one which he will address at a later time in the meeting. Mr. Merchant said he would not support the motion but shares the frustration because he predicted the Board would reach a point in the fall where the community, staff, and the Board would be beaten up and not capable of making the best decision. It is unfortunate but that is what has happened. Leadership requires making difficult choices and selecting the best of the bad options. Leadership also requires the courage to stand up and admit that we did not do as good a job as we could have and we would like to get it better. Mr. Merchant supports the majority of the Superintendent's recommendations and he will not support this motion. Mr. Merchant felt this motion was worth addressing and he will speak during the Board vote to a recommendation that is egregious.
- Mr. Tate said statements made on both sides of this issue are true. The Board has completed a lot of work but could have done a better job. The issue before the Board is about education and the CMS budget. This budget concerns saving money and moving forward knowing what we are facing in the spring. Mr. Tate expressed concern that if this process is delayed, the Board will not have options to utilize for next year. Mr. Tate asked Dr. Gorman to recap the impact for delaying this vote and the ability of being able to use any of these ideas going forward for the 2011-2012 school year. Dr. Gorman said the information shared was the same information shared at the beginning of the process. It will impact the budget process, which actually begins in November. In November, staff reviews where students will be assigned to schools for the coming year and this involves the Board's goal of having timely boundary decisions to allow students adequate time to make proper decisions regarding school assignment through the Magnet Lottery and Magnet Fair. A delay in the vote will cause decisions to be made later and that will push back enrollment projections and allotments and that will hamper staff providing the Board adequate information in time to make budgetary decisions. The Board will not be able to make budgetary decisions and be in alignment with action needed for human resources regarding potential

reduction in force, decisions on teaching assignments and allotments, as well as other decisions for the coming year. That entire process takes time and it is dependent upon when students select their schools. Mr. Tate said a decision tonight allows staff the ability to go forward in meeting the requirements for the coming 2011-2012 school year. A delayed decision would mean that none of the recommendations could take place for the coming school year and pushes the timeline back to make it impossible to save funding or implement educational options for the students that will be good as or better for the next year. Mr. Tate said he understands the frustration and need for some people to have more time but prudently weighing the budgetary and educational concerns, it is important that the Board move forward with these decisions tonight.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote on Dr. Waddell's motion to delay the Board vote on agenda item IV.B. until the first Board meeting in February 2011.

The Board voted 2-7 on the motion to delay the Board vote on agenda item IV.B. and the motion failed. Board members McElrath and Waddell voted in support of the motion. Board members Davis, McGarry, Merchant, White, Lennon, Tate, and Morgan voted against the motion.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote to adopt the agenda as presented.

The Board voted 9-0 to adopt the agenda as presented.

C. Report on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

Chairperson Davis called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010. Dr. Gorman said each year we present to the Board the Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit Report and he called upon Sheila Shirley, Chief Financial Officer, and Aprille Bell, auditor with Dixon Hughes, to present the report. Ms. Shirley recognized staff in the Financial Department for their hard work, outstanding accounting, and auditing work that greatly contributes to the positive audit outcomes that CMS receives each and every year. Ms. Shirley called upon Ms. Bell to present the results of the audit and review the opinion that has been issued. Ms. Bell thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Board's independent auditor for this year.

Members of the audience attending the meeting became loud and interrupted the meeting. Chairperson Davis called for Order in the meeting. Chairperson Davis paused the meeting from 6:14 p.m. until 6:19 p.m. in order for the audience to become quiet.

Ms. Bell continued the presentation regarding the Financial Audit. Ms. Bell reported that the Board had received the Audit Committee Letter, Single Audit Reports, and Independent Auditors' Report. The Audit Committee letter included the following findings:

There were **NO**:

- Significant estimates.
- Difficulties in dealing with management.
- Corrected or uncorrected misstatements.
- Consultations with other independent accountants.
- Other audit finding issues.

The audit includes both a Financial Audit and a Single Audit component:

- **Single Audit Report:** The audit company rotates the Federal Programs and the State Funds that are audited each year. This year, the State Programs audited were State Public School Fund

which pertains to the classroom teachers' funding and the Federal Programs audited were Title I, Special Ed Cluster, and the State Fiscal Stabilization.

- Single Audit Report includes three reports:
 - ✓ Report on Internal Control over Financial Report and Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
 - No Findings.
 - ✓ Report on Compliance with Requirements That Could Have a Direct and Material Effect on Each Major Federal Program and Internal Control over Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133 And the State Single Audit Implementation Act (compliance and controls for Federal Programs).
 - Title I, Special Ed Cluster, State Fiscal Stabilization.
 - One Finding (page 10 and page 12).
 - ✓ Report on Compliance with Requirements That Could Have a Direct and Material Effect on Each Major State Program and Internal Control over Compliance in Accordance with Applicable Sections of OMB Circular A-133 and the State Single Audit Implementation Act (compliance and controls regarding State Funding).
 - State Public School Fund
 - No Findings.
- Independent Auditors' Report:
 - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
 - ✓ Audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and government auditing standards.
 - ✓ Financial statements present fairly the financial results as of June 30, 2010 and for the year ended June 30, 2010 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
 - ✓ CAFR includes:
 - Letter of Transmittal.
 - Independent Auditors' Report.
 - Management's Discussion and Analysis.
 - Financial Statements.
 - Notes to the Financial Statement.
 - Statistical Section (information related to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Mecklenburg County).

Ms. Bell provided a recap of the CMS funding and how it has changed over the last three years. CMS receives general and special revenue, State public school funds, and federal funds. CMS had a slight decrease in the general and special revenue funding this year from last year. This funding is comprised of monies received from the County for operations (does not include capital outlay monies from the County) and special grants from the state or federal grantor agencies such as More at Four, Smart Start, and ROTC. The state public school funds experienced a significant drop this year from \$700,140 to \$633,069. CMS experienced an increase in the federal funding this year from \$75,971 to \$128,529. This same trend is expected in 2011. Ms. Bell reviewed the general fund balance and fund balance as a percent of total governmental expenditures excluding capital outlay and individual schools. As of June 30, 2010 the unreserved fund balance was approximately 3.25% of the total expenditures excluding capital outlay, individual schools, and Child Nutrition. Of that amount, almost half of it has been appropriated into the budget for year ending June 30, 2011. If the expenditures track the budget, at this time next year CMS will have 1.5% and 2% of fund balance

that is available for appropriation. Ms. Bell invited Board members to ask questions.

Ms. McGarry, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, thanked Ms. Bell and Dixon Hughes for conducting a thorough report. She also thanked the Board Audit Committee members: Tim Morgan, Joyce Waddell, and Joe White.

- Chairperson Davis asked Ms. Bell based on the review of the CMS financial information and in your professional opinion are the CMS financial reports accurate? Ms. Bell said based upon the Audit opinion, the financial information is fairly presented in accordance with general accepted accounting principles. Chairperson Davis asked do our books match the accounting principles that are appropriate for an organization of our type? Ms. Bell said, yes. Chairperson Davis asked is there any reason that the public should have concern with the quality of our financial statements? Ms. Bell said Dixon Hughes has presented our Audit opinion and it is an unqualified opinion that states the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and those are the principles that are applied by all other governmental units across the country in the United States that are set forth by the AICPA which is their governing body. Chairperson Davis asked what does an unqualified opinion mean? Ms. Bell said it means there were no exceptions and there is nothing in the financial statements that makes them not be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Chairperson Davis said are we correct in concluding that the CMS financial statements are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Ms. Bell said, yes, that is correct.
- Mr. Tate asked is it the norm to have an unqualified report for a school system of our size or are there usually exceptions? Ms. Bell said that is the norm.
- Ms. McGarry said this audit is primarily a compliance audit to ensure that funding is used according to the guidelines. Ms. Bell said the Single Audit procedures performed are driven by the guidelines of the programs being audited. If the program indicates the funds are to be spent in a particular manner that becomes a part of the test procedure to ensure the funding was spent according to the grant agreement.

D. Public Hearings on Proposed Amendments to Student Assignment Policies and Exhibits

Chairperson Davis said the next three items are Public Hearings on Proposed Amendments to Student Assignment Policies and Exhibits. Chairperson Davis said this is an opportunity for the Board to hear from the public to gain valuable feedback. Chairperson Davis outlined the speaker and audience protocol. Generally, personnel, confidential or specific school level matters are not proper subjects to discuss during the public hearing and public comment period. Instead, those matters are more appropriately addressed in accordance with the appeal rights supported under North Carolina General Statutes. He encouraged the audience to be mindful of showing respect to the speakers and to refrain from either showing support or displeasure. Each speaker will be given two minutes to address the Board. Chairperson Davis asked the speakers to direct comments to him as the representative of the Board and to refrain from comments directed at staff members.

1. Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Policy JCA, Student Assignment Plan

Bolyn McClung expressed concern that the 2010 Guiding Principles developed by the Board did not pass with a unanimous Board vote. Mr. McClung supports the proposed amendments to Policy JCA and urged the Board to adopt proposed Policy JCA with an unanimous Board vote because that will encourage community support.

2. Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Exhibit JCA-E1, Student Assignment Priorities, Non-Magnet Sites

No speakers were signed up to speak to this item.

3. Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Exhibit JCA-E2, Student Assignment Priorities, Magnet Programs

Ericka Stewart expressed concern that the guidelines for Continuation and Sibling Guarantee, Page 3, Section 2, references E. E. Waddell Academy of International Languages and this is prior to the Board vote regarding the Comprehensive Review. This has not been decided and the Board is out of order with this process.

E. Public Hearing on the Board of Education's Proposals and Superintendent's Recommendation in the Comprehensive Review

Chairperson Davis reported that 118 speakers have signed up to speak regarding the Comprehensive Review. Chairperson Davis outlined the guidelines for the speakers and he encouraged them to be mindful of their allotted two minutes.

Twenty-three speakers discussed their concerns regarding the recommendations, the Comprehensive Review process, and some encouraged the Board to delay the Board vote.

1. Dr. Sandy Hoagland said the plan is unjust, unfair, and the recommendations are race related and will return the community to segregation. She encouraged the Board to delay the vote.
2. Blanche Penn expressed concern regarding the timeline, the recommendations are unjust, and the Board did not listen to the community.
3. Janet Brinkley, co-president of the League of Women Voters, expressed concern that the recommendations create more challenges; the decisions were made in haste; the limited cost savings do not justify the decisions; and the burden of change falls on one segment of the school system (the minority and economically disadvantaged). She encouraged the Board to start a new planning process to distribute the pain more equitably across the schools and developing relationships throughout the community and nation. The League of Women voters will help to take an active role in this process.
4. John Maye expressed concern that this process, school closures, and school consolidations have caused disruption throughout the district and are targeted at the minority areas of E. E. Waddell and Harding University high schools.
5. Mary Bentley expressed concern regarding the use of Lottery funds, closing schools, and the decisions are targeted towards the west side.
6. Dr. Hans Plotseneder encouraged the Board to not close schools; the recommendations only save \$3.5 million and there are other ways to cut expenses; consider reductions of staff other than teachers; use the *Race to the Top* funding, and to postpone the decision.
7. Adrian DeVore expressed concern regarding the limited dialogue with the public and the Board did not listen to the public. He encouraged the Board to consider reverse busing, to send students in overcrowded suburban schools to undercrowded schools, and to develop options so that everyone feels the pain.
8. Sarah Stevenson, former Board of Education member, encouraged the Board to be fair and equitable and to take more time with this decision. The previous Boards have had a hard time getting decisions right and she fought to get fairness and equality for all students.
9. Teresa Jones expressed concern regarding the decisions to close schools, students should not have to fight for their school, and the decisions will change the way of life for many schools and are

- targeted toward the economically disadvantaged. She encouraged the Board to be fair.
10. Debra Tindall, CMS employee, believes E.E. Waddell deserves their building and Smith Academy of Language deserves a new building. She expressed concern regarding the K-8 configuration because statistics show less academic improvement. She encouraged the Board to delay the vote and to research the K-8 program.
 11. Williania Williams expressed concern about the impact this process has on the children because children are our heritage and they must be successful now and always. She encouraged the Board to delay the vote.
 12. Maudia Melendez encouraged the Board to delay the vote and to not close the schools. She expressed concern about moving students from one school to another with a large impact on Black and Latino populations because this decision will put Charlotte back fifty years.
 13. John White said the previous Board vote was racist and he would like to eliminate this Board because they are not paying attention.
 14. Darrell Bonapart, CMS graduate and father of a student at Albemarle Road Elementary, hopes the Board makes the right decisions because this could lead to a Civil Rights movement.
 15. Dr. Carrie Gibson encouraged the Board to explore other opportunities beyond the drastic step of school closures. She suggested CMS outsource all services except teaching; outsource food nutrition and custodians; expand partnerships with local colleges and businesses; and dismantle Parent University.
 16. Makhayia Allen discussed the importance of equal education for all children and diversity. She asked the Board to listen to what the children have to say and to delay the vote.
 17. Commissioner Vilma Leake, former Board of Education member, encouraged the Board to postpone the Board vote. In 1969 the people asked the Board to not close their schools, these schools are in her district, and she fought hard for these schools. She expressed concern that resources follow white children and not black children and asked why Elizabeth Traditional was not on this list. She encouraged the Board to protect the fragile neighborhoods and to consider other options as well as the money CMS has received in grants.
 18. Larry Greene said, "Dr. Gorman is a breath of fresh air." He has lived in Charlotte for twenty-two years but this process brings him to tears. He expressed concern regarding the egregious plunder of the lottery funds, teachers losing their jobs, and libraries and schools closing. He encouraged everyone to examine the cause because if students are increasing then the tax base is increasing. He hopes the Board does not regret their decisions.
 19. Mary Martin said closing schools is devastating and believes it will cost more to close the schools than to keep them open and make them viable. She encouraged the Board to listen to the people and to make the process impact every school.
 20. Zanita Robinson said teachers were laid off but then some were rehired. She expressed concern that CMS may close schools but then there may be an increase of students. She has heard the sales tax has increased and asked what happens in June if the sales tax increases and the schools are closed? She does not believe the process is about saving money and asked the Board to delay the vote until they have more information.
 21. Cedric Scott expressed concern about closing schools, libraries, and recreation centers. These students should not have to listen to this negative input. He asked the Board to not give up on children and whether this money is worth the lives of our children.
 22. Pat Smoke asked the Board to delay the vote because the plan is causing division, frustration, and confusion in the community; putting stress on fragile communities; and disrupting school pride. We tell students to make good choices but this plan does not show good choices. She encouraged the Board to show creativity and to think out of the box because the community deserves more.
 23. Denise Sutton moved to Charlotte four years ago and loved the opportunity for schools and

attending Magnet Programs. Her son attended Dilworth Magnet and was moved and that process made her feel like a "black person." The neighborhood took that school back but because she had transportation complications her son now attends First Ward but now that school is going change. Ms. Sutton expressed concern that this process will not give children opportunities.

Pamela Miramontes addressed concerns about the Board closing Wilson Middle School and she urged the Board to put students first, to not close the school, and to keep the Wilson family together.

Five speakers discussed concerns about the creation of K-8 schools and closing schools.

1. Pam Destinee Clark expressed concern regarding schools having substitute teachers.
2. Kayla Clark expressed concern regarding K-8 students riding buses with older students.
3. Anniah Grace, student at Oaklawn Language Academy, asked what is Targeted Assistance? Oaklawn does not have issues and she expressed concern about younger students riding buses with older students.
4. Reverend Trevor Beaufort is opposed to the creation of PreK-8 schools. He asked is it fair, equitable, and right; will it work to improve the education of students; is the Board prepared to make the right decision; and if K-8 is good why not spread it throughout the district? He encouraged the Board to vote to do right by all the children.
5. Ricky Hall said there is not conclusive evidence that eliminating a transition year will create greater academic achievement and he expressed concern about closing schools and placing students in K-8 schools. He asked the Board to not support placing PreK and older students together and to delay the decision to close Amay James.
6. Jackie Staton, PTA president at University Park Creative Arts Elementary, spoke on behalf of the parents of the school. The parents are opposed to the PreK-8 proposal, have gotten few answers, need more family engagement, and want a clear theory of action and effective Superintendent. The proposals are in direct conflict of the Board's Guiding Principles, lack community consideration, and have pitted families and students against each other. He asked the Board to redistribute the burden of crisis throughout the District and to vote against the recommendations.

Ten speakers discussed their support of Smith Academy of International Languages and encouraged the Board to send the students of Smith to E. E. Waddell and not to Harding University.

1. Pam Fabiola Campbell, parent of a student at Smith, encouraged the Board to embrace this process as an opportunity, to offer low-performing students opportunities at high performing schools, and to keep Smith, E. E. Waddell, and Harding University open as they are a gem in CMS. Smith is a great program and it should not be destroyed at an unacceptable location. She asked the Board to not send Smith to Harding University.
2. Jibreel Hough expressed concern about the new proposals and urged the Board to take more time, to keep Harding University open, and if Smith has to move to send Smith to E. E. Waddell. Smith would be happy to wait for a delayed decision because the priority should be home and Magnet schools. This process could lead to resegregation and inequity. He asked the Board to not disrupt Smith and Harding University.
3. Michael McNeely said Smith needs a new building. He expressed concern that Smith is at 150% capacity but the Board has chosen to close the school. Smith gives all children an opportunity to participate, everyone has an equal chance, and the school is forging the road to be globally competitive. He urged the Board to move the Smith to E. E. Waddell because it is close to where the majority of the students live.
4. Donald Butler, CMS graduate and CMS parent, said the schools he attended were diverse and that served him well. Smith is experiencing academic success, Smith is diverse (Asian, Black, Spanish, and many others), and maintaining that diversity is vitally important.

5. Debbie Duniec, parent of three students at Smith, asked the Board to not delay the vote because there is much work ahead. She discussed the role of Magnets and that Smith can serve as a role model for the K-8 program because they have been a K-8 school for six years and have been successful. The Smith cost per student prior to transportation changes was \$6,900 and that is cheap education.
6. Rick Lange, Smith PTA President, supports moving Smith to E. E. Waddell and he urged the Board to do three things: continue to promote academic achievement and excellence, provide adequate facilities, and take action on all items tonight.
7. Giovanni Ulloa supports moving Smith to E. E. Waddell. She said more money is spent on inmates than education and discussed the importance of diversity which is one of the reasons Smith is so successful. She asked the Board to help Smith thrive and grow, to move Smith to E. E. Waddell, and to not delay the vote.
8. John Bowers, parent of students at Smith, urged the Board to move Smith to E. E. Waddell and to not delay vote. This is not a battle that Smith chose to fight. Smith is a great school that helps students to be successful.
9. Towner Blackstock expressed concern regarding the controversy about sending Smith to Harding University or E. E. Waddell. He urged the Board to not delay the Board vote because students need to know so they can move forward. Smith is a jewel and the current facility is inadequate. He asked the Board to move Smith to E. E. Waddell because the Harding campus is not suitable.
10. Mark Conachan, parent of two students at Smith, urged the Board to move Smith to E. E. Waddell. The Smith parents have made sacrifices to keep their children at the Smith program and have routinely gotten the short-end of resources. Attendance at Harding University would be dicey.

Sixteen speakers discussed their support and successes of Harding University and urged the Board to not close Harding University.

1. J.B. Spurrier is a 1949 graduate from Harding High School. These students raised funds to build this school, the Harding Alumni has provided 80% of the amenities at Harding, and if this school is closed CMS should send them a check for \$200,000. He said the Alumni have a scholarship for the Harding students and he urged the Board to not close the school.
2. Ericka Ellis-Stewart, mother of a student at Harding, said the plan overall does not help any particular school and the case for the Comprehensive Review is the poster child for inequity. The recommendations take away educational choice for children and families and combines high poverty schools into eight schools. This could be a negative long-term issue with short-term gains. The Board should be about the business of educating all children. She encouraged the Board to support the proposal the students of Harding presented which recommends keeping the Math, Science, and the IB programs at Harding University.
3. Shalisa Moore, junior at Harding, said the students at Harding will welcome the E. E. Waddell students and Harding will be a better school. She loves her school, does not want to move, and she asked the Board to not take her school away.
4. Chuck Davis, father of students at Harding, discussed the successes of Harding and the positive impact it has had on his children. He expressed concern regarding the recommendations and encouraged the Board to keep Harding University intact and to keep the Math, Science, and IB students at Harding because the programs are interrelated.
5. Melendy Moore discussed the successes of Harding and expressed concern regarding the recommendation to dismantle the programs at Harding and sending the Math and Science programs to Phillip O. Berry. She encouraged the Board to keep Harding open with the Math, Science, and IB programs at Harding with a partial home school.

6. Mender Bailey discussed the historical background of Harding University and expressed concern that the proposal targets Blacks; it is not better to sacrifice buildings over teachers; the recommendations should start with South Mecklenburg, Myers Park, North Mecklenburg high schools; and he believes this is about control of people.
7. Andrea Spool-White expressed concern that the Board has under-mined the achievement of the students at Harding University, the recommendations dismantle the Harding programs, the Harding students are being made to suffer, and the Board has not answered the questions of the Harding parents. She asked the Board to move the E. E. Waddell students to Phillip O. Berry.
8. Sabrina Jones, parent of a student at Harding, said the recommendations are hurting the families at Harding, the families have made sacrifices, and her family gets up at 5:00 a.m. in order for her child to catch the shuttle bus to attend Harding. Harding is a terrific school with terrific students and the Board should not close Harding University.
9. Ken Dixon discussed the successes of Harding University, the school produces students who succeed in life, and Harding helped him to be successful in life.
10. Quinten Stewart, student at Harding University, encouraged the Board to keep the Math and Science Programs at Harding. He said he has a 4.6 GPA and expressed concern that the Harding students may lose their motivation if they are moved to a new school. He encouraged the Board to move the Smith students to E. E. Waddell, to keep both the Math and Science programs at Harding, and to move half of the E. E. Waddell students to Harding and half to South Mecklenburg.
11. Kim Anderson asked the Board to save Harding University, to make the right decision, and to not let any school become over or under utilized. This process has been stressful and it will be difficult to move the Harding IB Program because the new location will have to meet the accreditation process and that may be costly.
12. Allen Anderson, CMS graduate with a son at Harding University who wants to be an aerospace engineer, said these are tough changes but CMS must strive for excellence because all students can learn. He expressed concern about moving students and encouraged the Board to keep schools stable because it strengthens academic achievement.
13. Jermaine Kirkland expressed concern about the process of the Comprehensive Review, the recommendations, and believes the decisions have been made in haste. While CMS is falling behind academically, Harding University has excelled. He asked the Board to not dismantle this successful nationally recognized school.
14. Gregory Coley, parent of a Harding student, expressed concern that the Board will dismantle the successful programs at Harding and he asked the Board to not cut corners with successful education to save money.
15. Derrick Chambers expressed concern that the Board has destroyed a school system that is not broken and the plan is not equally disbursed throughout Charlotte.
16. Lisa Stewart moved to Charlotte to have better educational opportunities. She expressed concern that the Board is negatively impacting educational opportunities and this process has caused students to fight against each other. Education should be the priority and these students are our future. She encouraged the Board to stop dividing these children because adults are supposed to make life better for children.

Six speakers discussed the successes of Oakhurst Elementary School and encouraged the Board to not close Oakhurst.

1. Vince Dubman said Oakhurst is not a low performing school, has a diverse population, the building will not be suitable for the Morgan students, and closing the school will be a terrible vote for the community. They encouraged the Board to maintain stability and predictability for

the Oakhurst Elementary families.

2. Tracy Pasfield said Oakhurst is a neighborhood school, the school is full, and it is not an efficient use of resources to close the school and move Morgan children to that location, the amount of savings is not worth the disruption to the children. This should be about children and all children.
3. Vanessa Infanzon, mother of a special needs student at Oakhurst, said her child is learning; staff is committed and trained to help students with special needs; Oakhurst is a proven school; and this plan does not take EC students in consideration. She encouraged the Board to keep Oakhurst open for the Paideia Program.
4. Jennifer Windell, mother of a 5th grade student at Oakhurst, discussed the importance of Oakhurst being a neighborhood school, a home school, and a school for EC and refugee children. She expressed concern that closing Oakhurst would displace 600 students.
5. Michelle Meehan discussed the successes of Oakhurst, the school is working, and the students are learning. She expressed concern that demolishing Oakhurst and disbursing the students to other schools would have a detrimental impact on the neighborhood and the students and they should be more important than the finances. She does not see the benefits of displacing 600 students while moving the Morgan students to their school.
6. Kevin Gill, parent of a 3rd grader at Oakhurst, discussed the importance of keeping Oakhurst a neighborhood school, the neighborhood is involved at the school, and closing this school would be detrimental to the students and community.

Six speakers discussed the successes of Irwin Avenue IB Elementary School and encouraged the Board to not close Irwin Avenue and relocate their students to other schools.

1. Qnubia Brown discussed the importance of putting children first, to keep the students at Irwin, and to not make it a place for administrators.
2. Mary Claire Wall, parent and volunteer at Irwin Avenue, said Irwin Avenue is not a failing school even though it is a high poverty school and should not be considered for closing. She is opposed to converting the facility to office space because that will divide the community.
3. Doug Fowler encouraged the Board to not relocate the students to other schools because this area will have a burst of kindergarten students in the near future and this school was disrupted by the recommendations from last year. He would like his area rezoned to Dilworth Elementary School.
4. Elizabeth Sweet said she moved to her neighborhood two years ago because she was attracted to the Irwin school and her children would be able to walk to school. She will now be assigned to a school with a K-8 configuration that is overcrowded but three miles in the other direction is Dilworth Elementary that is not overcrowded with a K-5 program. She would like her area rezoned to Dilworth Elementary.
5. Brandy Thomas encouraged the Board to close other schools instead of Irwin Avenue because Irwin is achieving and the costs to transport students would be more costly. She encouraged the Board to be wiser and more informed before making these decisions because children are our future.
6. Wigena Tirado, parent of a student at Irwin Avenue, wants her son to attend a good school where he will get a good education. She expressed concern that closing schools may cause an increase in crime in those areas. She said Villa Heights wants their school but if they have to move she encouraged the Board to let the Villa Heights students join the current students at Irwin Avenue.

Two speakers discussed concerns regarding the recommendations for First Ward and urged the Board to delay the vote on this recommendation.

1. Laura Rice expressed concern regarding the past decisions and current proposal for First Ward. The year-round program is not conducive for parents who work; who have children in other grades; the details have not been determined; CMS has not done its homework; and the Board

does not have enough information to make these decisions.

2. Andrea Williams encouraged the Board to postpone the Board vote and to engage more dialogue with community. She expressed concern that the year-round program and the Arts Magnet do not mix, Charlotte is growing but the Board cannot get the infrastructure for public schools right, and the Arts Magnet would not fit a year-round schedule.

Sixteen speakers discussed the successes of E. E. Waddell and encouraged the Board to not close E. E. Waddell and to send the Smith students to Harding University.

1. Erlene Lyde, teacher at E. E. Waddell and member of the PTSA, encouraged the Board to not disburse these students to other schools, that this is home for many of the students, and this is like an eviction notice.
2. Brenda Cofield, teacher at E. E. Waddell spoke for those who could not speak for themselves, encouraged the Board to not take this school away from the students and send them to overcrowded schools. She expressed concern that this decision will result in student transition, stress, and long rides to the schools. She encouraged the Board to send the Smith students to Harding University.
3. Levester Flowers discussed concerns regarding closing E. E. Waddell and he will share his concerns with the national news tomorrow.
4. Ryan Herbin, senior class president at E. E. Waddell with a 4.1 GPA, said he was a student at South Mecklenburg and heard that Waddell was a bad school. He moved to Waddell and the school is not a bad school. Waddell is a great school. He expressed concern that if the Board closes E. E. Waddell these students will have to transition again and he encouraged the Board to rezone the school and to put existing home schools first.
5. Monica Alsaro, student at E.E. Waddell, supports the students at both Harding and E. E. Waddell and expressed concern that the students of Smith have control over a high school. Smith is a successful school and they should be sent to another school. E. E. Waddell is improving and the students should be allowed to remain at the school to show their continued success because moving will negatively impact SATs and college decisions.
6. Lakayla Jackson expressed concerns regarding comments made by a Board of County Commissioner, this decision is based upon favoritism, and the majority of the schools being closed are high poverty schools.
7. Ashley Graham, teacher at E. E. Waddell, expressed concern that this process has pitted one school against another school. She said Smith deserves their school because they are a gem in CMS but the E. E. Waddell students also deserve their school. She encouraged the Board to provide students an equitable education and to fight for the Waddell students.
8. Raven Hornes, senior at E. E. Waddell, said Waddell has effective teaching and students and made high growth. She expressed concern that Smith was promised Waddell long before this process began.
9. Shamanie Stevens, student at E. E. Waddell, expressed concern that students did not get an opportunity to speak on their behalf because they were told the recommendation to close Waddell had been eliminated. She encouraged the Board to let the students keep their home, to give them a chance to show even more improvement, and to find other methods to save money so that they can stay at their school. She said many of the Waddell students work to help their families financially and being moved to other schools may cause them to lose their jobs. She asked the Board to save Waddell.
10. Patti Kamara, student at E. E. Waddell, said she and many of the students at Waddell attended Myers Park IB and were ripped out of that school with the Board decisions from last year. Closing E. E. Waddell will cause them to have to move to another school and that could cause

- them emotional problems. Moving again will not help these students to make connections.
11. Karen Kamara, parent of a student at E. E. Waddell, urged the Board to not move the Waddell students to other schools and suggested the Board consider a program of three days on and three days off to allow both schools to attend E. E. Waddell.
 12. James Logan, teacher at E. E. Waddell, urged the Board to consider the impact this decision will have on many children. The staff and students at Waddell would welcome all children to join their school. She urged the Board to keep Waddell intact because it will only improve in time.
 13. Isaac Aquilar, senior at E. E. Waddell, said Waddell is a diamond in the rough that is only getting better. Waddell has experienced academic growth in the past two years while Harding University and Smith only maintained growth. He urged the Board to send Smith to Harding and Harding to Phillip O. Berry because Harding is closer to Phillip O. Berry.
 14. Juan Muaoz, junior at E. E. Waddell, discussed the successes of Waddell, the school will grow, and he wants to attend Waddell next year. He urged the Board to not close Waddell and to follow the Board's Guiding Principles which focus on home schools, stability and predictability.
 15. Andres Tanbazo, student at E. E. Waddell, said Waddell is the only school with a Scientific Club, it is a unique school, and is worthy of the privilege of staying open. He has won awards and he urged the Board to not close a school that is improving and has the capability of doing more.
 16. Nabrittany Purvis urged the Board to leave the student at E. E. Waddell which is home for many of the students. She expressed concern that the process shows less privileged students do not matter but they do matter. She urged the Board to delay the vote because the Waddell families did not get to participate in a Community Forum.

Two speakers discussed concerns regarding the recommendation for Lincoln Heights.

1. Thelma Byers-Bailey, president of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Association, does not support the K-8 model. People are more important and she urged the Board to seek other solutions, take time to find other options, and to vote no or delay the decision.
2. Tammy Hill discussed addressed concerns about the recommendation and believes they will put Charlotte back fifty years.

Two speakers discussed concerns regarding closing Amay James.

1. Alexandra Pacheco expressed concern regarding the motion to close Amay James, the proposed recommendations will cause segregation, this is about saving money now but how much will it cost in the future, and combining PreK-8 will cause problems. Children are the future of our community and society.
2. Emilio Pacheco, a five year old student at Amay James, read a statement to encourage the Board to keep Amay James open. Closing the school will hurt him and the other students, because he started school early he can read and write and knows how to behave, and Amay James is a school and not a day care.

Paul Rali, president of the Villa Heights PTA, encouraged the Board to move Villa Heights, if Villa Heights must move, to Irwin Avenue Elementary School. Irwin Avenue is the right size for differentiated instruction, Irwin is the better place, and he asked the Board to not send the Villa Heights students to Lincoln Heights.

Chairperson Davis called the Public Hearing closed at 9:50 p.m. Chairperson Davis recessed the Regular Board meeting at 9:50 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

II. REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairperson Davis reported there were no speakers signed up to speak at the Request from the Public

and he called the Request From the Public closed at 10:08 p.m.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of Closed Session meeting minutes:
- October 12, 2010.
 - October 21, 2010.
 - October 26, 2010.
- B. Recommend approval of Open Session meeting minutes:
- April 27, 2010 Regular Board Meeting
 - October 12, 2010 Regular Board Meeting.
 - October 26, 2010 Regular Board Meeting.
- C. Recommend approval of licensed/non-licensed hires for October 2010 and licensed/non-licensed promotions for October 2010.
- 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, 2010 - June 30, 2011: 1,855. (Licensed Hires: 1,078/ Non-Licensed Hires: 777).*
 - *Total Promotions July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011: 151. (Licensed Promotions: 62/Non-Licensed Promotions: 89).*
- D. Recommend approval of the adoption of resolution authorizing the Director of Storage and Distribution to dispose of surplus school property by way of on-line bid in auction format.
- The on-line auction time span will encompass the December 1 through December 19, 2010 period. GovDeals, (www.govdeals.com) an experienced and proven on-line government surplus sales service provider will facilitate the process. These auctions usually generate \$6,000 to \$15,000 in revenue.*
- E. Recommend approval of supplementary funding request for Bringing Technology to the Classroom, The Jimmy Johnson Foundation Grant application.
- The goal of this initiative is to increase the number of computers available to students in every classroom at Beverly Woods Elementary School. Teachers use classroom computers during instructional time to supplement instruction, assess students' mastery of key curriculum objectives, and provide individualized, student-specific reinforcement and practice of key concept skills.*
- F. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.
- Appointments:*
- *Philip Francis named principal at Olympic High School. Mr. Francis previously served as Dean of Students at Cochrane Middle School.*

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

Mr. White moved, seconded by Mr. Morgan, that the Board adopt Consent Items A. through F., and the motion passed upon unanimous Board Vote.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Chairperson Davis said the next items on the agenda are the Action Items and he would move Action Item IV.B. regarding the Comprehensive Review as the next item for discussion considering the lateness of the hour and the interest of the public.

- B. Recommend approval of Board of Education Proposal and Superintendent's Recommendations for School Closures, Consolidations, and Changes in School Boundaries, Grade-level Configurations and

Magnet Program Locations

Chairperson Davis said this item is the Board of Education Proposals and Superintendent's recommendations for School Closures, Consolidations, and Changes in School Boundaries, Grade-level Configurations and Magnet Program Locations relative to the Board's Comprehensive Review. Chairperson Davis said the items are in three categories.

- Items B.1. and B.2. concern Smith Academy of International Languages K-8, E. E. Waddell High School, and Harding University High School and they will be grouped together.
- Items B.3 through B.11. will be considered as a separate group as each of those are independent and not related.
- Items B.12. through B.25. are related and will be considered as a group because of the interdependence between the various recommendations.

A brief description of the recommendations are as follows:

Item:	Brief Title
IV. B.	
IV. B. 1.	Board of Education Proposal: Consolidate Harding Math/Science Program into STEM Magnet at Phillip O. Berry Academy; Create home school boundary for Harding; Waddell becomes full Magnet housing Smith Academy of International Languages; Boundary shifts for E.E. Waddell, South Mecklenburg, West Mecklenburg, and West Charlotte High Schools; Close Smith facility. (Approval of this makes moot Item 2)
IV. B. 2.	Superintendent recommendation: Consolidate Harding IB to Waddell; Consolidate Harding Math/Science Program into STEM Magnet at Berry; Harding becomes full magnet housing Academy of International Languages; Close Smith.
IV. B. 3.	Consolidate Pawtucket and Whitewater Academy elementary schools; Close Pawtucket.
IV. B. 4.	Change attendance boundaries for Community House and South Charlotte middle schools.
IV. B. 5.	Redraw boundaries of Garinger High School to create new home school area for Cochrane School; Expand the grade level configuration of Cochrane to Grades 6-12 by the 2014-2015 school year.
IV. B. 6.	Redraw Boundaries of Rama Road and Billingsville elementary schools to include Oakhurst attendance area; Close the Paideia Academy Magnet Program at Oakhurst.
IV. B. 7.	Create LI/TD Magnet at Mallard Creek Elementary School.
IV. B. 8.	Create IB Magnet at Blythe Elementary School serving Violet Transportation Zone; Change Transportation Zone for Statesville Road to serve Violet and Grey for current students.
IV. B. 9.	Consolidate Davidson IB and Alexander; Close Davidson IB building.
IV. B. 10.	Effective 2012 – 2013: Consolidate University Park Creative Arts Elementary School and First Ward Elementary School; Remove University Park building from service; Approve Multi-Track Year Round Calendar for consolidated program at First Ward Creative Arts Elementary School.
IV. B. 11.	Consolidate Winding Springs Magnet Program into Marie G. Davis Military and Global

Leadership Academy Magnet School; Create home school attendance area for Winding Springs; Shift boundary for Nathaniel Alexander and Hornets Nest elementary schools to create home school area for Winding Springs.

Items 12 – 25 are related, meaning that one item cannot be changed without changing one or more of the others.

- IV. B. 12 Close Wilson, J. T. Williams, and Bishop Spaugh middle schools.
- IV. B. 13 Change attendance boundary for Whitewater Middle School to include Tuckaseegee Elementary School.
- IV. B. 14 Change attendance boundary for Sedgfield Middle School to include Barringer Elementary School.
- IV. B. 15 Expand Berryhill Elementary School to grades PreK-8; no boundary changes.
- IV. B. 16 Expand Reid Park Elementary School to grades PreK-8; no boundary changes.
- IV. B. 17 Expand Druid Hills Elementary School to grades PreK-8; no boundary changes.
- IV. B. 18 Expand Walter G. Byers Elementary School to grades PreK-8; no boundary changes.
- IV. B. 19 Expand Ashley Park Elementary School to grades PreK-8; Change boundaries for Irwin and Bruns.
- IV. B. 20 Expand Bruns Elementary School to grades PreK-8; Change boundaries for Thomasboro, Ashley Park and Westerly Hills; absorb entire Lincoln Heights area into Bruns.
- IV. B. 21 Expand Thomasboro Elementary School to grades PreK-8; Change boundaries for Bruns and Westerly Hills.
- IV. B. 22 Expand Westerly Hills Elementary School to grades PreK-8; Change boundaries for Thomasboro and Bruns.
- IV. B. 23 Change boundary for Alexander Graham to include Eastover and Dilworth.
- IV. B. 24 Close Irwin; Shift boundaries for Dilworth and Ashley Park to absorb Irwin area.
- IV. B. 25 Close Lincoln Heights and move attendance area to Bruns; Relocate Villa Heights Magnet to Lincoln Heights.

Chairperson Davis said realizing that each Board member may wish to discuss the various motions as they are presented, he would allow each Board member an opportunity to make comments or offer amendments to the motion. Chairperson Davis called for a motion from Board members.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendations for items IV.B.12 through IV.B. 25, second by Mr. White, and a discussion followed.

- Mr. Morgan said he grouped the motions together because they are interdependent upon each other.

Ms. McGarry moved to amend the motion regarding IV.B.25. to change the words in the third bullet to Irwin Avenue IB Elementary instead of Lincoln Heights Elementary School facility and the third bullet would therefore read as follows: Relocate Villa Heights Elementary School full Magnet Learning Immersion/Talent Development (LI/TD) Program to the Irwin Avenue IB Elementary School facility and in addition the proposed details of the motion would be changed to indicate that students currently in the LI/TD Magnet at Lincoln Heights Elementary School will join the Villa Heights students in the Magnet Program located at Irwin

Avenue IB Elementary School and that the relocated LI/TD Magnet Programs at Irwin will serve students in the Violet and Gray Transportation Zones. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tate, and a discussion followed.

- Ms. McGarry discussed concerns about putting administrative staff into Irwin Avenue facility because that school was built for children. Irwin Avenue is approximately the same classroom size as the facility at Lincoln Heights. She believes Villa Heights should be left at its current location because it is a successful program. If Villa Heights must move, she would prefer putting it at Irwin Avenue because the students would have an opportunity to grow in that location. She would prefer putting the staff from the Education Center at Lincoln Heights Elementary School. This amendment is in the best interest of kids versus adults.
- Dr. Waddell has met with the staff and parents at Villa Heights and they support the option of moving to Irwin Avenue. Dr. Waddell supports using the Irwin Avenue building for children instead of adults as it is a great location for the school to establish partnerships and it is within walking distance of Discovery Place, museums, and churches.
- Mr. Tate said he supports the amendment based on the assumption that Irwin Avenue was going to be closed. Irwin Avenue has been a terrific program and he would prefer to not close it but he does not have the support to keep it open. Mr. Tate believes it would be better to have Villa Heights at the Irwin Avenue facility for the same reasons as mentioned by Dr. Waddell. Irwin Avenue has great partnerships in existence and he hopes they will not end but continue. Moving Villa Heights to Irwin Avenue is a better use of the facility.
- Mr. Merchant asked questions regarding the financial impact, space utilization, projected costs and savings by putting Villa Heights into Lincoln Heights, closing Irwin Avenue, and relocating the Education Center. Mike Raible, Executive Director of Planning and Project Management said staff recommended Lincoln Heights instead of Irwin Avenue because when Irwin was constructed it was constructed as an open school (classrooms built for team teaching and a large number of students per classroom). The classrooms are oversized and teachers would love being in those classrooms. Staff's recommendation was based on efficiency because it would be easier to put cubicles in those classrooms (two to six per classroom) and use it as administrative space rather than having that much square footage devoted to a single class. The main cost in relocating administrative facilities is data costs and that is already in place at Irwin Avenue and the only other costs would be the actual move and that is typically \$100 per person. Relocating Villa Heights into Lincoln Heights would allow the program to grow over time organically and that would provide more students access to a successful program. Mr. Merchant asked how many Magnet students are currently attending Lincoln Heights? Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement, said sixty-seven students.
- Ms. McGarry asked when does CMS have to move out of the Education Center? Mr. Raible said the date is indefinite at this point and by contract the County will give CMS a twelve month notice from the time in which we must vacate. Ms. McGarry said families have expressed concern about the air quality and proximity of the playground to the interstate at Lincoln Heights. Mr. Raible said both schools are located adjacent to interstate and Lincoln Heights is in compliance with location and air quality regulations. Ms. McGarry said Villa Heights is an achieving school and it would be advantageous to have oversized classrooms. She is opposed to putting offices into Irwin Avenue. Villa Heights would have an opportunity to grow at the uptown location and have proximity to the art community.
- Mr. Tate said Villa Heights has a Gifted Program and it may be advantageous to have those classes in the larger classrooms.
- Mr. McElrath encouraged staff to review information regarding air quality issues concerning

schools in proximity to asphalt plants and asphalt fumes from high traffic areas in urban locations and a high incidence of neurological conditions.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote on Ms. McGarry's amendment to the motion.

The Board voted 5-4 on the amendment to the motion and the amendment passed. Board members McGarry, Lennon, McElrath, Waddell, and Tate voted in support of the amendment. Board members Davis, Merchant, White, and Morgan voted against the amendment.

Chairperson Davis invited Board members to make comments regarding the motion to approve items IV.B.12 through IV.B. 25 as amended.

- Ms. McGarry said regarding IV.B.12. (recommend the closing J.T. Williams, Bishop Spaugh, and Wilson middle schools), she cannot vote to close Wilson Middle School but she does not have the Board support to make changes to the recommendation. The school has increased its proficiency and Ms. McGarry believes it would be better to keep those students intact at one location instead of dividing them into three different locations. She said would like assurance from staff that they are committed to improving the safety of students with combining kindergarten students with 8th graders. Dr. Gorman said the safety concern is on the list of specific items to be reviewed by staff.

Dr. Waddell moved to amend the motion that the Board approve deleting item IV.B.12. in its entirety which includes J. T. Williams, Bishop Spaugh, and Wilson middle schools, seconded by Mr. McElrath, and a discussion followed.

- Dr. Waddell reviewed disadvantages of combining PreK through 8th grade students noting that if a student's demographics remain unchanged a district is not likely to replicate the K-8 advantage based on size and a school's transition alone if its student population is predominately from high minority and high poverty backgrounds. There is not conclusive evidence that it is better academically for the students. These schools are home schools and based on the Board's Guiding Principles home schools are the Board's foundation and first priority. The purpose of Magnet schools is to raise the bar and close the gap at rates exceeding home schools with a focus on predictability, stability, diversity, and effective use of capital resources. Dr. Waddell expressed concern that the three schools are located in African-American communities and this is the only area that will have a K-8 configuration. She encouraged the Board to redraw all the boundaries and upgrade the intercity schools. She expressed concern that CMS is building schools in the suburbs but closing intercity schools. Dr. Waddell is concerned about putting low poverty schools together when the Board is committed to strengthening home schools.
- Mr. Tate said if the Board approved the amendment for B.12., would the rest of the motion be moot? Dr. Gorman said, yes, items B.13. through B.25. would no longer be applicable. Mr. Tate said he reviewed the report referenced by Dr. Waddell and it indicated that a K-8 configuration would be best in schools other than these types of schools. He has heard from staff that they believe this can work but it is based on hope rather than assurance. Dr. Gorman said he has additional research and he would send that information to the Board. Dr. Gorman provided clarification on the recommendation and the benefits for keeping those students with an effective staff K-8. Mr. Tate said the report suggests the benefits of adding a grade per year instead of adding them all at one point. Dr. Gorman said the recommendation is to add them all at once because financially adding a grade per year is unobtainable.
- Mr. McElrath said when the K-8 configuration was first introduced he thought the transition

period was a good idea but now he has second thoughts. He would like assurance that there are enough students at each level so those students would have the same selection of courses offered at a stand-alone school and can fully participate in athletics. Dr. Gorman said currently every school does not have the same course offerings as that is largely determined by size, student interest, and staff certifications. CMS cannot guarantee every school will offer the same courses as that varies by school. Staff has reviewed athletics and students at those schools will have the ability to participate in athletics and that is a part of the motion.

- Ms. McGarry asked do the schools have the leadership and staffing to add the additional grades and to make them successful? Dr. Gorman said he believes the schools have the team and in some cases staffing will be added (teachers, assistant principals, and other personnel) to make the schools most appropriate.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote on Dr. Waddell's amendment to delete item IV.B.12.

The Board voted 4-5 and the motion to delete item IV.B.12. in its entirety failed. Board members McGarry, McElrath, Waddell, and Tate voted in support of the amendment to the motion. Board members Davis, Merchant, White, Lennon, and Morgan voted against the amendment.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote to approve IV.B.12. through IV.B.25. with Ms. McGarry's amendment to IV.B.25.

The Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion to approve items IV.B.12. through IV.B.25. with Ms. McGarry's amendment to IV.B.25.

The Board discussed items IV.B.3. through IV.B.11.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendations for items IV.B.3. through IV.B.11., seconded by Mr. White, and a discussion followed.

Chairperson Davis invited Board members to make comments or amendments to items B.3. through B.11. noting that the items are unrelated and can be treated individually if desired.

Mr. Tate requested that item IV.B.6. be pulled to be voted upon separately.

Ms. McGarry moved to postpone indefinitely item IV.B.9. regarding the consolidation of Davidson IB Middle School and Alexander Middle School and close Davidson IB building until more information is gathered, the motion did not receive a second and the motion died.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote to approve items IV.B.3. through IV.B.11. excluding IV.B.6. Chairperson Davis noted that item IV.B.6. would be voted upon separately. A Board discussion followed.

- Ms. McGarry said she would support some of the items but would not support consolidating Davidson IB. This is a nationally recognized program and to close that program located at that facility in a college town is a travesty. This program within that building located in that town creates a great environment and it is another gem within CMS. She will vote no on the entire package unless this can be voted upon separately.

Ms. McGarry requested that item IV.B.9. be pulled and voted upon separately.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for items IV.B.3., B.4., B.5., B.7., B.8., B.10., and B.11., excluding IV.B.6. and IV.B.9.

The Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for items IV.B.3., B.4., B.5., B.7., B.8., B.10., and B.11.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board not approve the Superintendent's recommendation for item IV.B.6. regarding Oakhurst Elementary School, the Paideia Program, and the home school, seconded by Mr. McElrath, and a discussion followed.

- Mr. Tate said he has visited Oakhurst Elementary numerous times and he was impressed by the school, staff, and the students. The staff is successfully teaching all the students in the school critical thinking techniques that will hold them in good status as they advance in their academic careers. Mr. Tate commended the school for its success, its diversity, and national recognition and he would prefer to keep this school intact. He encouraged the Board to support this motion because the school is a positive influence in the community and works well.
- Mr. McElrath agreed with Mr. Tate. Mr. McElrath has visited Oakhurst Elementary and the staff and students are doing good things. The school and building provide a unique environment for the students and the students need that environment because many of the students are refugee children and they do well in that setting. He would prefer the school and the programs in operation remain intact at that location.
- Dr. Waddell said she has not heard a good reason for closing Oakhurst Elementary. She understands that Morgan will move to that location which has a smaller program but there are other facilities that would better suit the Morgan Program. The school has been upgraded, the school is being successful, students are doing well, and the school should remain intact.
- Ms. McGarry supports keeping Oakhurst Elementary open. The school is special and has created a community family environment in that building. She does not support replacing this successful school with Morgan School. Ms. McGarry would prefer moving more students into the existing school and she will not vote to close Oakhurst at this time.
- Mr. Merchant said the recommendation to move Morgan School into Oakhurst was a result of staff recommending a Montessori Program at Oakhurst mainly because of the configuration of the facility and its location. Mr. Merchant asked what are the projected cost savings for the Superintendent's recommendation? Dennis LaCaria said by making this move the savings for next year is over \$1.1 million.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote to not approve the Superintendent's recommendation for item IV.B.6.

The Board voted 4-5 and the motion to not approve the Superintendent's recommendation for IV.B.6. failed. Board members McGarry, McElrath, Waddell, and Tate voted in support of the motion. Board members Davis, Merchant, White, Lennon, and Morgan voted against the motion.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation for item IV.B.6., seconded by Mr. White, and the Board voted 6-3 in support of the motion. Board members Davis, Merchant, White, Lennon, Tate, and Morgan voted in support of the motion. Board members McGarry, McElrath, and Waddell voted against the motion.

Ms. McGarry moved that the Board not approve the Superintendent's recommendation for item IV.B.9. and to keep the Davidson IB Program at Davidson IB Middle School, Mr.

McElrath seconded the motion for discussion, and a discussion followed.

- Ms. McGarry said the Davidson IB Program has been successful, nationally recognized, and the Board should put academic achievement before everything else. It will be a disservice to the students and the community to move this program from this location. The Board can start another IB Program at Alexander Middle and should not eliminate this program. She expressed concern that there can be implications and costs with moving an IB Program from one facility to another facility. Ms. McGarry said this involves questions that have not been adequately answered and she will not support moving the Davidson IB Program at this time.

Chairperson Davis called for a vote to not approve the Superintendent's recommendation for item IV.B.9.

The Board voted 1-8 and the motion to not approve the Superintendent's recommendation for item IV.B.9. failed. Board member McGarry voted in support of the motion. Board members Davis, Merchant, White, Lennon, McElrath, Waddell, Tate, and Morgan voted against the motion.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation for item IV.B.9., seconded by Mr. White, and the Board voted 8-1 in support of the motion. Board members Davis, Merchant, White, Lennon, McElrath, Waddell, Tate, and Morgan voted in support of the motion. Board member McGarry voted against the motion.

Chairperson Davis said the items remaining are the Board of Education proposal for item IV.B.1. and the Superintendent's recommendation for item IV.B.2. regarding E.E. Waddell High School, Harding University High School, and Smith International Language Academy.

Mr. McElrath moved that the Board approve removing the recommendations for IV.B.1. and IV.B.2., seconded by Mr. Merchant, and a discussion followed.

- Mr. McElrath expressed concern that the recommendation does not have enough information to make a decision and that should the recommendation include the wrong mix it could destroy Harding University High School. He would like to know the percentages of Magnet, Non-Magnet, race, and socio-economic students for the school and whether it would be necessary to have trailers should the school keep the Math and Science Program. Mr. Raible said under the current configuration if the Math, Science, and IB Programs are maintained at Harding University, sixteen to twenty mobile classrooms would be needed as a start. Harding University has a home school area and CMS cannot control the population of the home school area and the use of mobile classrooms could increase over time. Mr. McElrath asked what would be the impact if Harding University was left as a Magnet school and the Math and Science Programs were located at Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology? Mr. Raible said if the Math and Science Programs were located at Phillip O. Berry and the IB Program was located at Harding University with a home school attendance area mobile classrooms would not be needed and students would be within the building.
- Mr. Merchant said the Board began this process on June 8th. He would have questions if on June 9th he knew that this was going to take a strong, successful school that attracts the community support and divides that school with 80% of a school that has been struggling with its academics and poverty levels and adds three elementary home zones with 95%, 94%, and 69% economically disadvantaged students and expect it to be a good school. He believes most people would think staff could develop a better idea. In the beginning he asked for bold ideas and this was a bold

idea. He has had concerns regarding the school's population and the validity for why the recommendation was flipped from one school to another and then flipped back yesterday. The benefit of this recommendation is Smith Academy of International Languages will get a great facility. Mr. Merchant expressed concern that this is drawing a school that has little chance of success and that is too high of a price. Leadership sometimes requires making decisions that are the best of our bad choices but the Board can change this recommendation. The speakers tonight encouraged the Board to get this right. The Board can follow the type of leadership that takes courage to realize this is not right. Staff did what the Board asked them to do but this solution is not the right solution. He encouraged the Board to expand the geographic area and this may mean that his neighborhood does not belong at Myers Park High School. There are other schools that are close to Myers Park High School that could go there and areas in which students do not need to be bused twelve miles to get to school. Mr. Merchant said this process has been messy but it is more important that the Board get the right results. CMS is dealing with financial hardships and that requires honesty and candor. The Board's Guiding Principles focus on home schools, proximity, and diversity. CMS could draw zones that are more compact, save money, cost less to operate and as a result could be more stable and predictable than the current boundaries. Mr. Merchant believes this would be the right thing to do for students and the district, and this Board may be the first Board in ages that has the political will to pull this off.

- Mr. McElrath said he originally said if this process involved more schools the Board would have more options and if we have more options we will have better results. He believes the Board should take more time with this process and include more schools. He has been bothered by the process from the onset because the public did not understand the criteria. The criteria for the schools to be cut were underutilization and academic achievement. Mr. McElrath discussed the CMS student assignment plan, the plan economically segregated the school system, the development of Magnet schools, people moving to the suburbs, and these issues led to Districts 2, 3, and 4 being comprised of underutilized schools. He expressed concern regarding some of the schools on the list and that this gives the appearance it is aimed at poor and minority children. Mr. McElrath believes more of the community should be involved in this process so that this can be a community problem. The process needs to involve more choices so that it can have a better outcome.
- Dr. Waddell expressed concern that item IV.B.1. is a Board of Education proposal but the Board of Education did not vote on this proposal and it is misleading to the public. Chairperson Davis said this was a Board member proposal and Board members have an opportunity tonight to offer their own proposals. Dr. Waddell supports taking this off the table to be reviewed to add more schools. She expressed concern that this process has led to students at schools talking negatively about students at other schools, pitted schools against schools, and students begin disrespectful to adults and nothing was done. She said the Board will be making decisions and she hopes they will not be on the backs of African-Americans and low income students in this community. She encouraged the Board to take these recommendations off the table, to do the right thing, and to include all the communities by not targeting low income students.
- Mr. Tate said he would support this motion not because we have the framework that may lead to a better proposal but because we do not have it. This involves three schools and at this point we are better off leaving the three schools as they are until we can better understand and work with the community to develop options for better alternatives if they exist.
- Ms. McGarry said she would not support this motion. The Board has spent many hours reviewing the recommendations. In some cases the proposals did not have all the facts or accurate information but for these three schools all the questions have all been answered, the facts are on the table, and it would behoove the Board to move forward with this decision.

- Mr. White said he has listened to and heard the community. Everyone has their own opinions but we do not have to agree with each other and that is what makes this a great country. What we continue to overlook and ignore is we are in a different ballgame financially and it is not going to improve. The legislative agendas for the State and the federal government are decreasing funding to public schools. Mr. White said, "Public schools are under attack and we must reform ourselves and do what we do better or we are not going to survive." The education community has honored longevity and rewarded mediocrity and we must stop that process. We must start demanding excellence and initiate rewards for performance. Mr. White said this is not a fun process and he has been at this a long time. He understands the west side because he lived on the west side, his children attended Amay James, and he would still be there if the airport did not take his house. The next step for the Board will be the budget process which will begin November 19th. Everything the Board does now, whether he likes it or not, is to make the best of the bad options. He does not like it but he will vote with his conscious to do the best for the most students. The Board must make this decision tonight, get the tension out of the community, and let these students know where they will be going to school.
- Ms. Lennon said she would not support this motion but she does support Mr. Merchant's recommendation to conduct a comprehensive review of all the high school boundaries as well as middle school boundaries. She expressed concern that many of the boundaries and zones are odd configurations that do not make sense. She believes the Board needs to be more concise and deliberate with developing boundaries because they have been piecemealed over the last decade. She hopes this will start the Board on a path to conduct a comprehensive countywide high school boundary review. She encouraged the Board to not support this motion and to move forward.
- Mr. McElrath said the time to do right is now and he expressed concern that this has a big impact on District 2 because all these schools are in District 2. He said these decisions will not make everyone happy. He encouraged the Board to support this motion and to review other options because it would send a message to the CMS family. These decisions should impact everyone in the CMS family and it should be a shared sacrifice. Mr. McElrath said pulling this item will share a ray of sunshine and be the pivotal point to help pull this community together.
- Mr. Merchant said this is important and we are fooling ourselves if we think we can make a decision tonight that will affect South Mecklenburg, West Mecklenburg, West Charlotte, Harding University, Phillip O. Berry, and eliminate E. E. Waddell and then conduct a comprehensive review. He said it does not work that way.
- Chairperson Davis said this is the toughest decision of them all. It is not clear on the financial picture. It saves \$1.5 million but we have the School Improvement Grant that muddies the water. It has a home school that has had a long and troubled history but is now showing positive signs led by a fabulous principal, teachers, parents who are committed to the school, and students who are making it happen. We have one of the best Magnet Programs in the County that attracts students from all over and takes well prepared, efficient students to the next level. We have another Magnet school that offers the unique opportunity to learn other languages. This recommendation has the muddiest process that went back and forth because this has been the hardest decision. This will not be the perfect solution. The desire to wait on the hope of developing a better solution may not reach a better solution. Dragging this out longer creates further unknowns for students, staff, and parents and it will not bring our community going forward. Chairperson Davis said it takes courage to admit we are wrong and this process has been far from perfect and he has made mistakes through the process. He will not make the mistake of dragging this out any further. Chairperson Davis said the Board must move forward and he will not support this motion.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote to approve removing items IV.B.1. and IV.B.2.

The Board voted 4-5 and the motion to remove items IV.B.1 and IV.B.2 failed. Board members Merchant, McElrath, Waddell, and Tate voted in support of the motion. Board members Davis, McGarry, White, Lennon, and Morgan voted against the motion.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board approve agenda item IV.B.1., seconded by Ms. McGarry, and a discussion followed.

- Ms. McGarry said she would support this motion. She would like to have amended the motion to keep the Math and Science Programs at Harding University but she did not have the Board votes to support that recommendation. She said the Board has all the facts and must make a decision tonight. She said Harding University is a special school and we must help it succeed. Ms. McGarry feels compassion for the E. E. Waddell students who are losing their school but believes Smith Academy of International Languages located at E. E. Waddell will put E. E. Waddell on the map as a successful school again.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote to approve agenda item IV.B.1.

The Board voted 5-4 and the motion to approve item IV.B.1. passed. Board members Davis, McGarry, White, Lennon, and Morgan voted in support of the motion. Board members Merchant, McElrath, Waddell, and Tate voted against the motion.

A. Proposed Amendments to Student Assignment Policy and Exhibits

1. Recommend approval of Proposed Amendments to Policy JCA, Student Assignment Plan

Chairperson Davis called upon Tom Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to present the proposed recommendation. Mr. Tate said before the Board for action is proposed amendments to Policy JCA, Student Assignment Plan. The proposed amendments reflect the Board's 2010 Comprehensive Review; adds the Board's Guiding Principles adopted by the Board on August 10, 2010; limits the Lottery to students seeking seats into Magnet Programs and out of Title I Choice schools; clarifies the sibling guarantee; rearranges large segments of the policy into more logical sequences; and removes historical references to former student assignment plans. This recommendation comes to the Board with the unanimous recommendation of the Policy Committee. The Board held a public hearing on October 26th and November 9th, and the proposed amendments were posted on the CMS Website for public input.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board adopt the proposed amendments to Policy JCA, Student Assignment Plan, with the following amendment: On page 9, Section IV.C., delete from the paragraph the text that states, "to a non-magnet school outside of the transportation zone or." The paragraph as amended would read: With designated exceptions, a family must provide transportation if their child is admitted <to a non-magnet school outside the transportation zone or> to a Magnet Program that does not serve the student's high school feeder area. The motion was presented through the Policy Committee and did not require a second.

Mr. Tate explained the Policy Committee recommended the amendment because this phrase was necessary in the previous policy because CMS was using the Lottery for Non-Magnet students and this is going to be discontinued. The phrase had been overlooked in the review of the policy. Since, the Lottery will only be used for Magnet assignments in the future that language is unnecessary.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote on proposed amendments to Policy JCA, Student

Assignment Plan, as amended.

The Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion to approve amendments to Policy JCA, Student Assignment Plan, as amended.

2. Recommend Approval of Proposed Amendments to Exhibit JCA-E1, Student Assignment Plan Priorities, Non-Magnet Sites

Chairperson Davis called upon Tom Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to present the proposed recommendation. Mr. Tate said before the Board for action is proposed amendments to Exhibit JCA-E1, Student Assignment Priorities, Non-Magnet Sites. The Policy Committee recommends that this exhibit be eliminated, consistent with amendments to Policy JCA, which limit the student assignment Lottery to students seeking seats in Magnet Programs and out of Title I Choice Schools. This exhibit will therefore no longer be necessary. The proposed amendments to Exhibit JCA-E1 were posted on the CMS Website for public input and the Board held a Public Hearing on October 26th and November 9th.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board adopt the proposed amendments to Exhibit JCA-E1, Student Assignment Priorities, Non-Magnet Sites, and the motion was presented through the Policy Committee and did not require a second. The motion passed upon unanimous Board vote.

3. Recommend Approval of Proposed Amendments to Exhibit JCA-E2, Student Assignment Priorities, Magnet Programs

Chairperson Davis called upon Tom Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to present the proposed recommendation. Mr. Tate said before the Board for action is proposed amendments to Exhibit JCA-E2, Student Assignment Priorities, Magnet Programs. Mr. Tate said based upon the Board decisions regarding the Comprehensive Review this recommendation needs to be amended. Dr. Gorman called upon Sarah Crowder, Associate General Counsel and Policy Administrator, to review the proposed amendments. Ms. Crowder said on Page 3 of JCA-E2, Section 2., the third bullet refers to more than one high school Magnet Program that would be located on the same campus. The International Languages Magnet located at E. E. Waddell High School pursuant to immediate prior Board action would be one Magnet Program and thus the language and E. E. Waddell Academy of International Languages can be stricken from this bullet.

Mr. Tate said Exhibit JCA-E2 was rewritten by the Policy Committee to reflect the reality that the Lottery is only applying to students seeking seats in Magnet Programs and out of Title I Choice schools. Students seeking seats in Non-Magnet school that are not their home school will no longer go through the Lottery, but rather will use the Transfer/Reassignment process. The sibling guarantee for Magnet students is preserved and the exception prohibiting sibling guarantees into different Magnet Programs on the same campus is clarified. A footnote is added to clarify that the Lottery will not be used to make assignments to Non-Magnet schools and students, including students formerly entitled to sibling guarantee who wish to attend Non-Magnet schools other than their home schools, may request a transfer through the process set forth in Policy JFAC, Reassignments and Transfers. In addition, the Priority applicable to students at Randolph Middle School and Piedmont Open Middle School is eliminated. The number "2" is eliminated from the code of the Exhibit to reflect the recommended elimination of Exhibit JCA-E1. The recommendations come to the Board with the unanimous recommendation of the Policy Committee. The proposed amendments to Exhibit JCA-E2 were posted on the CMS Website and the Board held a Public Hearing on October 26th and November 9th.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board adopt the proposed amendments to Exhibit JCA-E2, Student Assignment Priorities, Magnet Programs, with an additional amendment that the Board delete the words “and E. E. Waddell Academy of International Languages” on Page 3, Section 2., the third bullet, and the motion was presented through the Policy Committee and did not require a second. The Board voted 9-0 that the Board adopt proposed amendments to Exhibit JCA-E2 as amended.

V. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Budget Amendments for July – September, 2010

Chairperson Davis called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report. Dr. Gorman said agenda items A., B., and C. are monthly reports and are as presented.

B. Report on Capital Project Ordinances for July – September 2010

Presented with agenda item V. A.

C. Report on Financial Statements for September 30, 2010

Presented with agenda item V. A.

VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gorman did not have a report to present.

VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Kaye McGarry thanked the speakers for speaking at this meeting. She encouraged the Board to develop a policy for school closures so the process in the future can be orderly. She invited everyone to join her for “Kaye About Town” on November 23rd from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. at Burkedale Village in Huntersville to discuss school related issues. Ms. McGarry recently attended a conference at the Center for Reform of School Systems and they discussed that the field of education within the next five years would be volatile and effective leadership would be vitally important to work towards solutions.

ADJOURNMENT

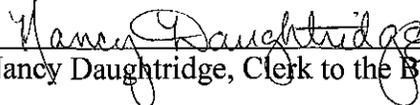
Chairperson Davis called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board adjourn the Regular Board meeting, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.



Eric Davis, Chairperson



Nancy Daughtride, Clerk to the Board