

## 11-22-11 Work Session and Board Meeting Minutes

### Work Session

#### Update on Walnut Creek Elementary:

- Handout provided on professional development unique to Walnut Creek
- Laura Evans (Office of Student Assignment) reported that Walnut Creek is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> most crowded school in the District; Lacy Elementary is the most crowded. (The Board majority voted in early 2010 to move students out of Stough Elementary to already overcrowded Lacy.)
- Superintendent Tata reported the system has had great success attracting families to this school. (That the school offers three free meals per day, as well as before and after school care.)
- Staff is requesting capping of Walnut Creek; thus Policy 6204 needs to be waived (Policy 6204 states caps must be in place as of May of the previous school year.)

#### Transportation:

- 46 additional buses would be needed to bring non-magnet runs down to within 45 minutes
- Changing all magnet routes to express busing would give the system a gain of about 30 buses; 16 would still be needed
- Transportation Department noted they get many requests from joint custody parents who want two different bus stops on alternating weeks, etc.

#### AdvancEd Update:

- Ann Majestic, BOE attorney, substituted for Terri Cobb regarding policy changes related to agendas and resolutions: policies 1321 and 1322
- These revisions to policy are to address AdvancEd concerns

#### Single Gender Academies Update:

- Presentations were made for each academy
- Peace University may build a building for academies; Superintendent Tata reported WCPSS is still in negotiations with Peace
- When asked about costs associated with the Peace University agreement, Superintendent Tata said negotiations are on-going and therefore, no cost estimates could be given at this time

#### Other Noteworthy Items:

- Superintendent Tata announced he is in discussions w/ State Superintendent June Atkinson about WCPSS *acquiring Governor Morehead School*.
- Superintendent Tata presented board with “Strategic Plan Vision 2016.” This document will be the topic of the BOE retreat planned for December 10, 2011.
- Dawn Dawson presented 2012-2013 calendar proposal. Kevin Hill pointed out that *professional development time for teachers is being “guttled” and has been*

*eroded over last several years. Professional development time has an impact on student achievement.*

### Board Meeting

The Wake Board of Education voted to cap burgeoning Walnut Creek Elementary School, a new school that opened this August and already is 20 percent over capacity. About 950 students, including 50 transfer students, have crowded the school, which opened with a capacity of 780 and has drawn students by offering an extended day, universal breakfast and lunch programs, after school enrichment which includes dinner, and extensive technology resources for the school. Despite added teacher allotments, class sizes have been larger than originally promised to families enrolling their children. Four mobile units will be added in the 2012-13 school year. Board member John Tedesco noted that under the proposed new Student Assignment plan, this overcrowding will not occur, as every school is "ultimately capped" and enrollment will end once a school fills each class.

The Board also voted to table proposed Middle School Math Placement policy, pending more details from staff on how to implement the policy. Board members Deborah Prickett, Keith Sutton, Carolyn Morrison, Anne McLaurin and Kevin Hill voted to table the proposal.

During its work session, the Board heard more details on the two single-gender Leadership Academies and on Hilburn Drive Academy, three schools taking applications for the next school year. The two separate single-gender Leadership Academies, slated to be housed at William Peace University (which this summer moved from single-gender to become co-ed) will each recruit 150 students for the 2012-13 school year, 50 each in grades 6, 7 and 9. The school will follow an Early College model and include "gender specific learning strategies." An emphasis will be on STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) education and leadership. In addition students in the 6-10 grades will wear uniforms, with the uniforms phasing out in the junior and senior years when students enter college courses.

Hilburn Drive Academy also will have special programs, including both STEM and Global Networks curricula, with electives including Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. It is planned as a K-8 school, with 6th graders entering the school for the first time in the 2012-13 school year. The move to add middle school seats to under-enrolled Hilburn Drive is in response to a shortage in middle school capacity in that part of the county, given the conversion of Leesville Middle School from four-track year round to a traditional calendar in 2010 (reducing middle school seats at that school), and the reassignment of more than 150 K-5 students from Hilburn Drive to Walnut Creek elementary, leaving Hilburn's building underutilized.

Board Advisory Council (BAC) Policy revision: A motion was made to allow WCPSS staff to serve on a BAC passed in another 5:4 split, along party lines.

**The next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, December 6, 2011.**