

## 11-9-10 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

The Wake Board of Education voted 5-3 to reinstate Committee work beginning in January. Debra Goldman joined Keith Sutton, Carolyn Morrison, Kevin Hill and Anne McLaurin to reinstate the Standing Committees: Finance, Facilities, Policy, and Student Achievement. Chris Malone, John Tedesco and Deborah Prickett voted against having Committees begin meeting again. Ms. Goldman cited a concern with Policy changes that are "time sensitive" that need the attention of Committee work in the near future.

In other action items, the Board officially named H6 Rolesville High School. They also voted to abandon immediately staff use of the Effectiveness Index as a means of deciding student class placement. The WCPSS-derived EI has come under criticism as discriminatory, and the new Board majority has pushed hard for principals and teachers to use the [SAS-developed EVAAS](#). The vote to drop EI was 5-4, with Ms. Goldman joining Mr. Tedesco, Mr. Malone, Ms. Prickett and Chair Ron Margiotta (breaking the tie) voting to drop EI. Last month, Ms. Goldman voted with the other four members to retain EI.

Earlier in the Committee of the Whole work session, the Board agreed to consider changing their meetings back to twice a month, with public comment also being held twice a month. In the main meeting, the board voted to reinstate Committee work but retained the current schedule of one action meeting a month and one additional work session a month.

During today's public comment period, currently limited to once a month, 18 speakers addressed the Board. One elementary school teacher asked the Board to formulate policy after being "informed by practitioners" and asked that Board members listen to teachers when developing policies that affect the classroom. Several speakers challenged the idea that the diversity policy "hid" poor performing students, given that test scores are public documents that can be easily accessed online and that all student subgroup data is available for "all to see." The full meeting can be [viewed on WRAL](#). Public comment begins around the 32 minute mark.

The Board voted to cap enrollment at Forest Pines Elementary School at 800 students. The school, located in northern Wake County, has a capacity of 660. Current enrollment is 764 students.

Staff outlined the upcoming [Student Assignment Community Workshops](#) to gather community feedback on changes to the third year of the current student assignment plan:

Monday, November 15, at Millbrook High, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Tuesday, November 16, at Southeast Raleigh High, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Thursday, November 18, at Cary High, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Issues addressed at these workshops will include reassignments caused by opening Walnut Creek Elementary School in the 2011-12 school year; traditional calendar

changes; other approved assignment changes; crowding issues at specific schools; as well as other concerns raised by the public. Crowding at the following schools will be up for discussion: Holly Springs High School; Carnage, Heritage and Leesville Road middle schools; and Cedar Fork, Dillard Drive, Douglas, Farmington Woods, Forest Pines Drive, Hodge Road, Joyner, Lacy, Stough and Wiley elementary schools. The district can use several strategies to deal with overcrowding: capping enrollment, reducing the number of applicants at magnet or year round schools affected, base reassignments, and calendar changes (converting a traditional school to four-track year round calendar). Last spring, for example, Leesville Road Middle was converted from a year-round calendar to a traditional calendar--now the school has 1,607 students with a traditional capacity of 1,215. Its year round capacity was 1,439 students.

Mr. Tedesco asked for a fourth workshop to be added in District 2, which will be affected by the reassignments caused by opening Walnut Creek. The Board will hear a summary of community input at its work session next Tuesday, November 16, and then feedback from the subsequent workshops will be gathered before Thanksgiving and presented to the Board in full in December. Growth and Planning administrator Laura Evans said anyone not able to attend the workshops can still email comments to Growth and Planning up until the Thanksgiving break.

The next Board meetings currently scheduled are:

Friday, November 12, 8 am, District 5 (Anne McLaurin) Board Advisory Council meeting, Underwood Elementary School, 1614 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh.

Tuesday, November 16, 1 pm, BoE Work Session, Board Conference Room, 3600 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh.

Tuesday, November 30, 11:30 am to 2 pm, Student Assignment Committee, 3600 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, December 2, 4:30 to 6 pm, Economically Disadvantaged Student Performance Task Force, Phillips High School, 1923 Milburnie Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, December 2, 5:30 to 7 pm, District 6 (Carolyn Morrison) Board Advisory Council meeting, Joyner Elementary School, 2300 Lowden Street, Raleigh.

Tuesday, December 7, 1 pm, Board of Education Committee of the Whole, and 3 pm, regular Board Meeting, 3600 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh.