

## **6-7-11 Board Meeting**

During their work session Tuesday, the Board of Education discussed the impact of possible state budget cuts on the district. The Board will approve a final budget at its next meeting, Tuesday, June 21, and it currently planning on a 6 percent cut in state funding and steady local funding. If current expectations hold, Teacher Assistants will be cut from 10 months of employment to 9.5 or 9.25 months of employment. In addition to state budget cuts to local school systems, the General Assembly is also considering extending the school year from 180 days to 185 days, taking five current teacher work days and converting them to instructional days. This change, if approved, would take effect in the 2011-12 school year.

Chair Ron Margiotta credited Supt. Tony Tata's lobbying of state legislators from keeping cuts to 6 percent instead of 10 percent. Margiotta said he would be thanking the legislature for what they had done.

Board member Keith Sutton asked whether the Board, as the largest school system in the state, should make a statement asking for fewer education cuts. "Do we make a statement or do we sit idly by and accept it?" he asked. Anne McLaurin said the Board should fully support Supt. Tata's initial request to reduce cuts to only 5 percent, and Debra Goldman added "and not messing with our calendar." The Board, by a split vote, agreed to write a letter to the legislators, with Chris Malone joining Sutton, McLaurin, Morrison and Hill in favor.

A consultant from the Broad Foundation and a former superintendent, Bob Schiller, presented an Organizational audit for the school system. The audit was conducted at no cost to WCPSS by Schiller for Superintendent Tata, who trained as a Fellow of the Broad Superintendents Academy. Schiller stated that Wake County is an administratively lean school system. Based on the audit, Supt. Tata proposed a reorganization of Central Office to clarify positions. He will create two new high level positions--a Deputy Superintendent for School Performance (to have a single officer who oversees academic progress) and a Chief Transformation Officer (who will oversee student assignment and long range planning and well as what was the Evaluation and Research division, now Data and Accountability).

Schiller also noted that the ratio of principals to Area Assistant Superintendents was too high--meaning that Area Assistant Superintendents have about twice as many principals to supervise as similar Assistant Superintendents in other districts.

In the action meeting, the Board voted 5-4, along party lines, to give final approval to policy that excludes the PTA from having a specified role in selecting school representatives to the Board Advisory Councils. Ms. Goldman, Mr. Malone, Ms. Prickett, Mr. Tedesco, and Mr. Margiotta voted for the change in policy, approved on second reading.

The Board also approved a refined transfer policy and postponed final decisions on discipline policy. The Board also approved [principal appointments](#) to several schools, including Lacy, Wiley, Banks Road, and Olive Chapel elementary schools and North Garner Middle.

The Board's next meeting, Tuesday, June 21, will be their annual meeting, where the Chair and Vice Chair will be elected and the final budget will be approved.