

1-04-10 Board of Education Work Session and Meeting

The Wake BoE has called an [emergency closed session for 5 pm, Friday, January 7](#) on a personnel matter. In a similarly-called meeting with two-days notice, on December 23, the Board met to vote and hire retired General Tony Tata as the next superintendent.

No mention of this meeting was made at yesterday's [board meeting](#). During its Committee work session, the Board continued to discuss student assignment and gave the green light to a complete study the utilization of schools to meet capacity needs in the coming few years, starting in the 2012-13 school year. With uneven school capacity spread across the county and a growing student population, administrators are looking at various ways to address capacity concerns, in particular the short-term shortage of high school seats, the delayed opening of a high school (Rolesville High) in the northern part of the county, as well as under-utilized and over-utilized schools, all working under the new Student Assignment policy that emphasizes proximity and stability, as well as student achievement, but eliminated diversity.

The Growth and Planning staff is recommending:

- Working with the Magnet office to review magnet programs and non-magnet schools to "identify school for board consideration to magnetize or demagnetize."
- Consider implementing six grade centers, more ninth grade centers, as well as other configurations, such as K-8, K-2, and 3-5, as well as Career and Technical Education centers and alternative schools.
- Assess the use of temporary classrooms and other modular units.

Leesville Middle School was listed as the most crowded middle school at 125 percent capacity, including its trailers/modular spaces. In the spring, the Board converted Leesville from a four-track year round middle school to a traditional calendar school, cutting its capacity by about 25 percent. No high schools are underutilized, while eight are overcrowded. Fifteen elementary schools and three middle schools are undercapacity; twenty elementary and six middle schools were labeled overcapacity.

Magnet programs will be a discussion item during tomorrow's (1-05-11) Economically Disadvantaged Student Task Force meeting, held at 4:30 pm at Timber Drive Elementary in Garner. The agenda is below. Chair John Tedesco and Magnet director David Ansbacher will review policy regarding "equity vs. equality" during the meeting.