

# District 9 Board Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 12th, 2014

## **I. Call to order**

Mrs. Julie Roseland called to order the regular meeting of the District 9 Board Advisory Council at 5:45 pm on Wednesday, November 24th, 2014 at Cary High School. Mr. Fletcher and Mrs. Roseland thanked Mr. Nolan Bryant for hosting our meeting. Mr. Bryant welcomed everyone and expressed his gratitude to the Cary High Culinary Academy for the wonderful dinner they prepared. The students and staff members of the Culinary Academy graciously prepared and served a delicious dinner. The Academy coordinator and an instructor answered several questions about the program.

## **II. Attendance**

The following individuals attended the meeting:

- WCPSS Principals: Laura Walser (sub for Douglas Hooper - Adams Elementary), Stephanie Raiford (Briarcliff Elementary), Rodney Stanton (Cary Elementary), Nolan Bryant (Cary High), Chip Mack (Davis Drive Elementary), Edye Morris-Bryant (Davis Drive Middle), Kerry Chisnall (East Cary Middle), Winston Pierce (Farmington Woods Elementary), Mel Leach (Green Hope Elementary), Karen Summers (Green Hope High), Sherry Schliesser (Kingswood Elementary), Burton Batten (Laurel Park Elementary), Trent Evans (Reedy Creek Middle), Debbie Edwards (Salem Elementary), Tim Chadwick (Weatherstone Elementary) and Wanza Cole (West Cary Middle).
- BAC 9 Representatives: Cyndi Tomblin (Adams Elementary), Marian Ingham (Briarcliff Elementary), Teresa MacDonald (Cary High), Julie Swanson (Davis Drive Elementary), Jennifer Kaczynski (Davis Drive Middle), Anita Minicucci (Green Hope Elementary), Dee Deanhardt (Green Hope High), Tricia Lynch (Kingswood Elementary), Stacey Darbee (Laurel Park Elementary), Julie Roseland (Northwoods Elementary), Tania Boardman (Reedy Creek Elementary), Jennifer Wadsack (Salem Elementary), Bracha Blanc (Salem Middle), Stephanie Sosa (Weatherstone Elementary), Curt Stangler (At-Large), and Diana Bader (At-Large).
- Staff and Public Guests: Tim Locklair (Western Area Superintendent), Tracy Avery (Admin Intern at Reedy Creek Elementary), Billie Moore (Admin Intern at Reedy Creek Middle), Elizabeth Plotkin (Admin Intern at Cary Elementary), Julie Cutler (AP Davis Drive Elementary) and T. Aaron Marcin (AP Green Hope Elementary)
- Members Absent: Robin Wahl (Northwoods Elementary), Catherine Yanello (Reedy Creek Elementary), Allen Ellzey (Salem Middle), Joanie Peterson (Cary Elementary), Liz McCabe (East Cary Middle), Dave Handelsman (Farmington Woods Elementary), Jason Williams (Reedy Creek Middle), and C.Bolden/M. Allen (West Cary Middle).

## **III. Business**

Mr. Fletcher introduced Tim Locklair, our new Western Area Superintendent. Mr. Locklair is transitioning from his position as principal of Holly Springs High and said he was looking forward to working with the schools in district 9.

Congratulations went out to Winston Pierce, Farmington Woods Elementary, who is a finalist for WCPSS Principal of the Year and Kristine Harris, Cary Elementary, is a finalist for WCPSS Assistant Principal of the Year. In addition, Briarcliff Elementary was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School and honored as a Closing the Gap School!

Mr. Fletcher gave a brief update on the next steps in the approval process of the student assignment plan. The staff has submitted the plan to the Board and they will have a work session during the last week of November and hopefully have a final vote in December.

Over the summer, several school representatives from Rochester, NY were in Wake County asking questions and observing. As a follow up, Mr. Fletcher and several others went up to Rochester recently to attend a forum on what to do with Rochester City Schools. This NY school system is facing a lot of challenges while trying to meet the needs of their diverse population.

**Dr. Bradley McMillen, Assistant Superintendent for Data, Research and Accountability**

Dr. McMillen spoke to the group about growth, performance and data while paying particular attention to 2013-14 performance results and NC School Report Cards. Since state law will be requiring schools to post their own letter grade, similar to sanitation grade postings for restaurants, Dr. McMillen went into detail about how these grades will be determined.

First, when EOG data is reported, two numbers are often shown. The first is the number of students that received 3/4/5 grade. Getting a three or higher indicates that a student is prepared for promotion to the next grade level. The second number is how many students received a 4/5 grade. Getting a 4 or higher is a strong predictor for college and career readiness upon graduation. It should be noted that some of the highest gains from 2013 EOG/EOCs to 2014 EOG/EOCs were in 3 significant subgroups, African-Americans, Economically Disadvantaged and Multiracial students. Also, WCPSS continues to score 7-14% higher than the state numbers in EOG/EOCs. Dr. McMillen briefly showed the group other measures of college readiness, such as EVAAS growth and ACT Benchmarks for high school juniors.

Next, the group was educated on how school performance grades would be calculated. The legislature has mandated that 80% of the grade will be based on performance indicators and 20% will be based on growth measures. For elementary and middle schools, performance indicators will be EOG/EOC scores. For high schools, performance indicators will be a combination of 5 measures – EOC scores at or above a 3, graduation rate, % of students passing Math III, junior ACT scores of 17 or higher and ACT WorkKeys for CTE concentrator graduates. For the 20% growth component, EVAAS scores of whether or not a school met or exceeded growth will be used.

The 2013-14 data will be used to calculate school grades due to be released in February 2015. This first set of scores will be on a 15 point scale (A 100-85, B 84-70, C 69-55, D 54-40 and F below 40). Subsequent scores will be released annually on a 10 point scale (A 100-90, B 89-80, C 79-70, D 69-60 and F below 60).

Dr. McMillen used some example data to show the group how misleading letter grades could be when trying to determine the strengths and weaknesses of a school. Whenever possible, a letter grade should not be the sole piece of data reported. The component scores should always accompany the final letter grade.

In conclusion, it is very important for everyone to help share the complexity of the new school performance grading system with their school communities. Often a true portrait of the school is only visible when the testing numbers, not performance letter, are viewed.

**IV. Adjournment**

Mrs. Julie Roseland thanked Dr. McMillen for his presentation. The minutes from our September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were on each table for members to review. A motion to accept the minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Bader, seconded by Mr. Stangler and approved unanimously by the membership. Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at Briarcliff Elementary. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Dee Deanhardt, District 9 BAC Secretary.