

District 9 Board Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2016

I. Attendance

The following individuals attended the regular meeting of the Board Advisory Council for WCPSS District 9, held on April 18, 2016:

WCPSS Principals: Douglas Hooper (Adams Elementary), Stephanie Raiford (Briarcliff Elementary), Chip Mack (Davis Drive Elementary), Rick Williams (Davis Drive Middle), Kristin Walker (Green Hope Elementary), Karen Summers (Green Hope High), Sherry Schliesser (Kingswood Elementary), Raleigh Bame (Laurel Park Elementary), Robin Wahl (Northwoods Elementary), Catherine Yanello (Reedy Creek Elementary), Trent Evans (Reedy Creek Middle), Debbie Edwards (Salem Elementary), Elaine Hofmann (Salem Middle), Tim Chadwick (Weatherstone Elementary), and Robert James (West Cary Middle).

BAC 9 Representatives: Scott Riley (Briarcliff Elementary), Catherine Shearin (Cary Elementary), Teresa MacDonald (Cary High), Julie Swanson (Davis Drive Elementary), Jennifer Kaczynski (Davis Drive Middle), Bai Lanhom (Farmington Woods Elementary, substitute), Dee Deanhardt (Green Hope High School), Stacey Darbee (Laurel Park Elementary), Julie Roseland (Northwoods Elementary), Dionne Truitt (Reedy Creek Elementary), Suzanne Davis (Reedy Creek Middle), Jane Shiflett (Salem Elementary), Bracha Blanc (Salem Middle), Sarah Ericksen (Weatherstone Elementary), Kathy Cawley (West Cary Middle School), and Curt Stangler (At-Large).

Staff and Public Guests: Maureen Rogne-Percy (AP, Davis Drive Elementary School), Nicole Cush (AP, Green Hope High School), Kim Collins (AP, Green Hope High School); meeting's guest speaker, Mark Winters, Finance Officer for WCPSS.

Members Absent: Rodney Stanton (Cary Elementary), Nolan Bryant (Cary High), Nikia Davis (East Cary Middle), and Winston Pierce (Farmington Woods Elementary); parent reps for East Cary Middle, Kingswood Elementary, Reedy Creek Middle; and Diana Bader (At-Large).

II. Call to Order

Mr. Bill Fletcher called to order the regular meeting of the District 9 Board Advisory Council at 5:41 pm on Monday, April 18, 2016 at Green Hope High School.

III. Business Items

Mr. Fletcher led a discussion of proposed changes to the current Board Advisory Council structure, including a map of a possible new structure, organized around the geographic boundaries for superintendents. This proposed map is attached.

The minutes from the group's last meeting on March 7, 2016 were reviewed. Following a motion to approve, duly seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The group voted to set the date for the first meeting of the 2016-17 school year as Monday, September 19, 2016. Davis Drive Middle School agreed to host the meeting. Any current BAC members unable to continue their membership for the next school year were encouraged to let Julie Roseland know by April 30, 2016.

IV. Main Topic

The group welcomed Mr. Mark Winters, Finance Officer for WCPSS, to discuss the WCPSS operating budget for the 2016-17 school year.

Highlights from Mr. Winters' presentation include:

- 60% of funding comes from State Legislature, but that budget is typically not approved at the beginning of the State's fiscal year, and sometimes much later, which causes considerable operating difficulties for the school system.
- Mr. Winter reviewed the State's economic outlook, in regards to possible insights to the State Legislature's concerns and potential impact on the State's funding to schools. Currently, Wake County unemployment rate is about 4.5%.
- WCPSS has proposed a \$1.5 Billion operating budget for the 2016-17 school year, which includes the following assumptions:
 - (1) the same level of funding will be received from the State as the previous fiscal year; and
 - (2) that the State Legislature will fully fund projected school system growth.
- Of the total budget, 91% of the total operating budget goes directly to schools; 6% to operating support; 2% to academic advancement; and 1% to the Board of Education.
- The current budget requests \$35.7 Million in additional funding from local support (Wake County Commissioners).
 - Of that additional funding request, \$12.2 million is due to *Growth* issues
 - 159,250 total students anticipated for 2016-17 (143,300 students in 2010-11)
 - Due to the removal of the charter cap, the percentage of students in charter schools has grown and now represents close to 6% of student population. Charter schools receive funding for services they are not required to provide.
 - \$3.7 million represents *Program Continuity* requests, including
 - A revised schedule for extra duty pay
 - Teacher professional development costs
 - Platform for measurements and analysis of customer service components
 - \$12.6 million represents *Legislative Impact* issues, including
 - An increase in charter school students, which diverts money to those schools
 - Annual increases in staff/teacher health insurance costs and retirement contributions
 - Mandated, but unfunded, programs such as Read to Achieve and Summer Reading Camp
 - Staff/teacher compensation increases
 - Finally, \$3.7 million of the local requested funds will support New or Expanding Programs, and the remaining \$3.5 million are due to other reductions, costs, and adjustments.
- Each year, funding requests from across WCPSS are considered. Total requested funds were \$95 million during this year's budget process; \$35 million in requests are currently on the Deferred Needs list.
- Unknown factors and potential risks to the current proposed budget include:
 - Senate Bill 744, which determined that the Legislature is no longer required by law to fund projected school system growth.

- House Bill 539 would allow charter schools to obtain indirect costs and State sales tax refunds claimed by public schools. Charter schools are paid per month based on per capita spending, calculated by month.
- WCPSS serves all identified AIG and Special Needs students, although the State caps the funding at a percentage of students.
- Other developments that may require adjustments to the budget include: compensation and benefit cost increases (benefits continue to rise more steeply than compensation costs), mandated costs for driver's education training, Teacher Assistant funding, charter school funding, and Read to Achieve costs.

The entire operating budget document is available at www.wcpss.net/budget. The budget will be voted on at the May 3rd Board of Education meeting.

V. **Board of Education Update**

Mr. Fletcher provided a short presentation, with the following highlights:

- The Board of Education proposed seven-year plan for school system capital expense needs, including new schools and planned renovations, with estimated funding flow.
- The 2013 Capital Improvement Plan included 4,000 new elementary seats that have been added along the Highway 55 corridor in Cary and Apex.
- The 2016 Capital Improvement Plan will provide for 5-7 new elementary schools, 2-3 new middle schools, 2-3 new high schools, and 7-9 major school renovations/replacements in the next 7 years.
- The lack of large tracts of available land for high schools, which require the largest footprint, may necessitate design and/or program changes, i.e., multi-level buildings, or high schools without athletic programs.
- This proposed seven-year plan is being created in conjunction with the Wake County Commissioners.
- The district posted its highest ever 4-year graduation rate of 86.1% for the 2014-15 academic year.
- To encourage the continued improvement in graduation rates, WCPSS has recently unveiled new high school programs, including Crossroads FLEX, which provides flexible school hours for students with working or other commitments. Another program, Wake Acceleration Academics, is geared towards students who have dropped out, but have few credit hours needed to graduate.
- The Board of Education is committed to ensuring every student will learn, grow, and succeed, while simultaneously eliminating the ability to predict achievement based on socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity (core belief #2, WCPSS Strategic Plan).

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 pm. The group's next meeting will be on **Monday, September 19, 2016 at 5:30 pm at Davis Drive Middle School.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Roseland, District 9 BAC Chair.