



Charlotte, North Carolina

June 24, 2008

**REGULAR MEETING  
of the  
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on June 24, 2008. The meeting began at 4:36 p.m. and was held in Room 267 of the Government Center.

Present: Joe I. White, Jr., Chairperson, Member At-Large;  
Molly Griffin, Vice-Chairperson, (District 5);  
Kaye McGarry, Member At-Large;  
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;  
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);  
Tom Tate (District 4); and  
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: Vilma D. Leake (District 2), and  
George Dunlap (District 3)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; Regina H. Bartholomew, General Counsel; Maurice Green, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

**Upon motion by Mr. Merchant, seconded by Mr. Tate, the Board voted unanimously of those present for approval to go into Closed Session for the following purposes:**

- **To consult with the Board's attorneys on matters covered by the attorney-client privilege including but not limited to the following:**
  - a. **To consider and/or take action regarding student matters that are privileged, confidential, and not a public record;**
  - b. **To consider a personnel matter of several administrative employees;**
  - c. **To consider and/or take certain actions regarding the following litigation matters:**
    - i. *NC School Boards Association, et al. v. Moore, et al.*, Wake County Superior Court, NC 98CVS14158;
    - ii. *Gracie Myers v. Jeffrey Hanood and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, 07-CVS-15174;
    - iii. *Tamika Phifer v. Robert Meek, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, et al.*, 08-CVD-8146;
    - iv. *Georgia Smith v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and William Stancil, Sr.*, 08-CVS-12992; and
    - v. *Leardini v. Kay Cunningham and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, No. 07-WS-22762.

**The motion was made pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes.**

Chairperson White reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS-TV Channel 3 televised the meeting.

Present: Joe I. White, Jr., Chairperson, Member At-Large;  
Molly Griffin, Vice-Chairperson, (District 5);  
Kaye McGarry, Member At-Large;  
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;  
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);  
Vilma D. Leake (District 2);  
Tom Tate (District 4); and  
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: George Dunlap (District 3)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; Regina H. Bartholomew, General Counsel; Members of Executive and Senior Staffs; Judy Whittington, Manager of Board Services; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson White called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Chairperson White welcomed everyone to the Board's second meeting of the month. Chairperson White apologized for starting the meeting late and noted that the Board had been conducting business in Closed Session. He said usually this meeting is held in a Work Session format in Room 267 but that room is being rewired and this meeting is being held in the Meeting Chamber.

### **A. Adoption of Agenda**

**Mr. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board adopt the agenda as presented, and the Board voted 8-0 to approve the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.**

## **II. CONSENT ITEMS**

### **A. Construction Items.**

1. Recommend approval of construction contract for new elementary school #E07-02 (Mount Holly/Huntersville Road).
2. Recommend approval of construction contract for new elementary school #E07-01 (Dixie River Road).
3. Recommend approval of land swap and lease/operating agreement for new elementary school #E07-01 (Dixie River Road).

### **B. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.**

**C. Recommend approval of Ms. McGarry's, Member At-Large, request to remove citizen appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee.**

**D. Recommend approval of Ms. McGarry's, Member At-Large, request of citizen appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee.**

**Ms. McGarry moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board adopt Consent Items A. through D., and a discussion followed.**

Mr. Merchant pulled C. and D.

Ms. Leake pulled B.

**Ms. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Tate, that the Board adopt Consent Item A., and the Board voted 8-0 in support of the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.**

The Board discussed Consent Item B. Ms. Leake said she always pulls personnel appointments and she wants to remain consistent with that process. She said she previously requested a list of the assistant principals and the number of years they have served in that capacity. She said some principals have remained an assistant principal since 1988. She believes the assistant principal position should be a training ground for the position of principal. She expressed concern that some assistant principals may have a better support system to promote them to the position of principal than other assistant principals. She wants to ensure this process is fair and consistent for all everyone.

**Ms. Leake moved, seconded by Ms. Griffin that the Board adopt Consent Item B., and the Board voted 8-0 in support of the motion. Mr. Dunlap was absent.**

The Board discussed Consent Item C. Mr. Merchant expressed concern that this item is to remove Ms. McGarry's citizen appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee. Mr. Merchant said this person has served as the chairperson of the committee, the term ends on September 30, 2008, and this person has added value to the committee. He asked Ms. McGarry to explain why she has requested this person removed from the committee. Ms. McGarry said the Board's policy for appointment or removal of an appointment allows for removal at anytime and for any reason, and this request is within the bounds of Board policy. She said her appointment is her appointment and that request will take the majority of the Board's approval. She said she chooses to appointment someone that mirrors her philosophy and she encouraged the Board to approve her request. She thanked Mr. Davis for his past service. She said this is a volunteer committee appointment and she would like to reappoint someone to the committee. Ms. Leake asked how long has this person served in this capacity and when will his term expire? Dr. Gorman said he has served on the Bond Oversight Committee since 2002 and he is in his second three-year term which will expire September 30, 2008. Ms. Leake asked Ms. McGarry if Mr. Davis' philosophy had changed since she appointed him? Ms. McGarry said, yes, and they have met and they understand each other. Ms. Leake asked Ms. Garry how did the philosophy change? Ms. McGarry said when you make an appointment you make an appointment that reflects the population that you represent and that can also serve well throughout the whole system. Ms. McGarry said this is her appointment and she encouraged the Board to support her decision. Mr. Merchant agreed that a Board member has the right to appoint a citizen to a committee. He would argue that when an appointee has served faithfully for nearly six years and has done right by the community and the Board, it is the duty of the Board to take that into consideration in the decision. Mr. Merchant said this individual is highly respected in the community; he is a graduate of West Point; he has been a ranger; he is the chairperson of the Leadership Team at Selwyn Elementary School; he has contributed to the community in numerous ways; and he was the co-chairperson of the Superintendent's Standards Review Committee. Mr. Merchant said his appointment to the

Bond Oversight Committee has stated that this individual has implemented practices and procedures that helped the committee to do its job and his professional opinion has added value to the committee. Mr. Merchant believes if there was an understanding between this individual and Ms. McGarry, he would have resigned from the committee. Mr. Merchant asked Dr. Gorman and staff if they had information to add regarding this person's service. Dr. Gorman said he has been chair of the Bond Oversight Committee and assisted CMS staff in setting up matrixes to objectively measure the effectiveness in management of the Capital Program regarding construction costs, construction quality, prototypical designs, and design costs. He has attended the Bond Oversight Committee meetings and fulfilled those duties. He has experience in the construction business; he was involved in the Comprehensive Review of Project Priorities in 2004; and he was the co-chairperson of the Standards Review Committee in 2006-2007. Mr. Merchant said he would not support Ms. Garry's request. Ms. McGarry said he is a good person and he does have qualifications just as any appointee she would appoint to this position. Ms. McGarry said this is her appointment and she encouraged the Board to support her request. Ms. McGarry said she would be glad to support Mr. Davis as Mr. Merchant's appointment. Ms. Griffin said she would not support this motion because it is a dangerous precedent. Each Board member should have the right to appoint whomever they choose to the committees but once appointed it is critical to the success of the committee that the committee members vote as they deem best. They are not appointed to serve as rubber stamps to the personal convictions and beliefs of the Board members. Ms. Griffin expressed concern that it could take away from the value of the committee if Board members asked their appointments to not be independent and critical thinkers but to agree with them. Mr. Gauvreau said he has concerns regarding the endless committees that drive this school system. He said the Bond Oversight Committee is a valuable structure to the school district but it is filled with people who are not independent thinkers. He would prefer that independent thinkers be appointed to the valuable committees and that the Board dissolve committees that don't add value such as the Equity Committee. He encouraged the Board to respect the appointment and the removal of appointees by Board members because those individuals serve the Board. He expressed concern that the Bond Oversight Committee has rubber stamped the CMS establishment at enormous costs. He encouraged the Board to support new appointments to the Bond Oversight Committee and to disband the Equity Committee because it lacks substance. Mr. Gauvreau will support this motion. Ms. Griffin noted that this term will end in approximately nine weeks and there will be a new appointment in that seat. Mr. Gauvreau said that is a valid argument but he would support acting on this item now. Mr. Tate asked if the committee was scheduled to meet during the summer? Guy Chamberlain, Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, said there is not a meeting scheduled in July or August. The next scheduled meeting will be in September.

**Ms. McGarry moved that the Board approve the removal of her current citizen appointment to the Bond Oversight Committee per Board policy, seconded by Mr. Gjertsen, and the Board voted 3-5 and the motion failed. Ms. McGarry, Mr. Gauvreau, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the motion. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, and Mr. Tate voted against the motion.**

Chairperson White said this means that Ms. McGarry's appointment will remain on the Bond Oversight Committee and that will make Consent Item D. irrelevant. Consent Item D. was deleted from the agenda. Ms. McGarry requested that this item be put on the next meeting

agenda. Chairperson White said he would discuss this at a later time.

Dr. Gorman's personnel appointments were as follows:

Appointments:

- Sandy Michael Drye named principal at Bain Elementary School. Mr. Drye has a Master of Education in Education Leadership from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies from Appalachian State University. Mr. Drye previously served as principal at Hemby Bridge Elementary School, Union County Public Schools, in Monroe, North Carolina.
- Carol Barbour named principal at Winget Park Elementary. Ms. Barbour has a Certification in Administration and Supervision, a Master of Arts in Communication, and a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia. Ms. Barbour previously served as principal at Rudolph Elementary School, District of Columbia Public Schools, in Washington, D.C.
- Jamie Brooks named principal at Community House Middle. Ms. Brooks previously served as assistant principal at Ardrey Kell High School and acting principal at Mint Hill Middle School.
- Kondra Rattley named principal at International Studies School at Garinger High School. Ms. Rattley previously served as assistant principal at Mallard Creek High School and Independence High School.
- Marc Anthony Angerer named principal at Carmel Middle School. Mr. Angerer previously served as assistant principal at Wilson Middle School and Carmel Middle School.
- Catherine Phelan named principal at Sharon Elementary School. Ms. Phelan previously served as assistant principal at Myers Park Traditional Elementary School.
- Patricia Sexton named principal at Pinewood Elementary School. Ms. Sexton previously served as assistant principal at Providence Spring Elementary School.
- Donevin Hoskins named principal at International Business and Communications School at Olympic High School. Mr. Hoskins previously served as area administrator for student services in the West Learning Community.

The appointments fill all but one vacant principal position at CMS. That vacancy is at the Northwest School of the Arts and is expected to be filled by the start of the 2008-2009 school year.

### III. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of one citizen appointment to the Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees

Chairperson White said this item is the appointment of one citizen to the Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees for a four-year term ending June 30, 2012. He said Georgia Lewis' term ends on June 30, 2008 and she has served two full terms. He invited Board members to make nominations.

**Ms. McGarry nominated Alisa McDonald.**

**Ms. Leake nominated Olma Echeverri.**

**Seven Board members voted in support of Alisa McDonald. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Ms. McGarry, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Gauvreau, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the nomination.**

Chairperson White congratulated Ms. McDonald on her appointment to the Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees.

B. Recommend approval of one citizen appointment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority

Chairperson White said this item is the appointment of one citizen to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority for a three-year term ending June 30, 2011. He said Fran Farrer-Nash's term will end on June 30, 2008 and she has served one three-year term. She is eligible for reappointment based upon the attendance rules and she is interested in serving another term. He invited Board members to make nominations.

**Ms. Leake nominated Fran Farrer-Nash.**

**Eight Board members voted in support to reappoint Fran Farrer-Nash. Chairperson White, Ms. Griffin, Ms. McGarry, Mr. Merchant, Ms. Leake, Mr. Gauvreau, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the nomination. Mr. Dunlap was absent.**

Chairperson White congratulated Ms. Farrer-Nash on her reappointment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority.

#### IV. REPORTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Budget Amendments for May and June 2008

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman said this item is as presented.

B. Report/update on District Accountability System and Performance Management Grant as requested by Trent Merchant, Member At-Large

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report. Dr. Gorman said this report is an update on the Accountability System and it was requested by Mr. Merchant. He called upon Jonathan Raymond, Chief Accountability Officer, to present a brief overview. Mr. Raymond said included with the Board meeting materials is a full description of the status of the Accountability System including Data Dashboard, School Progress Reports, and Performance Management. Since last fall, staff has further refined the quantitative measures which will be included in the School Progress Reports. The quantitative measures, as part of our Accountability System, are currently being validated by a panel of accountability experts at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and they should be in place for this current school year. The End-of-Grade (EOG) test for Writing is a new test and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is currently validating, scaling, and determining proficiency for that test. Those scores should be available in the fall to coincide with the new quantitative measures and School Progress Reports. This spring, staff completed the second round of the School Qualitative Review Program. An additional twenty schools were reviewed for a total

of forty-two schools. Over 130 CMS staff members have been trained to be co-reviewers on the Instructional Leadership Teams. That rubric and process is continuing to be refined. This summer, staff will work with the Learning Communities and principals that have had School Quality Reviews to focus on areas that have been identified as areas to improve and they will be incorporated into the school improvement process which is the third part of the accountability system. The third step of the process measures takes the qualitative data and builds it into the School Improvement Plans and that becomes the tool by which the schools continuously improve. The notion of the accountability system is accountability to get it right and the accountability to continue to show improvement. This process refines all the work and that data continues to be aligned to the Strategic Plan 2010. Staff has worked with principals and others to streamline the School Improvement Plans to be useful documents, to meet compliance, to show continuous improvement, and to share data internally and with the community regarding the status of that school. Mr. Raymond provided an update on the status of Board Policy AEC, Data Dashboard. Staff is validating the measures and the data, and beginning to build a document that will provide a snapshot of how well the district is performing relative to Strategic Plan 2010 goals. The document should be available for public viewing by the end of the summer or early fall. The document has been rolled out internally, it has been checked and tested, and it is being refined for public viewing. Mr. Raymond said regarding Performance Management, staff is in the process of finalizing the grant agreements with the Broad Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. Dr. Gorman should be signing those documents in the near future. Mr. Raymond provided the Board with an updated draft School Progress Report for Sterling Paideia Academy. The document had been revised based upon input from the Board that they had provided to staff in the fall. Mr. Raymond said this document is continuing to be refined and it should be available for our schools this year, and it will include the new EOG Reading test.

Board members were invited to make comments and ask questions.

- Mr. Merchant said achievement measures are based upon EOG and End-of-Course (EOC) tests. Mr. Merchant asked how will CMS compensate for the frequent changes in those tests and the method in which they are scaled? He also asked how will EOG and EOC tests accurately measure achievement when generally they measure proficiency and not mastery? Mr. Raymond said regarding reliability, frequency of change, and the measurement of progress, the EOG and EOC are the summit of tests in which we are obligated, under North Carolina law, to administer. The State Board of Education just passed a new policy that requires whenever a new test (which can include a test with new items, rescaling, reevaluation of cut scores, or moving proficiency from one level to the next) is implemented, DPI must provide the scaling of the old test. This was not required previously. With the new reading test, DPI must provide the old measures or cut scores (scaling). This will put us in a better position as we focus on growth which is what those achievement measures are establishing. Proficiency is good but more important is the establishment of growth on how much our students are learning over the span of a year. The new policy will better enable CMS to track that student growth over time even when tests do change. Mr. Merchant expressed concern that EOG and EOC tests are not ideal measures and those measurements can become complicated to the public. He encouraged staff to develop a simple method to inform the public on how our schools are doing in meeting their mission. He would be in favor of omitting EOG and

EOC test scores in the achievement measures. Dr. Gorman said working towards the Strategic Plan includes a variety of areas beyond EOG and EOC scores. The school ranking and School Quality Review also includes other measurements. Mr. Merchant said CMS is attempting to measure individual student growth and measure schools and teachers against individual student growth. Mr. Merchant asked do our internal systems talk to each other in a way that allows that tracking? Mr. Raymond said part of the Performance Management Grant is to begin the process of aligning our student data information, human resources information, and financial systems. These were separately built systems and a big part of the Performance Management work is to ensure that those systems are aligned and that the data coming from those systems lands in a data warehouse environment. Staff will be able to use and match that data, and incorporate that data back to the decision makers to show the impact of the interventions and programs that were implemented. Dr. Gorman said information will provide school-by-school and teacher-by-teacher data that will link student to teacher data over a period of years and track the impact of multiple teachers on a student's learning. This is a big system to build and it will be a very powerful system.

- Ms. Leake said she would like this information simplified for the general public and parents in the district so they can understand the process and what we are trying to accomplish as a system. Ms. Leake said the average person knows when we are or are not being successful (progress of students) based upon the testing process. She expressed concern that CMS does not have a measuring system for teaching children how to do critical thinking. Teachers are almost like robots that continuously test as a means to determine the success or non-success of a staff member working in that building. The job of CMS is to educate all children and ensure they receive a quality education. She expressed concern that the data includes information that may discriminate or cause a label to be placed on certain children such as poverty rate. She said poverty is usually included as a negative in the performance of children and that terminology should not be used as a measuring process for the success of a child. A child may be financially poor but that does not mean they are academically poor. CMS must expose all children to high-level training and not hold anyone back because of their economic status, gender, or race. She encouraged staff to develop simplified documents that provide a clearer picture to parents that indicate what is being measured and why it is being measured by school, by class, and by student. She is concerned that the average citizen would have a difficult time understanding these documents.
- Mr. Tate asked clarifying questions regarding the roll out for the Data Dashboard and the process for measuring growth. Mr. Raymond and Dr. Gorman responded to those questions. Mr. Tate said he was grateful for this work and he looks forward to this process being available to staff and the public.
- Mr. Gauvreau said regarding the preliminary assessment results that were recently released, he requested that the students with accommodations (alternative assessments) not be combined. He would prefer that information to be separated. Mr. Raymond said he would provide that information at a later time. Mr. Gauvreau clarified that the reading and science results would be forthcoming? Mr. Raymond said, yes. Mr. Gauvreau said he would prefer to have those results listed separately as well because he uses that information for his own comparison purposes. Mr. Raymond said staff would be presenting all this information to the Board when it has been finalized.



- Ms. Leake asked did this information help to identify the third graders who did not perform well or who failed the third grade for this year? Dr. Gorman said this did not but the assessment data that was recently received provided information for third graders who did not perform well in math. Based upon that information, CMS has set up twenty-one locations at Title 1 schools throughout the county where summer programs will be offered to students who are behind in math. Dr. Gorman said this process includes EOG data for third graders in math and that EOG data was used to identify students who have not met a gateway. Ms. Leake is pleased that there are sites available to help third graders who did not perform well.

### C. Report/Work Session on Magnet Programs

Chairperson White called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report. Dr. Gorman said this will be a continuation of the Board's Work Sessions on the comprehensive review of Magnet Programs. Dr. Gorman called upon Ann Clark, Associate Superintendent for Pre-K-12 Curriculum and Instruction, to review the Work Session materials. Ms. Clark provided the Board with a recap of the progress made and the next steps pending the outcome of tonight's discussion. She said the Board has held four Work Sessions focused on the magnet review process and that information included a review of the Board's Guiding Principles, student achievement and enrollment data, and staff recommendations. The recommendations included a program matrix which identified staff's recommendation; the Guiding Principle that it was based upon; transportation implications; and other considerations and data points. Ms. Clark said tonight's Board materials include a slightly updated program matrix which incorporates a phase-in for 6<sup>th</sup> grade with the Collinswood Language Academy and Oaklawn Language Academy programs. Ms. Clark said she would like feedback from the Board regarding the new staff recommendation and its transportation implications. Ms. Clark said Board members requested additional data at the last Magnet Work Session and that information is included with these materials. The materials included an overview of the CMS Open Program compared to the national status of the Open Program; Magnet Program Review powerpoint; and transportation eligibility information. The intent of this Work Session is to have final discussion that can be communicated to the public as staff moves forward to the first Community Meeting scheduled for July 10, 2008 at Ardrey Kell High School. Staff would like to know the questions the Board would like posed to the community; input on the program recommendations provided in the matrix; and additional feedback regarding the additional discussion items (Learning Immersion/Talent Development Programs, Montessori Middle School, and Transportation issues). Staff is also interested in any suggestions that Board members want to ensure occurs at the Community Meetings. Ms. Clark said Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement Services; Carol Stamper, Executive Director of Transportation; Mike Raible, Executive Director for Facilities Planning; and Robbie Kale, Director of Magnet Schools, are present to answer questions regarding student enrollment, transportation, Magnet Programs, and facilities.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Mr. Merchant said he was interested in understanding how the Traditional Program differs from the standard elementary school program. Ms. Clark clarified points of the Traditional Program. Mr. Merchant said he was provided a list of the components of the

Traditional Program and they included back to basics; special assemblies for patriotic holidays; structured environment; direct reading instruction model; manners and etiquette; appreciation of diverse American culture; requirements for study skills, time management, organization and responsibility, and listening; and spelling and handwriting requirements. Mr. Merchant believes these concepts should be taught in every school and not just confined to the Traditional Program setting, or CMS should have more Traditional Programs available to the community. He expressed concern that there are second and third graders who cannot not perform basic math skills. He encouraged staff to review the Eastover home zone which includes three Magnet Programs. Mr. Merchant encouraged the Board and staff to consider dropping one of those magnets and returning that school to a home school environment, and this may impact the boundaries of Randolph Road.

- Ms. Leake believes the basics should be taught in each elementary school as a part of the curriculum. She said programs have come and gone in CMS. Previously, CMS had a middle school Traditional Program at Hawthorne Middle School and now the Board is discussing having a middle school Montessori Program. She expressed concern that the magnet recommendations include eliminating the Open Program because that program is flourishing at Piedmont Open Middle School. She said the Open Program previously had a great deal of support and the students did well. She believes the Board and the system let the students and parents down when they did not continue to cultivate the Open Program at West Charlotte High School. She encouraged the Board to maintain the Open Program because it will enhance student learning. She also encouraged the Board to foster the basics in every school because it will help students and teachers to have structure, teach character education, and help eliminate the problem of students not being able to write. She encouraged parents to inform the Board and staff that they want the Open Program continued and that it be appropriately structured at West Charlotte High School. She said Magnet Programs were originally designed to provide diversity and quality education. She is opposed to eliminating the French Program at Oaklawn Language Academy because that school needs languages to encourage the students in the northern portion of the county to attend that school. Oaklawn Language Academy is equipped with an excellent principal and staff, and the Board should not consider putting the French Program at Smith Language Academy because that school is already overcrowded and it would be more costly to transport students to Smith Language Academy as opposed to Oaklawn Language Academy. She is concerned that eliminating programs at certain schools would have a negative impact on the community. She said educating students is more economical than incarceration. Ms. Leake also encouraged the Board and staff to maintain the Magnet Program at Lincoln Heights Elementary School.
- Ms. Griffin suggested that the Board discuss each recommendation one-by-one and provide staff feedback.
- Mr. Merchant said he does not believe the recommendations are enough. He has heard concerns from parents at the elementary level and they are concerned about the quality of the school such as Smithfield Elementary School that has had 256 students to choice out and Rama Road Elementary that has had 156 students to choice out. Mr. Merchant said some of the Magnet Programs are great and some choice is good but he believes the Board can help more people by strengthening home schools. Mr. Merchant encouraged

staff to provide additional magnet recommendations.

- Ms. McGarry agreed that the magnet recommendations only tap the surface. This information is not new because we have had three Work Sessions. She would like to hear the comments by Board members.
- Mr. Gjertsen does not believe the Board should address each recommendation. He would prefer to hear feedback from the public prior to making his decisions. He said the Board, at some point, will determine a set of Magnet Programs and along with that discussion the Board should also focus on other areas such as how to hold those programs accountable; annually determining a set of criteria or expectations for each program; how to evaluate the program on an ongoing basis (consider the academics of the students in the program, academics of the students who live in the local community, academics of the non-magnets, or what is or is not working); what is the participation level; and what distinguishes the program. He does not believe the Traditional Program and the Open Program are significantly different compared to the regular course of study and he would support eliminating those programs. Mr. Gjertsen believes the Learning Communities should be utilized more and staff should develop a methodology to phase-in over time moving the Magnet Programs so that they align better with the Learning Communities. For example, each Learning Community should have a Montessori Program, a Talent Development or Learning Immersion Program, and the Language Immersion Programs could be paired. Mr. Gjertsen believes the Learning Communities should be involved in the location of the Magnet Programs. He expressed concern that there are not many Magnet Programs located in the southern portion of the county and that could be a transportation or location issue. He encouraged the Board and staff to place more Magnet Programs in the southern area to make it easier for those families to participate in Magnet Programs. He said six months ago, Ms. Stamper presented great ideas on how to improve transportation and he is awaiting the outcome of those recommendations. He encouraged the Board to discuss the transportation issues such as eliminating the long commutes for students and implementing the Magnet Express Stops which he believes is a great idea. He encouraged staff to evaluate the options and present recommendations to the Board on what will work and include the cost savings or implications. He also encouraged the Board and staff to implement an IB Program at South Mecklenburg High School.
- Mr. Tate thanked staff for developing the matrix. He would like the Board to address each recommendation and then provide input on the Learning Immersion/Talent Development Program, Montessori Program, and transportation issues.
- Ms. McGarry said she would like to make some general comments. She asked does the Park Road Montessori property have enough room to expand the facility to a K-8 Program? She said magnets are necessary and the Board must determine the programs that are working, eliminate the programs that are not working, and strengthen the programs that are working. She encouraged staff to look at the full picture, dig deeper, and develop more recommendations because this is just nibbling at the surface because these recommendations will leave CMS status quo. She believes the performance (educational impact and value) of the magnets should be separated from the transportation issues. She supports magnets but CMS has too many programs and that is a waste of taxpayers' dollars because many of them should have been eliminated years ago. She encouraged the Board to openly evaluate the magnets and make the decision to

eliminate many of them. The components of the Traditional Program should be taught in every school. She said most important is putting an effective leader in each school and providing that principal with freedom and flexibility. This will allow that principal the ability to determine the needs of those students and request the resources necessary to educate those students. Some of the names of the Magnet Programs are confusing to the families and they should be simplified. The Board must be sensitive to the families that have embraced the Magnet Programs at the elementary level and not leave them hanging. Elementary schools should be neighborhood schools and home schools, and they should focus on the rigor of the course work for all students. Middle and high schools should have more differentiation of instruction and that should include the IB, Montessori, and Language programs, and trade courses. CMS must better prepare students for the next environment they choose whether that is on-the-job training, community college, technical school, or college. Ms. McGarry does not want to eliminate the magnets that have been successful but the Board must address how to better align the transportation costs to the remaining magnets. She said the Board is looking for academic results and that is not adequately happening across the county. She said she attended several community meetings last year regarding the overcrowding issues at Eastover Elementary School and it was decided that the boundary would not be changed but there would be a review of Dilworth, Myers Park Traditional, and Elizabeth Traditional elementary schools and that has not happened. She asked when will that be addressed? Mike Raible, Executive Director for Facilities Planning, said there is space at Park Road Montessori to increase the number of elementary classrooms at that site but not to expand it to include grades 6, 7, and 8 because of the middle school field requirements. Typically, a middle school has more athletic fields and physical education facilities than an elementary school. Elementary schools usually have one multi-purpose field. Ms. McGarry said she supports the Montessori philosophy and she believes that can be incorporated in the standard course of study for middle school. She encouraged the Board to discuss the option of expanding Park Road Montessori to a K-8 program.

- Mr. Gjertsen asked if the other Montessori schools had enough space to expand to a K-8 program? Mr. Raible said Highland Mill Montessori does not have space to increase the number of classrooms and Chantilly Montessori has a little more space but not enough to accommodate the athletic fields. Mr. Gjertsen said the parents from the three Montessori schools have contacted him regarding a middle school program but not necessarily about a K-8 program. He expressed concern that there is not enough space to fit a K-8 program at all three sites and that is the reason the recommendation is for a middle school.
- Mr. Gauvreau expressed concern that this was the fourth meeting for the Board and the recommendations are insignificant. He does not believe the Board should review them one-by-one because we are awaiting the input from the Community Meetings. He encouraged staff to present to the Board a comprehensive well-thought out plan because there is a lot to be completed and this is not a good first step. He encouraged staff to develop substantive recommendations that are meaningful and includes a constructive plan to change the Magnet Programs. He expressed concern that the recommendations do not represent cost savings or dramatic change.
- Ms. Griffin said the Board members do not support her idea of reviewing each recommendation. She said she would recap her thoughts on the recommendations and

she encouraged the Board to share their bigger ideas with staff. Ms. Griffin likes the ideas regarding the Language Immersion Programs but she is concerned about the costs for the K-8 program at Oaklawn Language Academy and Collinswood Language Academy because that funding is not included in the budget. She looks forward to hearing the input from the Language Immersion parents. She supports eliminating the Strategic Languages from E. E. Waddell High School but does not believe West Mecklenburg High School is a good location for a county-wide magnet. She agreed with the recommendation to eliminate secondary Centers for Leadership and Global Economics. She agreed with the proposal to eliminate the Open Program but she is concerned about what will remain at Piedmont Open Middle School and Randolph Middle School. She asked did staff consider Piedmont Open Middle School as the Montessori middle school Magnet? She is not sure that both Piedmont Open Middle School and Randolph Middle School should be stand-alone full IB schools. She agreed with the recommendation to eliminate the Communication Arts Program. She supports the clarification requirements regarding the IB recommendations. Ms. Griffin said she believes the Certificate Program which has great strengths has had a significant negative impact on the Full Diploma. Robbie Kale, Director of Magnet Programs, said the recommendation is to decrease the emphasis on the Concentrated Studies as a stand-alone option because it was not intended to lessen the impact of the Full Diploma. Ms. Griffin agreed with the math and science recommendations, and removing the Paideia Program at Sterling Paideia Elementary School.

- Ms. Leake asked for clarification on the difference between the Open and Montessori programs? Ms. Kale responded. Ms. Leake believes the Open Program has a correlation to the Montessori Program. She would not support eliminating the Open Program at Piedmont Open Middle School to become a Montessori Middle School. Ms. Leake expressed concern that CMS has too many Magnet Programs, many programs have not been successful, and all the Magnet Programs have not been evaluated. She encouraged staff to complete the evaluation process on the Magnet Programs and include student performance (student success or non-success). She requested a breakdown of the success of all the Magnet Programs. She said the Davidson IB Middle School program is successful. She encouraged CMS to duplicate that program at other schools. She encouraged the Board to consider having a full IB high school because the community supports the IB Program, its success, and the rigor of the program. She expressed concern that Davidson IB Middle School has a limited 250 student capacity and would like that program expanded. She would like to provide that same success and rigorous programs to all students. Ms. Clark said the facility at Davidson IB Middle School limits expansion at that site. There are other schools throughout the county that offer the IB Program and they have a larger student capacity. Moving Davidson IB Middle School to another location would be a student assignment discussion. Ms. Leake expressed concern that the other schools with an IB Program are not a designated IB school. She requested the per pupil spending at Davidson IB Middle School and the cost to relocate that program to a larger facility. Ms. Clark said the primary cost for the IB Program is the additional training costs for teachers.
- Mr. Tate agreed with Ms. Griffin's comments and suggested that the Concentrated Program be eliminated. He believes there is merit in having both the Spanish and French Immersion programs at Oaklawn Language Academy. He has not determined if

he would support moving the French Immersion Program to Smith Language Academy and having a single language (Spanish) K-8 program at Oaklawn Language Academy and Collinswood Language Academy. The secondary Centers for Leadership and Global Economics Programs have merit but he would support eliminating that program. He is saddened that the Open Program and the national training for the teachers have been discontinued, and he would support eliminating that program. As a result, he encouraged staff to strengthen the Paideia Program at Randolph Middle School and Piedmont Open Middle School. He would like more information regarding the Career Academies at West Charlotte High School and how that will provide opportunity for the students who have been participating in the Open Program. He expressed concern regarding the future options for students who have chosen the Open Program and wants to ensure those students are provided enhanced educational opportunities. He believes transportation should be provided for all the programs offered by CMS and that transportation should ensure that any student who is accepted in the program can get to that school. Students should not have to rely on parents for transportation because not all parents can provide that option. He would like more information on how the transportation eligibility options would work. He is not sure the full county magnets will save transportation costs. He would not want to limit the Magnet Programs only to students who have their own transportation. Mr. Tate supports the elimination of the Communication Arts Program because most of those components are already included in the literacy curriculum. He wants to ensure students and parents understand the requirements of entering in the IB Program. He also wants to ensure the IB Program is strengthened.

- Mr. Merchant said he missed the Work Sessions and this has been valuable discussion. He said choice is good and it is good to grow programs that are producing but the Board most focus its choices on mastery. He would like to identify the two or three best Magnet Programs at any level and expand those. This would include programs that have demonstrated achievement (are students performing at a higher level in that Magnet Program at that school than they would have at their home school). He expressed concern that there are schools that have become successful by demographics. He said half the student body at Myers Park Traditional Elementary School is comprised of students from six elementary schools (Beverly Woods, Cotswold, Eastover, Selwyn, Sharon, and Smithfield). Demographics would suggest that those students would likely do very well at a number of different schools. He said if the 256 students that choiced out of Smithfield Elementary School actually attended Smithfield Elementary School that school may be successful. He expressed concern that student assignment has robbed Peter to pay Paul and chased the problem around. He also expressed concern that savvy parents know how to play the lottery system. He said the CMS lottery system is a first choice maximizer. He encouraged staff and the Board to consider changing that system to a weighted system that is worst to first. For example, the student in the worst performing elementary school would be first in line to transfer to another school. A student in an average or above average school that wants to transfer to an excellent school with a waiting list of 180 students people may not have that option because their need is not as great as a student in a low-performing school. All Magnet Programs should be reviewed on a three to four year basis because an annual review would create a lot of work. Cost should be included in the review because cost matters, especially

with the rising gas prices. He is more concerned with long-term value than with cost and this may include eliminating luxuries. He said the recommendations were a good first step and he encouraged staff to consider bigger ideas when they take this information to the public. He said the decisions the Board will make in the fall regarding magnets will not be the end of the process. This process will trigger other changes that will involve student assignment, facilities, transportation, and other issues because they are intertwined. He encouraged the Board and staff to review the bigger issues.

- Chairperson White said he shared his views on each recommendation at the Work Sessions. He said the matrix of staff's magnet recommendations include the Board's Guiding Principles. He expressed concern that the Board does not know what they want for magnets. He supports offering choice to parents but unfortunately some of this is choice about what they are running to or running from. Chairperson White said it is impossible to discuss transportation efficiency and run buses from Davidson to Pineville for an all county magnet. He expressed concern regarding the transportation implications with all county magnets.
- Ms. Griffin would like to change the lottery system from a first choice maximizer to a true lottery system in which when your number is up you will get your first choice if you can, your second choice if you can, or your third choice if you can. Ms. Griffin said this was discussed at the Board Retreat and most parents believe this is how our lottery system works. Ms. Griffin said she would also eliminate non-Magnet choice in the lottery system and have the lottery system return to only Magnets like it was previously. She said there are so few non-Magnet seats available through choice that staff could efficiently handle filling those seats and it would be a more efficient process.
- Ms. McGarry said this needs to be simplified. She encouraged staff and the Board to eliminate more Magnet Programs. Some parents are choosing location versus the program and that is why eliminating some of the programs will not matter to most of the population in Mecklenburg County as long as CMS strengthens the core curriculum in every school. It will take the leadership of an effective principal to meet the needs of every student. Ms. McGarry would support eliminating the Concentrated Studies Program. She is surprised that an IB requirement is to only pass three courses and exams over 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 grades. She asked how many high school students are successfully passing that test? She is not sure an IB Magnet Program is needed at the middle school level. She suggested having the IB Program only in grades 9 thru 12 and those students must meet all the requirements. Ms. Kale said there are continuation requirements and the strengthening recommendations in the matrix clarify the requirements to remain in the IB magnet Program. Ms. McGarry supports strengthening the IB Program.

Ms. Clark said it would be helpful to staff if Board members would recommend specific Magnet Programs to eliminate as this would help guide staff's next steps and that information could be added to the input sessions with the community. Chairperson White was temporarily out of the room and Ms. Griffin served as Chairperson. Ms. Griffin said Board members still need to discuss the Talent Development Program and the specifics for changes to programs. Dr. Gorman said the Board also needs to discuss transportation. Ms. Griffin invited Board members to discuss the Talent Development Program.

- Mr. Gjertsen said he would like to respond to Ms. Clark's comments. He stated he would be the fifth Board member that has talked about other considerations. Ms. Leake suggested moving Davidson IB Middle School and Ms. Clark said that would be a student assignment issue, Mr. Gauvreau talked about a bigger plan, Mr. Merchant talked about staff providing additional recommendations, and Ms. McGarry talked about additional recommendations. He expressed concern that Ms. Clark wants the Board to recommend Magnet Programs to eliminate. He said he and the other Board members have asked staff to be more comprehensive in the recommendations. He expressed concern that staff indicated they looked at a very narrow range because when an item became a student assignment issue it was taken off the table. Staff has asked for specifics within a very narrow range. He encouraged the Board to consider options in terms of Learning Communities and doing things more holistically. He said five Board members would like a more comprehensive plan that includes other ideas than moving programs. He encouraged staff to advise the Board and include how programs will be evaluated; what makes the most sense; and all other options because there are no bad ideas. He believes if Davidson IB Middle School is successful with 250 students and it would be a better program with 400 students, then CMS should find a better location for that school. He encouraged the Board and staff to think more comprehensively because there is not a list of Magnet Programs that the full Board wishes to eliminate. Ms. Clark said staff was charged with reviewing the Magnet Program and making recommendations based upon the Board's Guiding Principles, student achievement data, and enrollment. Recommendations were presented to the Board based upon program quality, enrollment, and student achievement matched against the Board's Guiding Principles discussed at the first Work Session. The Board did not provide any objection to using that as the lens. Ms. Clark said she agreed there is transportation, pupil assignment, and facility issues and that is why staff is available to address those concerns. She said staff is using the Board's Guiding Principles and policy as the lens in which the programs are evaluated and that includes program quality, student achievement, and enrollment and those are the recommendations that have been brought forth. Staff is open to perspectives and that is why this meeting was conducted in a Work Session format to generate dialogue and input prior to taking this to the community in which staff anticipates receiving additional recommendations. Mr. Gjertsen said this is a process and the Board is not criticizing the work completed. Board members are saying this is not enough and they want a plan that is more comprehensive that engages transportation, student assignment, construction facilities, and meets the needs. Mr. Gjertsen said, as Mr. White said, perhaps the Board does not know what they want from the Magnet Programs and that may be where we need to start. Staff may not have enough direction other than the broad Guiding Principles and perhaps the Board needs to do a better job as a Board. Dr. Gorman strongly recommended that the Board consider reviewing the Guiding Principles. He said at the first Work Session, staff asked for more in-depth discussion on the Guiding Principles and the Board did not want to participate in that discussion at that time. Staff will be happy to review philosophical pieces of the Guiding Principles. Staff presented recommendations based upon program effectiveness, student assignment, and enrollment. There will be more discussions at the next step and that will drive this process even further. Dr. Gorman said Ms. Clark is asking Board members to suggest a



specific program to change or eliminate and staff will be glad to take that recommendation to the next level. Dr. Gorman said we must keep in mind what are we trying to accomplish? Mr. Gjertsen said the Board has given staff a blank canvass and asked them to take the Magnet Programs that are successful and use it however you can the best way to do student achievement, and do not worry about location the Board will work with that. Present to the Board how to use the Magnet Programs to impact student achievement and this may include strengthening the IB Programs. He encouraged staff to utilize the Learning Communities and involve the area superintendents. Dr. Gorman said staff will be happy to consider other options if that is what the Board wishes. He said it will be difficult to develop recommendations that the full Board will support because the Board has philosophical differences. Mr. Gjertsen said the Board would be happy to work with staff on recommendations. Dr. Gorman said he has heard several thoughts from the Board that include CMS must offer choice, must offer a variety, and must offer transportation. He has also heard Board members say narrow it down and focus on a couple. He said staff will be glad to recommend other options but that will take some time. Mr. Gjertsen said at the Community Meetings, will staff focus on this list or is all options open. Mr. Gjertsen suggested that staff ask the community what makes sense for Magnet Programs and do not limit the discuss to this list. He wants to ensure the community knows that CMS is not limited to the list.

- Mr. Merchant said he wants more blue sky ideas. He suggested that three or four Board members work together to develop three or four recommendations to present to staff for their consideration and review. Dr. Gorman said that would be helpful but he would like the Board to review the Guiding Principles to ensure that staff can communicate to the community what is important to the Board. He said for example, as a Board is it important to offer variety of programs or offer a few. He said that type of direction would be helpful. Dr. Gorman said the Board can draw the circle and establish the boundaries for the circle, and staff will develop what is in the circle and make recommendations.
- Ms. Leake said this Board discussion had provided staff comments and recommendations regarding the Magnet Programs and staff could review the minutes for that information which included the programs supported or not supported. She said she would support maintaining the language programs at Oaklawn Language Academy. She also encouraged staff to duplicate and expand the program at Davidson IB Middle School. She encouraged that diversity be a part of the process. She expressed concern regarding the future of the students in the Open Program at Piedmont Open Middle School should that program be eliminated. She encouraged staff to provide the Board recommendations for those students. She would support eliminating the programs that are not successful.

Dr. Gorman said it would be helpful if the Board had a discussion to confirm their priority Guiding Principles for Magnet Programs. He would like to have a majority of the Board agreement and staff would develop different options within those priorities. He expressed concern that he has heard different agreements from Board members.

- Chairperson White said staff has done an excellent job in providing the Board with recommendations based upon the confines of what the Board asked staff to do that included information provided by the Board, criteria to use, and Guiding Principles. He

said this process must also take in consideration why the Magnet Program was originally established. It was not about education. It was about student assignment. It was about diversity. It was about choice. It had nothing to do with academic achievement. Over the years, some of the programs developed into good programs and some have met the needs of students understanding that one size does not fit all. He said there is not that one program that will educate every child in a Magnet school. Some programs may help some students but will not help others. You cannot clone a magnet that is in a certain place with a certain group of students and expect it to be successful at a different place with a different group of students. Chairperson White said he would support what the majority of the Board wanted to do.

Dr. Gorman said regarding the Community Meetings, would the Board expect staff to discuss the Guiding Principles with the community and seek input of what they believe to be important to them? There was no objection from the Board members. Chairperson White said he would believe that the Board would be happy with that input with the understanding that the Board would listen to that feedback.

- Mr. Merchant said he hoped that would not be the focus. He expressed concern that there may be limited participation at the Community Meetings because the meetings conflict with vacation schedules and those attending the meeting may be strongly advocating for a particular point of view. He is not sure the community feedback will provide a balanced sample.
- Ms. McGarry expressed concern that narrowing the discussion at the Community Meetings to the Guiding Principles may not allow discussion on the broader picture and go beyond the purpose of a Magnet Program. She encouraged staff to provide parents historical information on Magnet Programs. She also encouraged staff to ask the community if they would prefer strengthening the elementary home school in lieu of transporting students across the county to attend a Magnet Program that may not be successful. She expressed concern that focusing on the Guiding Principles would only address the magnets and we must review the options for strengthen the whole system. She said the Board and staff should review CMS as an educational system first and not as a transportation system, an entertainment system, or an employment system. She encouraged the Board and staff to review the whole educational aspect and not just focus on strengthening magnets. She encouraged staff to review all options. She believes the Board should maintain the successful magnets and eliminate the non-successful magnets. She encouraged staff to review the sources of student achievement and why students are attending magnets.

**Ms. Leake moved to adjourn the meeting,** and a discussion followed. Chairperson White said the Board had not completed its discussion on Transportation or the Talent Development Program. Chairperson White asked Ms. Leake to table her motion and Ms. Leake agreed.

Ms. Clark said additional discussion items for the Board's consideration include the Talent Development Program, transportation, and Montessori Middle School. The meeting materials for the Talent Development Program include enrollment and student achievement data. Staff would like guidelines and input from the Board regarding the Learning Immersion/Talent Development Program (LI/TD Program). The LI/TD Programs are more geographically

distributed throughout the county than other Magnet Programs but they are not included in all the Learning Communities. A challenge area includes two LI/TD Programs within one mile of each other (Villa Heights Elementary School and Shamrock Gardens Elementary School). At an earlier Work Session, staff asked the Board to consider a more northern and more southern location for the LI/TD Programs. Specifically, Long Creek Elementary School and Smithfield Elementary School are two examples of locations that could accommodate this concept. Reviewing the enrollment numbers and the projected numbers for the 2008-2009 school year can present a challenge for staff in making recommendations for the programs. The Shamrock Gardens Elementary School program has a low enrollment but it was just initiated and has not had an opportunity to grow to its full capacity. The Villa Heights Elementary School program has been a very successful but it is located within a mile of Shamrock Gardens Elementary School. Staff believes there are too many locations for the demand of the program and they are not geographically located to best serve the students. Ms. Clark said staff is concerned about adding a new program with the existing well-established programs. Ms. Clark said staff has challenges in making recommendations utilizing the Board's Guiding Principles, student achievement, enrollment, and demand with the understanding that the interest in the LI/TD Program is trending downward. Some Board members have shared a focus of expanding opportunities in the home school. Strengthening the home school TD Program provides parents an opportunity to remain in their home school which is closer to home and with neighborhood students. Providing this improvement speaks to a change. There are aspects of the TD Program that make them unique and fit the Guiding Principles. There are more and more home elementary schools that have a full-time TD Catalyst teacher that is able to deliver the program but not at the intensive level the students receive in the LI/TD Program. The aspect of a shorter bus ride is an appealing option.

Board members were invited to make comments and ask questions.

- Ms. Griffin said she would like a breakout of the number of LI students and TD students. She said when CMS had full magnets it made sense to pair LI and TD because it did not include K-2. She asked with the number of partial magnets is it still necessary to pair LI and TD? Ms. Kale said she would provide the LI and TD enrollment data at a later time. She said the LI Program was initially implemented to offer strategies that had been traditionally used for gifted students and expand that into K-2 with the goal of certifying more students for the Talent Development Program. Idlewild and Tuckasegee elementary schools have increased their enrollment of TD students. CMS considered having a LI school and a 3-5 grade TD center but the parents did not want to have their students attending two different schools. Ms. Griffin expressed concern about implementing another partial TD magnet. She asked would that have to include a LI Program? Ms. Kale said it would not and staff would review that option. Ms. Griffin said receiving the TD and LI enrollment data would be helpful in deciding if CMS has too many TD Programs. She believes there may be too many and that may be geographic. She expressed concern regarding the low numbers of enrollment as well as the number of students in the TD classes who are not certified gifted. She said in that case, the magnet is not offering anything more than what the home school is offering. She believes that takes away from the value of having a separate TD Program.
- Mr. Tate would also like to have the LI and TD enrollments separated. He commended the partial Magnet Programs at Idlewild and Shamrock Gardens elementary schools. He

would not like to have the partial LI/TD Magnet Programs eliminated because they have benefited CMS. His daughter attended the Magnet Program at Villa Heights Elementary School and that school has had a terrific reputation throughout the years, and he would not want that program eliminated. Ms. Kale said Barringer Academic Center has its original building and that could be used as dedicated space or expansion for LI/TD classes or the Horizon Program.

- Ms. Leake asked how is staff expanding the Horizon Program? She encouraged staff to publicize and sell these programs to the community. She expressed concern that CMS does not advertise the TD Program or the Horizon Program. Ms. Kale said the Horizon Program is not a Magnet Program and students must be recommended through a process from the Talent Development Office. CMS has a brochure and website dedicated to the Horizon Program. Ms. Leake expressed concern that the Barringer Academic Center Horizon Program was not being publicized. She encouraged staff to enhance those programs to the public. Ms. Clark noted that CMS has a Magnet Fair in which the TD Programs are spotlighted and there are separate TD Open Houses throughout the county during the open process for applying for Magnet Programs. Ms. Leake also expressed concern regarding the program at Lincoln Heights Elementary School and encouraged staff to promote that program as well. Ms. Kale said enrollment is decreasing and staff has been reviewing its programs and discussing options for Lincoln Heights Elementary School as well as the other schools in the area. Ms. Leake said the parents at Lincoln Heights Elementary School have expressed their concerns about the school to her and she has shared that information with Dr. Gorman. She encouraged staff to respond to those parents to address and resolve those concerns. Chairperson White said this item was not on the agenda and he asked Board members to move forward with the discussion.

**Ms. Leake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gjertsen,** and a discussion followed.

Ms. Clark asked the Board if they would allow Ms. Stamper to address next steps for transportation. Ms. Stamper said it is important to note that we are carrying forward some of the strategies and recommendations from the Business Improvement Plan that was presented to the Board at the November 27, 2007 Regular Board meeting. This is a component of those strategies. Ms. Stamper provided the Board with a brief overview of future transportation considerations that included no transportation for Magnet School students or students of choice; Magnet Express Bus Stops; Magnet Bus runs; radius concept of five, seven, and ten-miles; and Common Stops. She provided a comparison of options that other school districts provide. The ultimate goal of the options is to reduce the ride time as well as improve the pick-up and drop-off times for students attending these programs. These options may or may not cut costs but they are trying to balance the component of time versus distance and effectiveness for the families versus the efficiency of the operation. The Transportation Department has been attempting to support the delivery services that the district put forth many years ago. Ms. Stamper said we may need to consider a change while continuing to serve the families as best as possible and meeting the efficiency of the operations and budgets.

Board members were invited to discuss transportation options.

- Mr. Merchant said would the changes include several types of options depending on the school and the location of the students? Ms. Stamper said, yes. Mr. Merchant asked did the other school districts utilize school stops in which students are left at a school that they do not attend and the school must provide supervision, and did they have any problems to report? Ms. Stamper said Forsythe County requires the site administrator at the school to provide the level of supervision necessary to bring those children waiting for the bus into the building and this may be incorporated in their Before School and After School Enrichment Programs. Wake County does not do that. Dr. Gorman said Forsythe County reported a small increase in costs because they had to pay staff to supervise those students. Mr. Merchant asked if staff had considered utilizing church parking lots as a part of our faith based partnerships? Ms. Stamper said we do not currently use church parking lots but we do use banking and grocery store parking lots for Consolidated Stops. These are on a strictly parent volunteer basis and students are assigned to the closest geographic stop. Mr. Merchant believes a church parking lot may be safer than a public parking lot. Ms. Stamper by public school law buses must travel on public and maintained roads unless conditions state otherwise. CMS works with properties on an individual basis. CMS must get a release from the owner of the property because buses may cause wear and tear on their property and we must get their permission to utilize their property. Dr. Gorman said staff will review expanding those options because we have found that the faith communities continue to step up to help CMS.

Ms. Clark thanked the Board for their input. She said the Community Meetings will focus on allowing the public to react to the recommendations and provide input on new opportunities. Staff will be available at each meeting to answer any questions. The intent of the meetings is to listen to the public. Staff will evaluate that input and return to the Board with a summary of the information and recommended next steps. Dr. Gorman said there are seven Community Meetings scheduled and he encouraged Board members to attend as many Community Meetings as possible to provide the public representation and listen to the feedback.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Leake moved that the Board adjourn the meeting, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.**

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Joe I. White, Jr., Chairperson

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Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board