

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
December 8, 2009
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

April 14, 2009

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on April 14, 2009. The meeting began at 5:00 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

Present: Molly Griffin, Chairperson, District 5;
Kaye McGarry, Vice-Chairperson, Member At-Large;
Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);
Kimberly Mitchell-Walker (District 2);
James Ross (District 3);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: There were no absences.

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; André Mayes, Acting General Counsel/Deputy General Counsel; Hugh Hattabaugh, Chief Operating Officer; Tyler Ream, Chief of Staff; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

Upon motion by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Mitchell-Walker, the Board voted unanimously of those present for approval to go into Closed Session for the following purposes:

- 1. To consult with the Board's attorneys on matters covered by the attorney-client privilege including but not limited to pending litigation involving *Hoke County Board of Education v. State of North Carolina* (Leandro), case number 95-CVS-1158, and**
- 2. To consider a personnel matter.**

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

The Board held a Closed Session meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Griffin reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:08 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS-TV Channel 3 televised the meeting.

Present: Molly Griffin, Chairperson, District 5;
Kaye McGarry, Vice-Chairperson, Member At-Large;
Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large;

Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Larry Gauvreau (District 1);
Kimberly Mitchell-Walker (District 2);
James Ross (District 3);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: There were no absences.

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; André Mayes, Acting General Counsel/Deputy 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 Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Chairperson Griffin welcomed everyone to the Board's first meeting of the month.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Griffin called upon Mr. Merchant to introduce the pledge participant. Mr. Merchant introduced Kurt Cherry who is a third grade student at Metro School to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Merchant said Kurt is an excellent reader and is always eager to assist with classroom tasks. Kurt has a wonderful imagination, is very creative, loves balls and trucks, and enjoys making all types of educational "machines" and equipment work. Kurt was accompanied by his principal, Denise Comeaux, and his teacher, Ms. Jeu de Vine. Kurt invited everyone to stand and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Merchant moved, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board adopt the agenda as presented, and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.

C. Public Hearing on proposed amendments to Policy JJJ: Extracurricular Activity Eligibility

Chairperson Griffin called upon Mr. Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to open the Public Hearing on proposed amendments to Policy JJJ: Extracurricular Activity Eligibility. Mr. Tate said proposed amendments to Policy JJJ, Extracurricular Activity Eligibility, is before the Board for a Public Hearing and a Board vote is scheduled as an Action Item on the agenda. The proposed amendments will change the timing of when grade point average is calculated for purposes of determining whether students meet the 2.0 eligibility standard for participating in extracurricular activities which include interscholastic athletics.

Mr. Tate called the Public Hearing open.

There were no speakers to speak to this agenda item.

Mr. Tate moved that the Public Hearing be closed, and by consensus, the Board approved the Public Hearing be closed.

Chairperson Griffin welcomed the following visitors to the meeting:

- Students in the Master of School Administration Program from Queens University and Dr. Chris Law, Professor and Master of School Administration Director.
- Students in the Teaching Fellows Program at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and Misty Hathcock, Teaching Fellows Director.
- Boy Scout Troop from the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church.

II. REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Two people expressed their concerns regarding the CMS Equity Report, the inequitable distribution of teachers, and encouraged the Board to place quality teachers where they are needed the most.

- Carol Sawyer discussed the inequitable distribution of teachers; Focus schools fail to meet faculty standards set by the Board; and the teacher experience gap between the high and low achieving middle schools. She encouraged the Board to direct the Superintendent to balance teacher experience, qualifications, and quality across schools; to implement Board Policy GCKA which equitably distributes teacher resources.
- Rachel Hunt Nilender, Co-Chairperson of the Education Committee of the League of Women Voters, discussed the importance of focusing on narrowing the achievement gap, ensuring all students can reach their highest potential, and the positive impact that quality teachers have on the classroom. She expressed concern regarding the gaps in the percentage of children on grade level between high poverty schools and other schools; twenty-two CMS school have 45% to 70% of the children scoring below grade level; almost 50% of the Hispanic and African-American students fail, and approximately 75% of the CMS Focus schools did not meet the Board standard for teacher experience and National Board Certified Teachers. The League of Women Voters believes in an even distribution of highly qualified teachers and this is a cost neutral solution that will work to raise achievement across all students and help those who need it the most.

Pam Grundy discussed the toil poverty takes on children and families and the importance that school-based Student Support Service teams have in helping them deal with the stress caused by frequent moves, broken relationships, bills that cannot be paid, and promises that cannot be kept. Schools can best reach these children when they serve as safe havens. Ms. Grundy encouraged CMS to be in the front line of those efforts by reaching out to those students and families by utilizing school-based Student Support Services to build relationships of trusts, work toward stability, and envision better futures which are critical in assisting those families. She encouraged the Board to not cut family services staff and programs.

Five North Carolina Teaching Fellow students from Queens University in the Model Citizen Program discussed their concerns regarding the current state of the CMS school system, the community, and hopes for the future.

- Samantha Duke discussed what it means to be a good citizen and the role that education plays in preparing people to be active citizens in a democratic society. She also shared the rigors of being accepted and participating in the North Carolina Teaching Fellow Program. A commitment to the program includes a promise following graduation to work in a North Carolina public school for four years.
- Jordan Davis discussed the educational system does not include any small parts. Teachers and administrators are not the only vital members of a school. Many of the employees

being considered for layoffs are also vital to a school (English as a Second Language Assistants, School Psychologists, and Behavior Modification Technicians) and are essential to student growth, development, and success as well as the success of the school. Making layoffs as a first step towards saving money in a budget is a short-term fix to a solution that will be immeasurably detrimental to the students, the school system, and the community.

- Kathleen Wile said CMS is composed of a variety of individuals who perform numerous services and each contribute to the success of students and the process of creating a new generation of model citizens who will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our nation, economy, and society. She encouraged the Board to not layoff those directly in contact with the students (the role models such as teachers, librarians, and school security guard). She asked the Board to consider in lieu of layoffs to reduce funding for extracurricular activities because they require extra buses and staff members; redistricting by placing students at the schools closest to home which would save money on transportation; and to not layoff those who are directly related to student success (eliminate an extra coach over a school psychologist). She encouraged the Board to put more faith in the teachers rather than funding for SmartBoards and other extra items in the classroom.
- Adora Reid is a CMS graduate and an aspiring teacher who has boldly made the commitment to teach the students of this school system in these struggling times. She discussed the importance of building relationships with students, the surrounding community, and reaching out to the surrounding college students with conviction and trust that they can utilize as the future educators of tomorrow. She encouraged CMS to reconsider volunteer policies in order for students to be trained, molded, and prepared to move the district towards its goals.
- Angelica Rouson discussed learning how to be a model citizen but the hardest part is using what they have learned in real life. She looked to her surrounding community to exemplify a model citizen and she is disappointed. There is a lack of trust between the people and the government and the school district. She said parents fear for the education of their children, teachers fear for the safety of their positions, schools fear for the stability of their institution, and there is a general feeling of disrespect from all parties concerned with these controversies. She encouraged CMS to reconnect the trust with the citizens.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of minutes.
 - April 15, 2008 Regular Board Meeting.
 - March 10, 2009 Closed Session.
 - March 19, 2009 Closed Session.
 - March 19, 2009 Work Session.
 - March 24, 2009 Closed Session.
 - March 24, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.
- B. Recommend approval of licensed/non-licensed hires and promotions for March 2009.
- C. Recommend approval of supplementary funding request for Greater Energy Together Physical Education Plan for Improvement (GET PEPI).

The GET PEPI Project will give middle school students the framework they need to meet North Carolina State Standards for Physical Education. The project will provide the adoption and implementation of a new, state-approved activity-based curriculum with

blended nutrition instruction; effective professional development; the purchase of equipment necessary for an activity-based program; and the proper dissemination of the program to all middle school students in CMS by the end of the three-year implementation. Funding requested from U. S. Department of Education, Carol M. White Physical Education Program in the amount of \$1,362,787 over three years.

- D. Recommend approval of supplementary funding request for Relevant Connections: The Civil Rights Movement and African-American Students.

The goal of the project is to improve instruction to meet the diverse needs of African-American students. The related objectives are to (1) provide training in teaching strategies and content knowledge through collaboration; (2) improve the quality of instruction in American History so students are engaged and academically successful; and (3) close the achievement gap for African-American students in American History. Funding requested from U. S. Department of Education, Teaching American History Grant Program in the amount of \$998,390.00 over three years.

- E. Recommend approval of supplementary funding request for Windstream Classroom Connections.

The goal of this initiative is improve technology in Crestdale Middle School which is within Windstream's service area. The grant will be used to purchase SmartBoards, laptop computers, software, and other furnishings related to computer technology. Funding requested from Windstream in the amount of \$24,477.08.

- F. Recommend approval of revised School Improvement Plans for low-performing schools.

The North Carolina Department of Public Schools requires the revision of School Improvement Plans for low-performing CMS Schools. The revised School Improvement Plans for the fourteen CMS low-performing schools will be available for review in the Board of Education Office beginning April 3, 2009.

- G. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel.

Appointments:

- Tracey Pickard named principal at Hawthorne High School. Ms. Pickard previously served as Area Administrator for the South Learning Community and assistant principal at Vance High School.*
- Patricia Johanson named principal at Blythe Elementary School. Ms. Johanson has a Master of School Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, North Carolina. Ms. Johanson previously served as Director of Development at Saint Joseph School in Knoxville, Tennessee with the Dioceses of Knoxville.*
- Terry Hall named principal at Davidson Elementary School. Ms. Hall has a Master of Educational Leadership and Administrative Supervision from the University of Georgia, Athens Georgia, and a Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreation from the State University of New York, Brockport, New York. Ms. Hall previously served as principal at Walnut Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia with the Henry County Board of Education.*
- Karen Hodge Thomas named Executive Director of PreK-12 Support Services. Ms. Thomas previously served as Director of School Counseling with CMS.*

- *Andrea Gillus named Director of Budget Development and Management. Ms. Gillus has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia. Ms. Gillus previously served as a contracted Budget Development Specialist.*

Transfer:

- *Lenora Shipp named principal at Lincoln Heights Elementary School. Ms. Shipp previously served as principal at Sedgfield Elementary School.*

Chairperson Griffin said a Board member has request that Consent Items C., D., and F. be pulled for a separate vote. Chairperson Griffin called for a motion to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items.

Mr. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board adopt Consent Items A. through G. excluding C., D., and F., and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.

The Board discussed Consent Item C. Recommend approval of supplementary funding request for Greater Energy Together Physical Education Plan for Improvement (GET PEPI).

- Mr. Gauvreau said he would not support C., D., or F. He encouraged the Board to review these items before voting. Mr. Gauvreau said he has heard concerns in the community that the Board pushes items through on the consent agenda. Chairperson Griffin asked Mr. Gauvreau to address the items separately. Mr. Gauvreau said he would not support C. which is a supplementary funding request for Greater Energy Together Physical Education Plan for Improvement with an acronym of GET PEPI in the amount of \$1.3 million. He encouraged the Board to focus on GET READING instead of GET PEPI and to stop supporting these types of Consent items.
- Ms. McGarry discussed the importance of setting priorities in these budget times she questioned why CMS accepts some many grants because they ultimately cost the district money in employing people to implement the program and eventually the grant ends. Ms. McGarry said she understood the district would not be accepting any more programs. Dr. Gorman said CMS put a moratorium on new programs about two years ago but CMS continues to review grants that fit within the guise of the curriculum in place.
- Mr. Gauvreau encouraged the Board to not support this item because this item is unnecessary and distracting.
- Mr. Gjertsen said this program provides middle school students the framework they need to meet North Carolina state standards for physical education. He said this would be a good program because middle school students do need physical education and this will be funded by the federal government.
- Mr. White said at his age he is for any program that will produce a little “PEP” and he would support this item.

Mr. White moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board adopt Consent Item C. (Recommend approval of supplementary funding request for Greater Energy Together Physical Education Plan for Improvement (GET PEPI)), and the Board voted 8-1 in support of the motion. Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

The Board discussed Consent Item D. Recommend approval of supplementary funding request for Relevant Connections: The Civil Rights Movement and African-American Students.

- Mr. Gauvreau said this is also a request for a grant entitled Relevant Connections: The Civil Rights Movement and African-American Students, for approximately \$1 million. He expressed concern regarding the objectives and the excessive cost of the grant to teach a piece of American history because CMS is already spending millions from local, state, and federal funding on curriculums to accomplish those same objectives. He also expressed concern that approximately 50,000 students in CMS are not reading on grade level and CMS wants to put them in a GET PEPI Program and teach them more about the Civil Rights movement. He will not support this item.
- Mr. Merchant said he has a Bachelor of Arts degree in African History, a Master of Arts in American History, and has taught history in a private school. He believes this is a great idea. The reason we have students who are not reading is because they do not find relevance in school. This will integrate the curriculum because the majority of history is focused on the history of great dead white men. He will support this item.

Mr. Merchant moved, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board adopt Consent Item D. (Recommend approval of supplementary funding request for Relevant Connections: The Civil Rights Movement and African-American Students), and the Board voted 8-1 in support of the motion. Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

The Board discussed Consent Item F. Recommend approval of revised School Improvement Plans for low-performing schools.

- Mr. Gauvreau said he did not review the School Improvement Plans this year but in previous years he found no content in those manuals. He would argue that there has been no improvement in the CMS low-performing schools and until CMS can get that fixed he will not approve rubber-stamping this item. He expressed concern that no change has occurred in the schools as a result of the improvement plan in the past because they are missing key items and it is just bureaucracy gone awry. He will not support this item.
- Mr. Merchant said he does agree with some of Mr. Gauvreau's concerns. He understands that this year there was more emphasis, thought, time, consultation, and substance put into the development of the School Improvement Plans. Mr. Merchants asked Dr. Gorman to comment on this statement. Dr. Gorman said that is true and he called upon Ann Clark, Associate Superintendent for Pre-K-12 Curriculum and Instruction, to share more information on this item. Ms. Clark said the School Improvement process for all principals has been significantly revamped and aligned as a part of the Southern Association process that CMS conducted three years ago as a district. This also includes the School Quality Review feedback for our schools which is an intensive review of the school by a team that comes from outside of the district. That process does not occur for every school every year. The state of North Carolina requires school districts with a low-performing school based upon the data to reexamine their School Improvement Plan and make provisions based upon any data that has resulted since the initial plan was submitted. As a part of Strategic Staffing Cohort II initiative, seven strategic staffing principals were assigned to the low-performing schools and that is a significant part of the CMS intervention this year as well as last year. The School Improvement Plans for the past two years include Strategic Staffing strategies to target those low-performing schools. This begins with strong leadership and bringing in quality teachers with a proven track record. This agenda item includes fourteen plans for the low-performing schools. Each year all schools submit School Improvement Plans. This item is a separate process which follows the data from

the State and based upon whether the school made Adequate Yearly Progress they may need to make adjustments to their plan and this process involves the School Leadership Team. Mr. Merchant asked how many of the fourteen schools had a School Quality Review? Ms. Clark said she did not have that information and would provide it at a later time.

- Mr. Gauvreau asked did any of the plans include remediation programs that significantly extend the school day for these students and the school year? Ms. Clark said two of the low-performing schools, Reid Park and Devonshire elementary schools, are in the process of submitting their restructuring plan a consideration for one of those two schools is the Expanded Day Program. Staff will be bringing a report to the Board at the next Board meeting on the Extended Day Program which has been at Billingsville Elementary School which will include program changes and a possible movement of that program to another school next year. Ms. Clark said all of the CMS schools have extended day funding but that is not extending the school day every single day which she believes Mr. Gauvreau is advocating. Mr. Gauvreau said he is talking about instructional time and not after school day care and expanded day. He encouraged the Board to recognize that an extended instructional day will make a significant change in student outcome, particularly, in low-performing schools and an extended calendar year would also be beneficial. Mr. Gauvreau said until that happens the dynamic of this school district will not change and he would not support the School Improvement Plans because they have never worked to date.
- Mr. Ross asked can CMS extend the length of the school day? Ms. Clark said currently, Billingsville Elementary School is participating in an Extended Day Program five days a week for the past year and a half and the Board will receive a report on that program at the next Board meeting. CMS will have expanded learning opportunities at the Title I schools starting this summer. Ms. Clark said when she referenced Extended Day, which all CMS schools have and specifically the Title 1 schools in reading and math, she is talking about instruction time and not the After School Enrichment Program. The Extended Day Program is available through the CMS At-Risk funding and that also supports the Summer School Program.
- Ms. McGarry said this is required by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction regardless if we like it or not and whether we like what is in those reports. Ms. McGarry said she would support this item because the work has been done to update the plans and she is relying on the expertise of staff.

Mr. Tate moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board adopt Consent Item F. (Recommend approval of revised School Improvement Plans for low-performing schools), and the Board voted 8-1 in support of the motion. Mr. Gauvreau voted against the motion.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommend approval of modification of approved 2009-2010 School Calendar

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to present the recommendation to approve a modification to the 2009-2010 School Calendar. Dr. Gorman said this report would review the original proposed modification which was provided with the Board materials as well as another proposed modification which was provided at the dais prior to the meeting. Dr. Gorman thanked the Calendar Committee for their hard work on this difficult process. The

development of a calendar is complicated because it includes designated start and end dates for the school year; a required number of vacation days and annual leave days that must be calculated; and meet requirements for teacher work days at the end of each quarter. Dr. Gorman expressed concern that meeting the requirements of the calendar often results in developing a calendar that does not serve the needs of students academically or the needs of families to schedule family activities. The calendar process includes many challenges. This year, CMS experienced the need to modify the calendar during the school year by changing two make up days from spring break to two other days one being Memorial Day. Staff will monitor the impact this has on student attendance. CMS has received the initial data from Wake County who used a spring break day as a make up day and they averaged 18.5% students absent across the board and 30% high school students absent. The Calendar Committee strives to develop the calendar to drive quality academic outcomes and high student attendance rates. The Calendar Committee reviews past dates and tracks certain absentee levels to meet the needs of students and staff. Dr. Gorman called upon Sarah Crowder, Associate General Counsel/Policy Administrator, to present the recommendations. Ms. Crowder said the Board approved the 2009-2010 School Calendar on November 13, 2007 as part of a two year calendar adoption in an effort to get ahead of the calendar process. The adopted calendar includes make up days in the order they are to be used for times school is closed because of inclement weather. Four of the five second semester make up days are during spring break. Dr. Gorman asked the Calendar Committee to reconvene to review the original calendar adopted in November 2007 to incorporate the lessons learned this year, prevent the need for last minute modifications to the calendar next year, and develop options so that students may not have to attend school during spring break. The Board is being asked to take action now because should the calendar be changed for the next school year it would impact high schools and middle schools as they develop master course schedules. Master course schedules are a laborious process that has already begun for next year and must be completed by the end of June which is year end transition. This creates a tight timeframe to complete this process between now and the end of June. Ms. Crowder reviewed the changes to the proposed recommendations.

Version 1 modifications:

- October 29th changes from a teacher workday to a student day.
- The protected teacher workday changes from October 29th to October 30th.
- First quarter ends on October 29th instead of October 28th (Length of quarter changes from 45 to 46 days).
- November 25th changes from an Annual Leave day to a holiday.
- December 21st and 22nd changes from teacher workdays to student days.
- Second quarter ends on January 19th instead of on January 22nd (length of quarter changes from 45 to 44 days).
- Third quarter starts on January 20 instead of on January 26th.
- February 15th changes from a student day to a teacher workday.
- March 18th and 19th become teacher workdays instead of student days.
- May 31st (Memorial Day) becomes an Annual Leave day instead of a holiday.
- Make up days change to avoid using days scheduled for spring break.

Version 2 major modifications:

- Switches the day before Thanksgiving and the Memorial Day designation from Annual Leave and holiday.

- Sets aside more make up days in a chronological order.
 1. September 28, 2009
 2. October 29, 2009
 3. November 25, 2009
 4. December 21, 2009
 5. December 22, 2009
 6. January 18, 2010
 7. February 15, 2010
 8. May 31, 2010
 9. April 2, 2010 (move protected day to April 9, 2010)
 10. April 9, 2010 (move protected day to April 8, 2010)
 11. April 8, 2010 (move protected day to April 7, 2010)
 12. April 7, 2010 (move protected day to April 6, 2010)

Ms. Crowder said with this modification there will still only be three days to be used as make up days following the return to school in January after winter break before using the days designated in spring break.

Chairperson Griffin clarified that in the proposed Version 2 modification there are no changes to the student days and the modification only involves a change in the categorization of two days and the designated make up day schedule. Ms. Crowder said that is correct. Ms. Crowder said as requested by Ms. McGarry, the Board also has a copy of the original 2009-2010 School Calendar as adopted by the Board in November 2007 which is the approved school calendar for next year as it now stands.

Chairperson Griffin said the Board has four options for a Board vote:

- Keep the 2009-2010 School Calendar as previously approved.
- Approve Version 1.
- Approve Version 2.
- Approve another option.

Chairperson Griffin asked Dr. Gorman to review staff's recommendation. Dr. Gorman said staff's recommendation is to approve Version 2 which provides more flexibility with make up days.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Mr. Gauvreau said he appreciates the work that goes into the development of the school calendar. He encouraged the Board to make a motion that delegates the authority of the school calendar to the Superintendent because this should be a routine task that is a part of the responsibilities of the Superintendent. Chairperson Griffin said State law requires a School Board to approve the school calendar. Dr. Gorman clarified that the State law states the Board shall adopt a school calendar.
- Mr. Ross suggested that in the future the adoption of the calendar be a Consent Item. Chairperson Griffin said this could be a consideration of the Board but this item usually involves more than one option and questions from the Board members.
- Ms. McGarry said this is before the Board and the Board must make a decision. She would prefer that the Board keep the original 2009-2010 School Calendar as adopted by the Board in November 2007. She said none of the choices are ideal because the weather

is unpredictable and snow may not be an issue. She has heard from constituents that keeping winter break intact is a priority and that is what the Board voted on previously. She said Memorial Day is a holiday and she would prefer keeping that day as a designated holiday rather than making the day before Thanksgiving a holiday which is not a designated holiday. She would prefer legitimizing the Memorial Day holiday because it honors those who served our country in every war. She encouraged the Board to keep the 2009-2010 School Calendar as previously adopted.

Ms. McGarry moved that the Board readopt the original 2009-2010 School Calendar as adopted by the Board on November 13, 2007. There was not a second and the motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. White moved that the Board adopt proposed Version 2 of the 2009-2010 School Calendar, seconded by Mr. Merchant, and a discussion followed.

- Mr. White said this option is the recommendation of the Superintendent and this would put this in the hands of the Superintendent as Mr. Gauvreau requested.
- Mr. Merchant said he would support Version 2 because it provides more options for make up days and that may help to avoid students having to attend school on Martin Luther King Day or Memorial Day. He believes teaching and learning can take place should students have to attend school on those dates but this option may provide families the ability to honor those important dates in the manner they choose. Mr. Merchant said this is an operational function and he likes the flexibility that Version 2 offers.
- Ms. Mitchell-Walker asked clarifying questions regarding December 21st and 22nd on the Version 2 proposed calendar. Ms. Crowder said those two days would be teacher workdays and no students would attend school unless they were needed to be used as make days as designated. Dr. Gorman said the winter break would remain intact unless make up day 4 or 5 were needed.
- Mr. Tate asked clarifying questions regarding the number of make up days traditionally built into the calendar. Ms. Crowder said we are required by Board policy to build in five make up days and the past calendars have included five to seven days. The proposed calendar includes twelve make up days but five of those days are before January. Dr. Gorman said building the calendar is challenging and provided scenarios that could require days before or after winter break. The proposed calendar provides an adequate number of days in order to take the next available make up date as soon as possible.
- Ms. McGarry wanted to ensure the public was aware that the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah falls on a Saturday.
- Mr. Ross asked clarifying questions to ensure the development of the calendar includes consideration the diversity of the community and provides for religious and spiritual holidays. Dr. Gorman said legally the focus of the development of the calendar is on attendance and the educational benefit. It is hard to separate certain faith holidays because attendance and certain faith holidays do impact the calendar.

The Board voted 8-1 to adopt Version 2 of the 2009-2010 School Calendar. Chairperson Griffin, Mr. White, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Gauvreau, Ms. Mitchell-Walker, Mr. Ross, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Gjertsen voted in support of the motion. Ms. McGarry voted against the motion.

B. Recommend approval of proposed amendments to Policy JJJ: Extracurricular Activity Eligibility

Chairperson Griffin called upon Mr. Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to present the recommendation. Mr. Tate reviewed the proposed amendments to Policy JJJ, Extracurricular Activity Eligibility. The proposed amendments to Policy JJJ changes the timing of when grade point average is calculated for purposes of determining if students meet the 2.0 eligibility standards for participating in extracurricular activities which include interscholastic athletics. Since 1993 when the 2.0 rule was implemented, athletic grade point average has been calculated at the end of every academic quarter. The proposed amendment would make this calculation only at the end of the first semester using final semester or course grades and at the end of the school year using final course grades. The amendment would take effective at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and athletes who wish to participate in fall or winter sports would be required to have a 2.0 grade point average based upon final grades for the 2008-2009 school year. The amendment would not affect the general rule that students must have a 2.0 grade point average in order to participate in interscholastic athletics the next semester. Mr. Tate said the proposed amendments were presented to the Board for First Reading at the March 10, 2009 Regular Board meeting, were posted on the CMS Website for public viewing, the Board conducted a Public Hearing earlier in this meeting. The proposed amendments are as follows:

All students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are to be encouraged to seek and maintain the highest possible academic achievement. Extracurricular activities are recognized as an important and beneficial adjunct to the educational experiences of students. However, first priority must be given to their academic performance. Effective with the 2009- 2010 school year, in order for students to participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities, for the preceding semester all students in middle schools and high schools must have earned a grade point average of 2.0 (calculated using final semester or course grades) and have 85% attendance. A student may participate in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity only if (1) the student is currently enrolled in at least one-half of the minimum academic course load, and (2) the student was in attendance at school that day for at least one-half of the instructional day. Any exceptions for eligibility requirements of clubs and organizations must be approved by the Superintendent. Eligibility of students in the programs for exceptional children will be in accordance with local, state and federal guidelines. A student suspended for conduct that constitutes a violation of Board policy and/or school rules will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities during the length of suspension. Any student subject to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's eight-semester rule who (1) is convicted of a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or federal law, or (2) is adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, is not eligible to participate in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's sports program from the date of the conviction or adjudication of delinquency through the end of the student's high school career. Pending appellate or other post-conviction review of the conviction or adjudication of delinquency does not affect the student's immediate ineligibility.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board adopt the proposed amendments to Policy JJJ: Extracurricular Activity Eligibility, a second was not required because it was being presented through the Policy Committee, and the Board voted 9-0 in support of the motion.

V. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Financial Statements for February 2009

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman said Report Items A. and B. are the monthly reports and they are as presented.

B. Report on Budget Amendments for February 2009

Presented with Report Item V.A.

C. Report on the recommendations of Calendar Committee for 2010-2011 School Calendar

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman said this is the proposed recommendation for the 2010-2011 School Calendar. This is normally approved approximately two years in advance in order for staff to have adequate time for scheduling purposes. Dr. Gorman introduced Mary Martin, Chairperson of the Calendar Committee, and Sarah Crowder, Associate General Counsel/Policy Administrator, to present the recommendation. Dr. Gorman commended Ms. Martin and the Calendar Committee members for their hard work in developing calendars. He said this is a challenging, difficult process that is impacted with a defined start and end date. Ms. Martin reviewed the calendar development process which follows several steps. First, a Steering Committee consisting of twelve people who have previously been on the Calendar Committee as well as new people to the committee develop draft calendars. For the 2010-2011 School Calendar, the Steering Committee created six different options. Next, the full Calendar Committee representing all stakeholders including the community reviews the options and selects the two best options that represent them as families, teachers, and principals so that the recommendation to the Superintendent has the majority support from all stakeholders. This year, the calendar was particularly difficult because of how certain dates and holidays fell during the year. This process in January and did not conclude until March. The calendars incorporate North Carolina law, CMS Policy and Regulations, instructional focus in allocating teacher work days, major religious holidays, days for make up days for inclement weather, break times, and federal holidays. The Calendar Committee has two draft calendars for the Board's consideration. The two calendars are similar and the significant difference is the placement of spring break. Calendar A has an early spring break (April 4-8, 2010) that falls at the end of third quarter following a protected teacher workday that the teachers will have to complete third quarter grades. Calendar B has a later spring break (April 18-22, 2010). The Calendar Committee used lessons learned from the modifications to the previous calendars and added more make up days. Both calendars have four make up days prior to using days that fall during spring break. The committee met with senior staff to discuss options for religious holidays that CMS has had a tendency to acknowledge and the draft calendars as in past years has designated options for staff to be off on Rosh Hashanah, Eid al Fitr, and Good Friday. Ms. Martin reviewed that both calendars are instructionally sound; provide time for teachers prior to the start of school; options for early parent conferences; and time for teachers to prepare and plan. Dr. Gorman said based upon the agenda items that the Board just approved regarding make up days, staff will review this calendar to apply the same strategies to provide more options for make up days and this step will be taken prior to this item coming before the Board for final approval.

Chairperson Griffin said CMS will conduct a preference poll for the community and staff and

the two draft calendars will be placed on the CMS Website from April 15-24, 2009 for feedback. The Superintendent will present his final recommendation for the 2010-2011 School Calendar for a Board vote at the May 12, 2009 Regular Board meeting.

Board members were invited to make comments and ask questions.

- Mr. Merchant does not believe the two protected teacher workdays will be valuable because by that time the students have only been in school for approximately ten days. Ms. Martin said by the 20th day of school, teachers are required to have a plan in place and held a conference with parents. Mr. Merchant believes parents would prefer more days during the winter break. Mr. Merchant commended the Calendar Committee for their hard work in attempting to meet the various needs of the community. He believes rather than incorporate the various religious holidays those individuals could take an annual leave day. He does not believe the two protected days in September will be of value.
- Ms. McGarry commended the Calendar Committee for their hard work. She expressed concern that staff conducted a preference poll for the 2009-2010 School Calendar and the Board just approved revising that calendar without getting public input. She is concerned about designating two protected teacher workdays in September to accommodate religious holidays. She said staff has informed her that the Jewish population in CMS is approximately 4,000 but no one has been able to clarify the Muslim population. Ms. Martin said staff is reviewing that and it is difficult to determine that number because of the numerous places that people gather. Ms. McGarry encouraged staff to review the need to designate September 10th for the Eid al Fitr religious holiday if there are not that many Muslims in the school system because they could opt to take an annual leave day. She also encouraged staff to consider using Saturday as a make up day; she would prefer December 21st and December 22nd be included in the winter break; develop options for year round school to maximize teaching and learning and to fully utilize school facilities; and develop options to extend the school day to get improved results. She would prefer the Easter break/spring break to occur later in the month of April.

Chairperson Griffin asked Dr. Gorman if he needed additional guidance from the Board prior to putting the school calendars on the CMS Website for feedback. Dr. Gorman said the calendars will be posted on the CMS Website for feedback effective April 15th and he would welcome additional comments from the Board. Staff will review options for increasing the number of make days prior to posting the calendars on the Website and will follow a similar format for what was just approved.

- Mr. Ross encouraged Board and staff to consider options for attending school on Saturday as well as extending the length of the school day. He recently visited Briarwood Elementary School and next door to that school is KIPP Academy. KIPP Academy operates 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Mr. Ross believes the Board should incorporate flexibility by extending the school day and school week.

Chairperson Griffin said attending school on Saturday impacts the budget because that would be overtime for staff. Staff is reviewing options for extending the school day in the proposals for School Improvement Plans and Magnet Programs. Dr. Gorman said staff is scheduled to present a report on the Extended Day Program at Billingsville Elementary School at the next Board meeting.

D. Report on Title I Program

Chairperson Griffin called Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman called upon Ann Clark, Associate Superintendent for Pre-K-12 Curriculum and Instruction, and Ron Thomas, Executive Director of Federal and State Compliance, to present the report on Title I Program. Dr. Gorman said this report will follow a different format and staff is continuing to finalize Board meeting presentations based upon the information the Board provided at the March Sustainability Work Session. He asked the Board to provide feedback regarding the proposed presentation format. Ms. Clark said the report will provided a comprehensive review of the Title I Program, policies, current initiatives, and next steps towards improving achievement at Title I schools across the district. Ms. Clark outlined the following information:

- Title I History and Schools:
 - Title I Part A allocates funds to districts to offset the effects of poverty on the educational opportunities of low-performing students in high-poverty schools.
 - CMS schools are identified as Title I if free or reduced lunch services are provided to at least 75% of their students. In the 2008-2009 school year thirty-five schools (twenty-seven elementary and eight middle schools) were identified as Title I. Belmeade Middle School will open as a Title I school with approximately 85% free and reduced lunch. This will be the first time CMS has opened a new school as a Title I school.
 - For the 2009-2010 school year, there will fifty-eight Title I schools and for the first time the list will include high schools.
- Title I Policies:
 - Under the current *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001 (NCLB), a set of high standards governing school districts have taken effect and the legislation is grounded by requirements.
- Topics Impacting Title I
- Sanctions:
 - Supplemental Education Services (SES) is an extended learning opportunity for students designed to increase the academic achievement of students. Service may include tutoring, remediation, and educational interventions and must be provided outside of the regular school day. Schools will have flexibility to designate that this may occur before school or on Saturdays.
 - Choice provides parents with the option of sending their children to another Title I school not in school improvement or another school. Parents are provided with a choice of schools that they may opt to send their child(ren).
 - Corrective Action is a sanction that is put in place after a school has not may Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for four consecutive years in the same subject. Schools are required to offer parents choice and provide SES services. They are also required to implement at least one of the statutorily-specified corrections actions.
 - Restructuring is a sanction implemented after a school has not made AYP for five consecutive years in the same subject. Schools are required to offer parents choice, SES services and implement on of five corrective actions in addition to developing a restructuring plan.
 - Two schools will be added to the restructuring effort: Reid Park and Devonshire elementary schools.
- Goals: Title I goals are based on a comprehensive needs assessment that is conducted at the school-level. These goals are established both by individual schools and through a

collective review of each school's needs assessment in consultation with parents and staff.

- Initiatives:
 - ClassScape
 - Middle School Technology (SmartBoards/Laptops/Computers)
 - Family/School Advocate Institute and Channing Bete (Parent Centers)
 - Title I Expanded Learning Initiative
 - District SES Program

Mr. Thomas provided a review of the budget implications.

- Budget Implications:
 - Total Allocations: \$41,875,710.54 (includes a carryover from the previous year).
 - School Allocations (allocated to K-8 schools): \$8,280,982.00.
 - Pre-Kindergarten school allocations: \$11,358,551.00
 - Private Schools: \$28,841.00
 - Thompson Family and Child Development: \$46,276.00
 - Parental Involvement (reflects the 1% set aside by *NCLB*): \$307,196.00.
 - Professional Development (Administrative a part of the LEA improvement: \$1,530,217.00.
 - Supplemental Education Services (5% set a side): \$4,590,654.00.
 - Choice Transportation: \$1,530,217.00.
 - LEA/District Improvement (required 10% of the initial set aside): \$3,060,436.00.
 - Homeless (McKinney-Vento – tutorials after school): \$227,664.00.
 - Interpreters: \$106,649.00.
 - Title I Department (Operating Budget – 10% set aside): \$3,060,436.00.
 - Carryover: \$2,020,122.90.
 - Salaries and purchase orders: \$5,727,668.64

Mr. Thomas introduced Brenda Stedman, principal at Briarwood Elementary School, and Mark Robinson, principal at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, to share how they use Title I funds for their particular school.

- Brenda Stedman commended her students and staff for having endless possibilities and being committed to high academic achievement for all students. They focus on two components, people and process, when making decisions about how to spend Title I funds. People looking at the needs of staff, students, and parents; providing high quality professional development; accessing quality resources, materials, and technology; and creating partnerships to assist parents in helping their children at home. Process includes changing the school culture by creating a sense of community and cooperation; setting high expectations for success; providing high quality planning time for teachers; and maximizing teaching and learning. Teachers and staff have attended conferences to enhance teaching, learning, and strategies to increase student achievement focusing on minority students, students with disabilities, and English Language learners as well as strategies to create a climate for success and ideas for mentoring programs. Other initiatives include implementation of Imagine-It Reading in all classrooms with fidelity; a book study initiative to focus on strategies for deepening reading comprehension; hired a writing consultant to focus on the integration of literacy and writing; teacher assistants to attend a conference to learn strategies to help students to be successful and work collaboratively

with teachers; purchased SmartBoards for all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms and technology lab and teachers trained on their usage; ClassScape; hosted a Literacy and Math Night for parents to teach parents strategies for helping children at home; support of PIER Academy (Parents Involved in Education with Rigor, Relevance and Relationship); Briarwood Young Men's Club which is a mentoring program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade male students to guide them in making responsible choices; hired tutors to work with small groups of students; will host a Summer Enrichment Camp as part of the extended learning initiative; and summer professional development for staff. Ms. Stedman said student achievement matters and Title I funds are carefully spent focusing on endless possibilities, people, and process.

- Mark Robinson said the use of Title I funding is focused on the three Rs: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. The majority of the funding was allotted for hiring additional staff to reduce the number of students in the classrooms because an important aspect for students from less affluent backgrounds is the ability to connect with an adult at school; a math facilitator; a parent advocate; a technology associate; and an extra BMT to facilitate an alternate program for out of school suspension to keep students in school rather than out of school; and an extra reading lab elective class to provide additional reading time. The funding also provides opportunities for additional parent activities and the initiatives include Parent Connections, Family Night, and Spanish Night. The professional development budget is focused on Professional Learning Communities, School Quality Reviews, and rigor in the classroom. Initiatives include stipends to teachers to continue the work on formative assessments that apply directly to the students of the school; Expanded Learning Initiative for Summer to help students pass the 8th grade tests and prepare for college K-9 and beyond; Transition 6 for rising 6th graders; and phases for rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders for algebra and science to better understand the rigor of high school and what it takes to prepare for college.

Ms. Clark- reviewed the results and next steps.

- Results:
 - Title I schools are evaluated each August based on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Reading and Math. Results are based on end-of-grade tests, and end-of-course tests, and 10th grade writing test.
 - In addition to the fourteen strategic staffing principals, seven of the Title I principals are new to the school within in the last year, and there is one interim principal. Twenty-three of the thirty-five Title I schools have new leadership. Six of the Title I schools are in the Achievement Zone which provides them added support.
- Next Steps:
 - CMS as a Supplemental Education Services (SES) provider in District Improvement.
 - CMS is one of five districts in the nation allowed to design its own SES Program.
 - Consultation work with Justine Hastings (professor from Yale who has been conducting a research project on CMS regarding school choice, information, and academic achievement since 2004).
 - Opportunity to design an Incentive Program for SES providers based on student achievement results, i.e., waving community use of facility fees based on meeting or exceeding reading and math achievement targets.

The Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Mr. Ross said he visited Briarwood Elementary School and was impressed with the campus, principal, and students. Briarwood is one of the oldest buildings in CMS but it is well kept and clean. Mr. Ross commended the principal, staff, and volunteers for being focused on the good things happening at that school.
- Mr. Gauvreau asked clarifying questions regarding the dollar amount of the Pre-K allocation and whether that is lumped together from other sources such as state, More at Four, and Bright Beginnings? Mr. Gauvreau also asked how much county and state funding comes conditionally from the set asides? Ms. Clark said currently, CMS is the More at Four provider or contractor for Mecklenburg County and those are state dollars that come directly to Mecklenburg County. There are More at Four classes that are in both the CMS schools sites as well as daycare centers in the community. That funding stream is completely separate and there is a separate screening process and criteria for those students to be identified for that program. An update on the CMS Pre-K Program is scheduled for a Board meeting in June and that report will provide detail information on the funding streams, programs, number of students funded out of each of the sources, and that funding includes Smart Start funding. Mr. Gauvreau said there are three or four funding sources and he has never seen one grid that includes all four funding sources. Mr. Gauvreau said this is basically Charlotte-Mecklenburg's approach to a universal Pre-K Program. He expressed concern that this is an enormous sum of money that is applied to one particular program in our public schools and based upon the Bright Beginnings longitudinal data it does not work. Mr. Gauvreau believes this is a waste of the public's money because it is not educating students. Mr. Gauvreau asked of the \$41.8 million, how much of the set asides are supplemented by county and state funding for the various programs such as Focus Schools and A Plus? He expressed concern that there are approximately 20,000 students in the Title I schools and that is an additional \$2,000 per pupil per year for those students. Ms. Clark and Dr. Gorman reviewed the purpose and guidelines for Title I funding. Mr. Gauvreau encouraged staff to do a better job of planning and developing concrete spending measures that take this enormous amount of funding into account. He also expressed concern that there were approximately 13,000 students who were eligible for supplemental services but only 7,000 took advantage of the services. He said this is not working and he encouraged staff to create to remediate and that would require longer instruction time and an extended day because if students are not in the classroom they will not be reading.
- Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the students eligible for SES and Choice, and Mr. Thomas responded. Mr. Merchant asked what are the main reasons students do not take advantage of the SES programs? Ms. Clark said this is a "choice" and not a requirement. Mr. Merchant said it bothers him from an operational and emotional standpoint that students are not taking advantage of this program. He encouraged staff to be brutally frank with these students and families to encourage them to participate. Mr. Merchant liked the incentive for providers to increase bottom line profit by reducing or eliminating rent if they could have demonstrated results. He asked are providers required to accept any student that chooses them or is the provider able to choose the students? Mr. Thomas said the parent is able to choose the provider but if the provider has more students than they are able to hire tutors for the child will be assigned to another provider. By law, a provider cannot turn a child away. Mr. Thomas explained the CMS standards for

providers. Mr. Merchant wants to ensure the program has meat and substance. He encouraged the use of funds to provide students personal incentives such as a free iPod or tickets to Carowinds. Dr. Gorman said staff is reviewing research on incentives for students to improve their grades. There is a broad pilot in a district in New York and they are using foundation funding for incentives rather than Title I funding. Mr. Thomas said Title I funds cannot be used for incentives or food, and CMS is using a more generic approach.

- Ms. Mitchell-Walker expressed concern that there are two schools (Berryhill Elementary School and West Charlotte High School) in District 2 that have been added to the Title I list. Ms. Mitchell-Walker asked clarifying questions on how the schools allocate funds and whether the process includes input from the School Leadership Team or parents. Mr. Robinson said staff meets with the School Leadership Team to determine the best allocation of the funds.
- Ms. McGarry said KIPP Academy has family contracts to get students and parents committed to the program. She encouraged CMS to set standards for the SES providers to push parents to participate in the program and to ensure students receive valuable services. CMS has students for six hours per day and it is concerning what happens to them during the other eighteen hours because the CMS staff cannot do it all in six hours. CMS needs partnerships that include parents, neighbors, ministers, and friends to help students be prepared to come to school and learn. She believes extending the school day would be helpful to improving educational services and it would also help to avoid sending children home to an empty house. She is happy that a portion of tutoring is taking place in after school and that is working for some students. She would like staff to review the standards for the SES providers to ensure they are providing adequate services because it is the obligation of CMS to encourage the providers to raise the bar. She would not support providing incentives/gifts to students for learning because that creates another distraction in the classroom. Students should be focused on the love of learning which is the crux of education and learning is the reward. Research indicates that the teacher is number one for learning and the second thing is an adult, tutor, or someone who knows that student which creates a relationship with that student.
- Mr. White said most likely a large number of the 3,000 students that opted to leave the school were the highest achieving students. He believes what would help *NCLB* is more control over the remediation program and to not lose the highest achieving learners in a school because that makes the data worse the next year. He would also like to eliminate the terminology “a failing school.” The *NCLB* Legislation needs changes and it is scheduled to be reauthorized next year. Mr. White hopes those changes will change the rules to help those schools to help those students to do better.
- Mr. Tate said he liked the format of the written report. It was helpful and provided the background information in a concise manner. He is grateful for the Title I funding and that those funds can be used to improve the schools. He is concerned that approximately fifty percent of the students in CMS qualify for free and reduced priced lunch, the number of Title I schools are increasing, and the percentages of students qualifying for free and reduced priced lunch at schools are reaching 75% to 99%. He encouraged the Board and staff to pursue other opportunities as a district to decrease the concentration of poverty in our schools. He is concerned that the Board just approved a school boundary that would open a new school as a Title I school. Research indicates that the higher the concentration of poverty the more difficult it is to educate all students. He said if this cannot be handled

through student assignment how else can this be handled and will Title I funding ever be sufficient? The Title I funding is important but what else can we do? Place the schools at different locations; ensure you know the demographics of the school proximity five or ten years in the future; or close and combine schools. He expressed concern that the number of Title I schools in CMS are increasing but the funding for the school system will not increase. Ms. Clark explained the Title I funding. He said at some point the Board will have to address Title I schools because it will become harder and harder to make the Title I funding make a difference for the particular schools. Mr. Tate looks forward to the research conducted by Justine Hastings.

- Mr. Gauvreau said this is a funding mechanism by the federal government to fund free and reduced lunch and high poverty schools. This is the crux in which CMS finds itself and ten years ago this was not an issue. He said some Board members believe there is value in transporting students from school to school but national experts show that transporting students on a bus will not measurable change the outcome of student learning. Mr. Gauvreau said accepting funding for Title I and allowing schools to focus on that funding actually harms students and does not drive the education ball. He said that process only feeds government bureaucracy and he encouraged staff to reject that funding. He encouraged the Board to extend the instructional day and the year because that is the center of schools not being prepared to teach and students not learning. He believes the schools appreciate the extra dollars because that allows them more staff and that does add some value. He encouraged the Board to focus on the educational program rather than chasing dollars from the federal government.
- Mr. Ross supports the sanctions under restructuring and encouraged the Board to consider those options. Ms. Clark said those sanctions can also be applied to the schools that are non-Title I as well. There are different forms of restructuring that include student assignment, composition of the faculty, or the academic focus of the school.
- Chairperson Griffin said regarding the funding allocated to the Bright Beginnings Program, this program was instituted in 1995. The goal of the program is to prepare students for school and it has been successful. Chairperson Griffin asked what other funding is allocated to Bright Beginnings because there is some funding from the County? Ms. Clark said this involves blended funding because CMS is also the contractor for More at Four and is responsible for providing the leadership, hiring the staff, and meeting with the directors at the daycares in the community and the principals that have More at Four Programs in their schools. CMS receives the State funding for More at Four and the Smart Start funding that is allocated to More at Four. Bright Beginnings is also funded by local funding and that information is reflected in the budget documents. Chairperson Griffin noted that CMS will be getting additional stimulus money for Title I and that information will be forthcoming. Mr. Thomas said he would be attending a State meeting next week regarding the stimulus funding and following the guidance from that meeting staff will meet with the principals and area superintendents to report the meeting information.
- Mr. Tate expressed concern that students do not take advantage of the SES and the Choice Programs that are available. Mr. Tate asked clarifying questions regarding the Choice options. Dr. Gorman said there are limits regarding the Choice options and he called upon Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement Services, to explain. Mr. McCully said this is integrated into the first and second lottery process and the Magnet options within a specific feeder. Students are offered a range of options and those options are expanded beyond the beyond the transportation zones to also give them other non-

Magnet options. There are limited options and they are not offered at every school because overcrowding can be an issue. Mr. Tate expressed concern that there are 20,611 students impacted by this and there are not 20,611 slots for those students should they decide they wanted another choice. The Choice sanction may only provide a school that is marginally better and the parents may opt to leave their child at the existing school because the school is close to home or they are familiar with the school. Mr. Tate hopes the future changes to the *NCLB* Program will improve the options for parents. Ms. Clark said she would like for the changes to eliminate “highly qualified” and focus on “highly effective” because they have done a disservice focusing the nation on credentials rather than the impact the teacher is having on students. She would also like the SES Provider and Choice sanctions to be reviewed because “choice” has different implications in each school district based upon their student assignment plan and that can be challenging. Ms. Clark recommended a simple solution in which students must be given a choice other than their assigned school when they reach a certain point in the sanctions and that will be determined by the local LEA based upon their plan. Dr. Gorman believes there will be some dramatic changes regarding the “highly qualified” piece because that was a major topic of discussion at his recent meeting in Washington.

Dr. Gorman said regarding the format, this is the format that we are considering for Work Session Reports and he asked the Board members to call him with feedback.

E. Report/First Reading on proposed new Policy IL: Research and Evaluation

Chairperson Griffin called upon Mr. Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to present the recommendation on proposed new Policy IL, Research and Evaluation. Mr. Tate said before the Board for First reading is the recommendation for new Policy IL: Research and Evaluation. The Board previously reviewed this proposed new policy at March 27, 2009 Sustainability Retreat. The policy establishes the Board’s direction to the Superintendent to ensure that CMS develops and maintains the ability to conduct expert and reliable research and evaluation of programs in CMS. The policy sets forth a number of factors that may be considered in the evaluation of a program and requires the Superintendent to make summaries of evaluations available to the Board semiannually. Programs selected for evaluation shall be studied to determine the following:

- How well they align with the following:
 - The Board’s Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs and Commitments, and the Theory of Action.
 - The district’s strategic planning goals.
- Their effectiveness or likelihood of achieving their state goals.
- Whether they are a sound use of public dollars.

In evaluating a particular program, among the factors that may be considered are the program’s effect on improving student achievement, use of staff time and district resources, overall number of students impacted by the program, affordability, ease of implementation, and reliability.

Mr. Tate said the proposed new policy will be posted on the CMS Website for feed effective April 15th and the Board will conduct a Public Hearing and Board vote at the May 12, 2009 Regular Board meeting.

F. Report on Superintendent’s proposed recommendations for 2009-2010 Board of Education Budget

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman said this is the sixth budget meeting with the Board this year which is a reflection of how difficult this budget process has been this year. Dr. Gorman said the proposed information is based upon the best information available to CMS at this time and the proposed recommendation may need to be amended. Dr. Gorman said there has been a change to the Budget Work Session Schedule. The Budget Work Session scheduled for April 29th has been canceled and a Budget Work Session will be added to the agenda for the April 28, 2009 Regular Board meeting. To make that time work, the report on Dropout Prevention will be canceled for that meeting and will be rescheduled for a meeting in the future. Dr. Gorman said he has discussed this with the Board Chairperson and several Board members and they agree that it would be better to have the Budget Work Session during the existing meeting in lieu of having a stand alone meeting. Dr. Gorman called upon Sheila Shirley, Chief Financial Officer, to present the report on the proposed recommendation for the 2009-2010 Board of Education Budget.

Ms. Shirley said the Board has been working on this budget for several months and the majority of the information is not new. This report includes new information regarding the State, Governor, and Senate proposed budgets. The framework used for this budget was more complicated the framework used in past years. resources are aligned to support the *Strategic Plan 2010*, with

Ms. Shirley provided an overview of the budget recommendations.

- Framework for Budget Development.
 - Resources aligned to support the *Strategic Plan 2010*.
 - Maintains a strong academic focus coupled with data driver decision-making.
 - Recognized and plan for the impact of the economic environment and employ sound fiscal management and to respond to signals from state and local sources that funding may be reduced.
 - Acknowledge unprecedented uncertainty regarding expected funding levels from all sources:
 - State: contrast in Governor and Senate budgets released. Staff anticipates a \$22 to \$25 million reduction at the state level.
 - County: request for options for a 10% reduction.
 - Federal: stimulus funding when, how much, and with that rules, mixed messages in guiding principles.
 - Pay for growth, new schools, and sustaining current operations through budget reductions or redirections.
 - Pay for *Strategic Plan 2010* initiatives through budget reductions or redirections.
 - Establish flexibility in the budget to allow for various reductions levels.
- Proposed Operating budget: \$1.15 million. Total proposed budget \$1.2 million.

	\$\$
County Current Expense	\$351,366,785
State Current Expense	\$689,477,954
Federal Current Expense	\$ 95,555,554

Other Local Current Expense	\$ 15,843,636
Total Operating Budget	\$1,152,243,929
Capital Replacement	\$ 5,200,000
Child Nutrition	\$ 64,487,817
After School Enrichment	\$ 16,241,207
Total	\$ 1,238,172,953

- Comparison to Prior Year decrease of \$42.5 million or 3.6%.
- Sources of revenue: State, Federal, Local, and Other Local.
- Total Reductions and Redirections \$51.14 million:
 - County Reductions: \$15,452,436.
 - State Reductions: \$35,690,354.
- Factors Increasing the Budget: County- \$15.5 million, Total- \$36.7 million.
- Program Expansion and New Initiatives: \$2 million.
- 2009-2010 County Budget Request: \$351.4 million (flat request).
- Optional Budget Reductions: Tiers 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Position Reductions Summary.
- Pending Federal Economic Stimulus/Stabilization Funding.
- Impact of 2008-2009 State Cash Flow Emergency (spend no more state money/travel terminated/job freeze).
- Capital Replacement.
- Child Nutrition.
- After School Enrichment Program.

Chairperson Griffin said the Board will have an opportunity to discuss the proposed budget at the next meeting scheduled for April 28th.

VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gorman did not have a report to present.

VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Kaye McGarry said “Kaye About Town” will be held on April 29th at the Starbucks in Barnes and Nobles Bookstore on Colony Road. She attended the Community Meeting at Highland Creek Elementary regarding the boundaries on April 13th and there approximately two hundred people in attendance. She is looking forward to reading to the students at Croft Community School in the morning in honor of National Library Week. Ms. McGarry said as a part of her ongoing professional development, she was pleased to represent CMS at the National School Boards Association Conference held in San Diego from April 2nd through April 7th. It is important to attend these conferences because it is a great opportunity to learn and bring valuable information back to CMS. This is the sixth year of attending this conference and it is valuable because she gains inspiration from the educational experts and high profile speakers; it reinforces that accountability is vitally important; the insight into the lives of other school board members nationwide; and the conferences reenergize her to work hard for the community. The conferences share ideas from a national perspective on new strategies and innovative solutions to similar concerns. She gained knowledge to better serve students, teachers, and the community.

Kimberly Mitchell-Walker congratulated the Girl's Varsity Basketball Team at West Charlotte High School on winning the State Championship. She thanked the staff at Oaklawn Language Academy for inviting her to read at "I am an Incredible Kid Day." She has visited the majority of the schools in her district and she will be visiting the remaining schools by the end of the month.

Joe White also attended the National School Boards Association Annual Conference. The main reason he attended the conference was he had been selected to be one of the state's two voting delegates at the Annual Delegates Assembly held at the conference. Each state has two votes and what is adopted at the Delegates Assembly is the foundation for the National School Boards Association's Agenda for the next year. This year was focused on *No Child Left Behind* and school districts throughout the country are interested in having this Legislation changed. He invited Board members to review the information that he has left in the Board Office. He found the seminar on "Doing More with Less" very informative on what other schools districts are doing. He found no other district in the country that has done it as well as CMS. He did not hear a single new suggestion. He thanked Dr. Gorman and staff for their good work. He also thanked the Board and the community for allowing him to represent CMS.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Merchant moved, seconded by Mr. Tate, to adjourn the Regular Board meeting, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Molly B. Griffin, Chairperson

Nancy Daughtride, Clerk to the Board