

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
March 8, 2011
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

February 8, 2011

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

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on February 8, 2011. The meeting began at 5:20 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

Present: Eric C. Davis, Chairperson, District 5;
Tom Tate, Vice-Chairperson, District 4;
Kaye Bernard McGarry, Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Rhonda Lennon, District 1;
Richard Allen McElrath, Sr., District 2;
Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell, District 3; and
Timothy S. Morgan, District 6

Absent: Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; George E. Battle, III, General Counsel; Hugh Hattabaugh, Chief Operating Officer; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

Upon motion by Dr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the Board voted unanimously 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 concerning a pending workers' compensation claims regarding M. Montgomery and K. Thomas.**

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 5:20 p.m. until 5:31 p.m. in CH-14.

Chairperson Davis reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS-TV 3 televised the meeting.

Present: Eric C. Davis, Chairperson, District 5;
Tom Tate, Vice-Chairperson, District 4;
Kaye Bernard McGarry, Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large;
Rhonda Lennon, District 1;

Richard Allen McElrath, Sr., District 2;
Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell, District 3; and
Timothy S. Morgan, District 6

Absent: There were no absences.

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; George E. Battle, III, 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 Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and he welcomed everyone to the Board's first meeting of the month. Chairperson Davis reported that Joe White was returning from a trip to Washington, DC and he should be arriving any minute.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Davis called upon Tim Morgan to introduce Michael Kierce, a 6th grade student at Community House Middle School, to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and to speak on the February character trait of *citizenship*. Mr. Morgan shared interesting facts about Michael. Michael enjoys science and social studies classes. When he is not in school he can be found playing video games, swimming or playing with his basset hound, Buddy. Michael loves to read but his favorite activity is Boy Scouts. Michael is a member of Tim Morgan's Boy Scout Troop #119 and this month the boy scouts are working on a merit badge for citizen. Joining Michael at the meeting were his mother, June Kierce, and his principal, Jamie Brooks. Michael invited everyone to stand and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, Michael discussed the importance of citizenship and what he does to be a good citizen.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson Davis called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. McGarry, and the Board voted 8-0 in support of the motion. Joe White was absent at the time of the Board vote.

C. Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Policy GCBC, Overtime and Holiday Work Pay

Chairperson Davis reported that no speakers were signed up to speak to the Public Hearing on Policy GCBC and he called the Public Hearing closed.

D. Public Hearing on Proposed New Policy JLCF, Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Chairperson Davis reported that no speakers were signed up to speak to the Public Hearing on Policy JLCF and he called the Public Hearing closed.

E. Mecklenburg County Budget Update

Chairperson Davis called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report on Mecklenburg County

Budget Update. Dr. Gorman said we are pleased that the County communicates with CMS on a regular basis noting that he has frequent conversations with Harry Jones, County Manager, and Hyong Yi, Mecklenburg County Budget Manager. Dr. Gorman called upon Hyong Yi to provide the Board with an update on the County budget.

Mr. Yi provided the Board with a review of the status of the County's budget. This information will be posted on the County's Website.

- Critical Success Factors:
 - County Adopted a multi-year strategy in FY 2011:
 1. Reduce programs, services, and personnel to match available funding.
 2. Maintain long-term fiscal discipline.
 3. Redesign and reshape Mecklenburg County government.
 - Updating 2015 Vision to 2020.
 - Input:
 - Community: Forum and Telephone Survey.
 - Employees: Focus Groups and Online Survey.
 - Community and Corporate Scorecard.
 - County Critical Success Factors:
 - Affordability.
 - Sustainability (making decisions for the long-term).
 - Jobs/Workforce and economic development.
 - High School Graduation and literacy.
 - Service investments and delivery model: reviewing efficiencies.
 - Fiscal discipline.
 - Operational excellence: perform the best of our ability,
- FY 2011 Financial Status: On budget and on target.
 - Property Tax: Collections are on schedule and parallel to last year.
 - Sales Taxes: Drop from 2010, collecting as projected and on budget.
 - Investment Income: On budget.
 - Other Revenue.
 - Expenditures: Anticipate less than 2010.
- FY 2011 Conclusions:
 - Projecting:
 - Expenditures to be below budget.
 - Surplus in debt service of approximately \$6.1 million.
 - Departmental turn back of \$4.4 million.
 - Projected surplus due to planned budget actions including the fund balance payback, restoration of State funds to Area Mental Health and the State contingency.
 - Not planning on mid-year budget reductions for FY 2011. At this time, we are not asking County departments to take corrective action and we not asking CMS or any of the County's business partners to make any adjustments to their budgets for the current fiscal year.
 - Last year at this time, we projected a revenue shortfall of \$33.7 million and requested funding to be returned in order to balance the budget. At this time we are on track and do not anticipate any surprises but this is subject to change based upon the final budget from the State.
- FY 2012 Budget Considerations: At this time there is not available information

regarding a number for the County's budget, gap, and revenue or information on what the County can expect. The Board of County Commissioners will meet next week and information will be disseminated when it is available.

- **FY 2012 Anticipated Expenses:**

Fund Balance for Debt Service	(\$22.7M)	
Lottery Funds-State pulling back lottery funds. Use lottery funds to pay school related debt service.	(\$10.2 M)	
Reserves (insurance/medical): Will be short and will have to put more money into the reserves.	(\$ 5.0 M)	
Business Investment Grants – will increase next year by \$1 million.	(\$ 1.1 M)	
Retirement Contribution – State asking county to increase .25 of 1%	(\$ 1.1 M)	
Indigent Care	(\$ 1.0 M)	
Misc. (VFDs, NACO, Other)	(\$ 1.1 M)	
Total deficit		(\$42.2 M)
Fund Balance Payback	\$14.6 M	
Debt Service Decrease	\$ 7.0 M	
AMH Excess County Funds	\$ 4.5 M	
Total additions		\$26.1 M

- **FY 2012 Additional Expenses:**

- Create a debt Service Fund* (will pay out of operating fund).
 - Employee Compensation* (will recommend merit pay, perhaps 2%, and 401K).
 - Reserves (Fleet, Technology, and Capital).
 - Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB).
- (* County Manager high priorities)

- **FY 2012 Wildcards:**

- **State Actions:**
 - ✓ \$3.7 billion gap.
 - ✓ Assume there will be some impact on funding for counties. County is bracing and preparing for the gap.
- **Revaluation Impact:**
 - ✓ Unique one-time event (period of time). It has been eight years since the last reevaluation and the County is considering a 6-8% growth in the County's property tax base and this would equate to approximately \$50 to \$70 million in revenue. The Board of County Commissioners will have to consider how to address reevaluation and what to do with the growth in the tax base. It is unusual for a county to go that long without an increase and if this was done two years ago, as planned, it would have captured the peak of the market and it would have been a 20% increase.

Dr. Gorman noted four points:

1. There are a lot of similarities of the Board of County Commissioners' budget process and the CMS budget process in which they are also awaiting to hear from

the State.

2. The County does not get a number from the States until after they have had to deal with a budget request from CMS, the other agencies and partners, and the timeframe for notifying employees for reduction in force.
3. It will cost the County more next year to do business and to offer the same exact services.
4. Regarding the lottery funds, CMS does not get the lottery funds directly. CMS gets the lottery funds from the County and the County manages those funds. The County uses those funds as capital funds to pay for new construction or to pay down bond debt. The lottery fund dollars goes to the County and the County spends that money on CMS expenses.

Dr. Gorman said at this point the County, like CMS, does not know what the State budget number will be and there is still work to be done.

Board members were invited to make comments and ask questions.

- Ms. Lennon asked regarding the \$22.7 debt service, what percent of that is related to CMS? Mr. Yi said normally CMS makes up approximately 60% of the County's Capital Program and Debt Program. Ms. Lennon wanted to ensure the public understood the lottery money goes to the County and the County funds those dollars to CMS. Mr. Yi said, yes, that is right but currently the State is keeping some of those funds. On average, the County received approximately \$16 million from the State, in terms of lottery funds to use for debt service, but the State is maintaining approximately \$10 million of those funds leaving about \$6 million for CMS. The State could increase the amount lottery funds they are maintaining. Ms. Lennon wants to ensure the public has heard that the lottery money is being reduced and the lottery money does not go to CMS but goes to the County to be disbursed. Ms. Lennon supports the idea of having a debt fund to pay the debt service each year.
- Ms. McGarry said in past years the State asked CMS for reversions and she asked Mr. Yi if he anticipated the State asking any state agency for a reversion for the 2010-2011 fiscal year? Mr. Yi said he believes the State has already asked the County for money back this year, approximately 5%, in the area of mental health.
- Chairperson Davis thanked Mr. Yi for representing the County and presenting the information. The Board of Education and CMS staff appreciates the partnership with the Board of County Commissioners and County staff because we are all in the business of education and we look forward to continuing that relationship.

II. REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairperson Davis said the Public Request section is an opportunity for the Board to hear from the public and gain valuable feedback. Chairperson Davis outlined the speaker and audience protocol. Generally, personnel, confidential or specific school level matters are not proper subjects to discuss during the public comment period. Instead, those matters are more appropriately addressed in accordance with the appeal rights supported under North Carolina General Statutes. He encouraged the audience to be mindful of showing respect to the speakers and to refrain from either showing support or displeasure. Each speaker will be given three minutes to address the Board. Chairperson Davis asked the speakers to

direct comments to him as the representative of the Board and to refrain from comments directed at staff members.

Levester Flowers, represented Save Our Schools Initiative, announced they were prepared to education thirty PreK students starting in the 2011-2012 school year and encouraged the faith community, sector, and non-profit organizations to do the same; presented constituent concerns for the Board's consideration; and asked the Board to reverse the decisions to close E. E. Waddell High School. A Work Shop for parents will be held at West Charlotte High School on March 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Two people discussed concerns regarding proposed budget cuts.

- Marina Riggio discussed concerns regarding cutting funds for teachers and student programs; the cost to bus children past schools; politically charged maneuvers violate past and present guiding principles and policy; and depriving certain schools of balance, stability, predictability, safe schools, and academic challenge.
- Dwayne Collins, represented the Charlotte Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), strongly urged the Board to review the operating budget and proposed the Board consider a shared sacrifice of a 10% cut for each line item on the operating budget to include a 10% cut of salary for Dr. Gorman and administration in an effort to ensure all children are educated and to make education a top priority. They will meet with CMS staff to discuss this proposal and they look forward to working in the spirit of negotiations or they will pursue litigation.

Board member Joe White arrived at the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Eleven people discussed the benefits of the Bright Beginnings Program, concerns regarding the potential funding cuts to the program because it is negatively impacting the at-risk students, community involvement to save the program, move Bright Beginnings to Tier 4, and encouraged the Board to delay the Board vote concerning Bright Beginnings.

- Janet Singerman, represented Childcare Resources, presented statistics from a poll research that indicate many citizen's support a tax increase to provide a better education for children.
- Brett Loftis, executive director of the Council for Children's Rights, discussed their willingness to work with the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners to save Bright Beginnings and reviewed revenue options that included increasing the length of summer school vacation, implementing furloughs, and charge for transportation.
- Brandon Lofton, board member of the Council of Children's Rights.
- Jessica Saxe, physician who works with four-year olds, discussed the benefits of paying for education now versus paying for dropouts and imprisonment.
- Marjorie Tate encouraged the Board and the community to do what is necessary to ensure all children can succeed in school and in life.
- Betty Leake, son attends Bright Beginnings.
- Paris James.
- Jennifer Blumer, Board chair of Childcare Resources.
- Tammy Hill.
- Michele Robinson, represented the Coalition for Strengthening Community Education in Charlotte, encouraged the Board to carefully weigh their decisions and take the voice

of the community into consideration.

- Maudia Melendez, executive director of Jesus Ministry.

Two people discussed concerns about education in CMS.

- Anniah Grace, 4th grade student at Oakland Language Academy, said she is excelling in school and discussed concerns regarding overcrowded classrooms which will contribute to causing teachers to be overworked.
- Blanche Penn, grandmother of five children who have attended Bright Beginnings, expressed concern that the Board is not listening to the community and what would happen with the funds if they were raised by the public. She encouraged the Board to study this issue because the outcome of the decision will hurt a lot of children.

Vilma Leake, Board of County Commissioner and former School Board member, presented information regarding a grant she proposed to the Board of County Commissioners for funding Bright Beginnings. The grant asked the County Manager to explore an agreement with CMS for a County Grant of \$10 million to be used to fund Preschool Programs for underserved children in Mecklenburg County. This directed funding from the BOCC would be in addition to operational funds and to be voted upon at a later time as a part of the County's annual budget. She asked the Board of Education to consider the recommendation. We are striving to provide a strong foundation for all children. Neighborhoods have been hit hard by the closing of libraries, Parks and Recreation, and schools in those neighborhoods but we want viable neighborhoods and want to ensure students have a quality education throughout the District. She encouraged the Board to vote in favor of this process and to not accept the recommendation of Dr. Gorman. The cost of Bright Beginnings is minimal compared to the cost of incarceration which equates to \$95,000 per year for one individual. Educate rather than incarcerate and build a solid foundation for every child in this community.

Chairperson Davis closed the Request From the Public at 7:13 p.m.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Recommend approval of Closed Session meeting minutes:

- January 20, 2011.
- January 25, 2011.
- January 27, 2011.

B. Recommend approval of Open Session meeting minutes:

- January 11, 2011 Regular Board Meeting.

C. Recommend approval of licensed/non-licensed hires for January 2011 and licensed/non-licensed promotions for January 2011.

Monthly hire report includes prior month(s) hires not processed when report was presented to the Board of Education last month.

- *Total Hires July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011: 2,544. (Licensed Hires: 1,317/Non-Licensed Hires: 1,227).*
- *Total Promotions July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011: 227. (Licensed Promotions: 86/Non-Licensed Promotions: 141).*

D. Supplementary Funding/Grant Request:

1. Recommend approval of the supplementary funding request for Lowe's Toolbox

for Education Grant Proposal for West Mecklenburg High School.

The goal of this initiative is to allow students the opportunity to learn food preparation skills on updated equipment that is energy efficient with 21st Century technology. The current food and nutrition laboratory will be renovated to replace old and outdated appliances, cabinets, and countertops. Funds requested from Lowe's Toolbox for Education in the amount of \$56,019.07.

2. Recommend approval of the supplementary funding request for Lowe's Academy of Engineering Project Grant Proposal for Hopewell High School.

The goal of this initiative is to promote and educate students in various fields related to engineering and engineering technology and to increase student understanding of these fields by utilizing innovative technologies. CMS will purchase engineering tools, equipment, and instruction resources to empower success in the Academy of Engineering Program. Funding requested from Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation in the amount of \$25,000.00.

E. Recommend approval of November 2011 Board of Education At-Large Member Candidate Filing Fee.

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 163-294.2 the Board of Education is required to approve a candidate filing fee for the November 2011 Board of Education At-Large Member election. The filing fee will be \$60.00.

F. Recommend approval of the adoption of a resolution authorizing the Director of Storage and Distribution to dispose of surplus school property by way of on-line bid in auction format.

The on-line auction time span will encompass the March 1 through March 17, 2011 period. GovDeals, (www.govdeals.com) an experienced and proven on-line government surplus sales service provider will facilitate the process. These auctions usually generate \$6,000 to \$15,000 in revenue.

Chairperson Davis called for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Dr. Waddell pulled Consent Items D. and E.

Chairperson Davis called for a motion to adopt Consent Items A., B., C., and F. as written.

Ms. McGarry moved that the Board adopt Consent Items A., B., C., and F., seconded by Mr. Morgan, and the motion passed upon unanimous Board voice vote.

The Board discussed Consent Item D.:

- Dr. Waddell expressed concern that some schools have several grants and other schools do not have any, and in these economic times grants help to meet the needs of our students. Dr. Waddell asked who writes the grants and why do some schools have several grants and others have none? Dr. Gorman provided clarification noting that the two grants on the agenda are related to the Lowe's learning grants and schools are eligible to apply for them if they participate in that particular program or the grant fits a particular program that would be grant worthy. CMS schools receive grants in a variety of ways. In some cases, a grant maker approaches a particular school with a desire to fund that school. For competitive grants, the staff from a school may choose to apply for that grant. CMS also receives grants submitted to the District that are

either shared with all schools or targeted schools that have the greatest likelihood of being approved for the grant. CMS also receives entitlement based programs in which a school must meet a certain criteria to qualify for the program.

- Mr. McElrath asked what is the process for receiving grants and who makes the decision to accept the grant? Dr. Gorman provided clarification noting that it varies from grant to grant. Principals are typically involved in the process if the grant is specific for a school but there are also District-wide grants that would be decided by District staff.
- Ms. McGarry asked how large is the Grant Department and are there grant staff at the schools? Dr. Gorman said the Grant Department has three staff members and there are not grant writers at the schools but the schools have staff that write grants as a part of their other duties.

Chairperson Davis asked Board members to keep their questions related to the two specific grants on the agenda.

Chairperson Davis called for a motion to adopt Consent Item D.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board adopt Consent Item D., seconded by Mr. Tate, and the motion passed upon unanimous Board voice vote.

The Board discussed Consent Item E.

- Dr. Waddell asked clarifying questions regarding the \$60.00 filing fee for the November 2011 Board of Education Member At-large election. Chairperson Davis said it is incumbent upon the Board to periodically review the filing fee for candidacy for the Board of Education. Approval of this item would keep the filing fee at the current level of \$60.00. George Battle, General Counsel, reviewed state law mandates that a Board set a filing fee during an election year prior to the filing date for the election. Board may decide the filing fee from a range of a minimum of \$5.00 to a maximum of 1% of the yearly salary of a Board member. In this case, the maximum would be approximately \$122.00 and the Board has chosen a mid-way fee.
- Ms. McGarry noted that the filing deadline is July 1, 2011 and that runs through July 15, 2011.

The motion to adopt Consent Item E. to approve a \$60.00 filing fee for the November 2011 Board of Education At-Large Member Candidate filing fee passed upon unanimous Board voice vote.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommend Approval of Reduction in Bright Beginnings Funding

Chairperson Davis called upon Dr. Gorman to present the request to Recommend Approval of Reduction in Bright Beginnings Funding. Dr. Gorman called upon Ann Clark, Chief Academic Officer, to present information relative to the recommendation. Dr. Gorman said staff has been meeting with members of the community and representatives who work with early childhood education and Ms. Clark will share information from those meetings. In addition, CMS extended the Transfer Fair for the CMS employees until tomorrow, February

9, 2011, to provide them more time. Tonight, staff is presenting a recommendation for an early vote by the Board concerning the Bright Beginnings Program.

Ann Clark reported that CMS staff held a Community Meeting last week to discuss potential opportunities for community collaboration to review options to maximize the number of four-year olds that are served in the community for the 2011-2012 school year. The meeting was attended by representatives from Head Start, More at Four, Smart Start, Council for Children's Rights, private day care centers, and Child Care Resources. The purpose of the meeting was to convene a small group to review possible options to increase the number of PreK classes and through that the number of students. The meeting generated opportunities for CMS to review a shortened day or reducing the hours of the program to a half-day program. This included the idea for serving twice as many students by moving to a half-day program but staff must acknowledge that it would double the transportation costs for getting students to and from school. Other options included a four-day week instead of a five-day week; moving from a 10-month program to a 9-month program; an every other day program; and a variation of any of these core ideas. CMS staff will examine these options to determine whether programmatically they will compromise the quality of program and the trade-off for the number of classes that might be gained. Two weeks ago, the Superintendent reported that there will be additional classes added to the current recommendation based upon the Exceptional Children's Department but that number of classes has not been determined. Currently, the Exceptional Children's Program provides twenty-one teachers and twenty-one teacher assistants to allow CMS to support an inclusion model in the Bright Beginnings classes. The number of classes varies from year to year and there is a potential for an increase in classes beyond what Title I funding will cover through the District initiatives. CMS also has a three-year old program for Exceptional Children and this is over and above the program for three-year olds. Currently, the three-year olds are served in a self-contained model and they are not a part of the Bright Beginnings Program but they are in the classes with Bright Beginnings to create collaboration with teachers and staff. Staff will review the three models discussed at the Community Meeting and report back to the Board.

Dr. Gorman recommended that the Board consider putting the decisions regarding Bright Beginnings on track with the other budget items.

Dr. Gorman reviewed that staff was seeking an early decision by the Board on Bright Beginnings for a couple of reasons that included to review options for community involvement and to provide CMS employees early notification. Dr. Gorman said he believes our employees have been sufficiently notified and they are in a precarious position but they understand where this stands at this point in time. With the work that the community is doing and the position that CMS is in at this time, staff believes it would be fitting, at this point in time, for the Board to put the reductions in Bright Beginnings on the same track as the other budget items. Dr. Gorman said the Board must understand that some employees may make an early decision to move to another program in other areas. This does not solve the problem and it will need to be dealt with at a later time.

Chairperson Davis thanked Dr. Gorman for his comments and he called for a motion

concerning Bright Beginnings.

Ms. Lennon moved that in anticipation of a revenue shortfall; in order to reduce the CMS budget for the 2011-2012 school year; and to give families time to prepare for changes in the Bright Beginnings PreK Program, the Board adopts the following motion: The Board intends to reduce funds appropriated for the Bright Beginnings PreK Program by \$10,417,921 in the adopted 2011-2012 Budget, resulting in a commensurate reduction in the number of PreK classrooms and the closing of certain PreK centers and non-Title I PreK sites and the Superintendent is directed to move forward to operationalize this decision, seconded by McGarry, and a discussion followed.

Dr. Waddell made a motion that the Board postpone indefinitely the Board vote concerning Bright Beginnings and it be voted upon at the same time as the other budget items, seconded by Mr. Tate, and a discussion followed.

- Ms. Lennon said her children attended a private church PreK that was four hours per day and one hour was spent eating lunch and playing. Ms. Lennon believes CMS could deliver an excellent academic program that would be impactful in the lives of four-year olds in a three-hour day. Ms. Lennon commended Ms. Flowers and his group for developing a way to fund thirty students in a PreK program. Ms. Lennon asked has staff considered a sliding scale fee program, and not impact Title I dollars, for those who are able to pay because not every high risk academic child is a low-income child? Dr. Gorman said there are great challenges that come with fees related to a program that is Title I funded. Ms. Lennon wants to ensure PreK is saved because of the strength of the program and not because those who can afford private PreK want free transportation to a school. Ms. Lennon hopes CMS can save PreK and she discussed the importance of working in partnership with the Board of County Commissioners and the community because it is not just academics that impacts children from the time they are four-years old to seventeen. This involves a holistic, comprehensive approach that also includes proper health and wellness that involves the entire community and not just CMS. This is a societal change that must happen and it will take the entire community working together.
- Dr. Waddell said the Board has heard from the community, the County, the State, and Ms. Leake has given us some hope for the \$10 million grant for PreK. This community cares about PreK and the Board cares about the schools that are serving PreK because it would be a large void to not have those schools in our community. Dr. Waddell challenged the Board and urged them to move forward to find research that can be shared with the public that shows Bright Beginnings is important. We know PreK is important and having that research will substantiate what we already know. Dr. Waddell discussed the successes of the Bright Beginnings programs and that the Bright Beginning students outperform their comparison group. Dr. Waddell encouraged the Board and the community to put money in the Bright Beginnings Program now instead of putting it in jails later. Dr. Waddell said CMS has done a good job with Bright Beginnings and she discussed the benefits of the Bright Beginnings Program and the positive results for children.
- Mr. McElrath said he would vote to retain the Bright Beginnings Program. He has read

all the reports, he has visited the schools, and he has met the children in those programs, and they are learning. He expressed concern that no one will learn anything if the program is taken away. Children must learn social skills and some of that happens on the playground. He believes something good must happen for these children or the school system will lose them. He does not believe there is another program that can replace the Bright Beginnings Program. Mr. McElrath encouraged the Board to maintain the Bright Beginnings Program until they can find a replacement.

- Mr. Tate thanked Dr. Gorman for suggesting the Board not vote on this item today and he will support the motion to postpone the Board vote. He also thanked the community for their move to work with the Board to find solutions to the funding difficulty. He believes a Board vote today would short circuit that effort and he looks forward to working together to explore educational options. He hopes the community collaboration will discover more groups that will be able to provide services to groups of students. Mr. Tate supports the Bright Beginnings Program and believes a delay will provide the Board time to work with the community, to work with the Board of County Commissioners, and the State officials about funding to save this long term program. The Bright Beginnings Program impacts a child from age four through seventeen and it is important to ensure as many students as possible are prepared to enter kindergarten so that they can take full advantage of the great teachers we have in CMS.
- Mr. White said he would support delaying the Board vote. He is a great supporter of the Bright Beginnings Program because it is an opportunity for CMS to take those children who do not have the opportunities of some of our other children and move them toward a level playing field. He understands the purpose and value of Bright Beginnings Program and he has been advocating for that program for a lifetime. Mr. White said he strongly supports the recommendation of Ms. Leake noting that it follows the model of the High School Challenge but it must be outside of our K-12 budget. Mr. White said he was late for this meeting because he just flew in from Washington DC. For the past four days he has been attending the Federal Relations Network Conference with Board of Education members from across the country to advocate for funding public education and to make public education a top priority of the federal government. The news is not good and there are people who believe funding education should be cut but there are also people who do not want to cut education. We presented information regarding An Investment in the Future of this Nation. PreK education was discussed and the only area in which the federal government gets involved in this is with Title I funding. The federal government first got involved in that funding in about 1965 and Title I was intended to impact those children that need help the most. Last year, the Board saved Bright Beginnings with money that came from Title I stimulus money. That extra money is not there this year and Washington has confirmed that it is not there this year. CMS also receives money from the Board of County Commissioners and in the past they were able to give CMS some discretionary funding that could be used outside of our legal responsibility which is K-12 but that type of funding is no longer available. CMS staff is seeking ways to use the funds that we do have to serve more students in a more efficient manner. Mr. White discussed taxing authority noting that CMS currently cannot raise money and cannot fund anything because CMS does not have taxing authority. CMS can only spend money that is received from grants, the Board of County Commissioners, the State, and the federal government and a lot of that funding

most follow specific guidelines. Mr. White said the Board would like to be fiscally responsible for ourselves and he encouraged the public to lobby Raleigh to grant school districts local taxing authority. This will provide the Board the flexibility to work with the community to increase the tax rate support certain initiatives or programs. Mr. White will support delaying the vote on Bright Beginnings and expressed concern that this may be misleading to the public because unless someone comes up with the money to the program the funding will not be available because the environment in Raleigh and Washington has changed and they do not support spending money outside of K-12 education.

- Mr. Morgan asked Dr. Gorman to clarify what is meant with put Bright Beginnings on track with the other issues? Dr. Gorman provided clarification that the Bright Beginnings recommendation will be brought before the Board for a final vote along with the other budget items and it will follow the budget process to include a public hearing. In addition, Bright Beginning recommendations could be subject to any budget item that relates to personnel which he may need to come to the Board to ask for authority to operationalize those decisions to ensure we are in compliance with State statute and laws regarding Human Resources. Mr. Morgan asked is staff moving Bright Beginnings forward based upon the current Tier level presented to the Board? Dr. Gorman said, yes, but there is not definitive action that needs to taken now related to the tiers. Mr. Morgan asked is the Bright Beginnings recommendation still in Tier 3? Dr. Gorman said, yes, that is staff's recommendation and the Board has not endorsed or not endorsed the tiers. Mr. Morgan asked were PreK and Bright Beginnings held harmless in previous budgets? Dr. Gorman said basically yes, last year we used the influx of some of the federal stimulus funds for Bright Beginnings and that program has been held harmless for the past two years. Mr. Morgan said although the Bright Beginnings Program was held harmless it has had an increase in class size. Dr. Gorman said, yes, class size increased by one student two years ago, increased by one student last year, one student this year, and the recommendation in the current budget is an increase by two students which will result in plus five in the last four years. Mr. Morgan said the Superintendent is charged with meeting the goals of the *2014 Strategic Plan* and he asked Dr. Gorman in spite of the budget challenges that we are currently facing and the prioritization list presented will you be able to meet those goals? Dr. Gorman said we are being incredibly challenged to meet our goals now. Mr. Morgan asked if the Board had a vote tonight would that prevent CMS from keeping Bright Beginnings should other funding become available at some point in the future? Dr. Gorman said, no, but in practicality there could be staff in that program who would seek other positions and it could potential impact the work of the public groups who are seeking alternative funding sources.
- Ms. McGarry discussed that CMS has a \$1.15 billion operating budget and the Board can prioritize the spending of those funds. Bright Beginnings is valuable but it is the job of this Board to set its priorities based upon the funds available and determine how those funds can best be spent. Ms. McGarry said last year the Board used ARRA funds to fund Bright Beginnings knowing that those funds would not be available this year and she discussed her concerns regarding that decision. She believes the facts are on the table and the Board should not delay this decision any further. The results regarding Bright Beginnings are mixed and staff's recommendation is not to eliminate the

program but to reduce the program. The recommendation will continue to provide approximately 1,100 students the Bright Beginnings Program in Title I schools. Ms. McGarry said benefits of PreK are valuable but we are not getting the results and State statute states that the primary job of local schools districts is K-12 education. She said the public wants to help in this endeavor and the churches and the communities can help to support these students. Ms. McGarry said the Board's job is to make decisions and she encouraged the Board to make this decision soon and do what is best for all of Mecklenburg County.

- Mr. Merchant thanked the Board and the community for their comments and hard work. He said this is an issue in which data will not change anyone's mind and this has become an emotional argument. Mr. Merchant said the Board's job is not to make a decision on an artificial timeline because Dr. Gorman originally requested a decision two weeks ago based upon his respect for those employees in the Bright Beginnings Program and wanting to ensure they had clear direction and proper notification. Mr. Merchant believes staff has been very clear regarding the Bright Beginnings funding and he does not foresee anything that will save the program. The CMS employees will have to make the same decisions that other companies face when downsizing. Mr. Merchant believes staff has adequately been notified and based upon that he does not see the urgency for the Board to vote upon this now because there has been some community activity that might make a difference. This is early in the budget process because traditionally these decisions are not made until the end of April or early May. Mr. Merchant welcomes the sense of urgency and spirit of collaboration we have received from the Board of County Commissioners and the community. Mr. Merchant said at this time we do not have money but we do have time, and he encouraged the Board to spend that "currency" to explore new options as well as partial funding solutions from \$1 million to \$10 million.
- Chairperson Davis thanked Dr. Gorman and staff for their hard work and demonstrating that they have heard the voices of the community. He also thanked the Board of County Commissioners for entering this discussion in February instead of waiting until May. The Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners are partners and it is important to have this discussion together. The Board has only one tool to get through financial challenges and that is a scalpel of taking funding from one program to give to another or take from our employees. The Board thanks the Board of County Commissioners for joining us in this effort and we hope they will find a way to help CMS. The Board's work is to preserve our school system and the 135,000 students that attend CMS and not just the Bright Beginning students. Chairperson Davis said the Board and the community value our school system and we need the community to spread their support to the Board of County Commissioners.

Chairperson Davis called for the Board vote on the motion to postpone the Board vote on Bright Beginnings.

The Board voted 8-1 in support of the motion to postpone indefinitely the Board vote concerning Bright Beginnings and to include this work with the budget as a whole.

Ayes: Board members Davis, Merchant, White, Lennon, McElrath, Waddell, Tate, and Morgan.

Nays: Board member McGarry.

Dr. Gorman recommended the Board Budget Work Session scheduled for February 15, 2011 be cancelled. Dr. Gorman reported the next Budget Work Session is scheduled for February 15, 2011, and at this time, unless we hear something new from the State, that meeting can be cancelled because staff does not have anything new to discuss. Dr. Gorman noted that community and staff suggestions regarding the budget are posted on the CMS Website. There was no Board objection.

B. Recommend Approval of Proposed 2011 Legislative Agenda

Chairperson Davis said the Board will be asked to approve its 2011 North Carolina Legislative Agenda. At the last Board meeting George Battle, General Counsel, presented recommendations for the 2011 Legislative Agenda and the Board members offered recommended changes. Chairperson Davis called upon Mr. Battle to present the revised draft of the 2011 Legislative Agenda. Mr. Battle reported that the 2011 Legislative Agenda was amended based upon input from the Board members. The basic format remains intact and includes the addition of a provision regarding flexibility with handling the school calendar. In addition, the revised agenda includes more detail with each provision while attempting to maintain the succinct nature of the agenda. Mr. Battle will make changes based upon the wishes of the Board members.

**THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION
2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education hereby adopts as its legislative priorities and requests that the North Carolina legislature take action on the following items:

- 1. Providing adequate funding and budget flexibility to local school districts.**
 - Minimize funding cuts to K-12 education.
 - To the extent there are funding cuts, let local school districts decide how to implement those cuts (e.g., limit state-mandated line item cuts).
- 2. Elevating and enhancing the teaching profession through reforms in evaluation, compensation and career status.**
 - Review and reform tenure laws to ensure an appropriate balance between due process rights and the ability of local school districts to be flexible in making human capital decisions.
 - Clarify evaluation standards and give local school districts the flexibility to adopt additional evaluation standards suited to their local realities.
 - Examine and implement effective alternative compensation models which reward teacher performance.
- 3. Providing flexibility to local school districts in reforming low-performing schools.**
 - Remove existing impediments to implementing creative solutions to reform low-performing schools.
 - Ensure a level regulatory playing field for public and charter schools where possible (e.g., personnel rules).
- 4. Provide flexibility to local school districts with regard to establishing school calendars best-suited for their local environments.**

- Repeal calendar law.
- Enable local districts to construct school calendars governed only by state constitution parameters.

5. Providing taxing authority for local school districts.

- Empower local boards of education to set tax rate for the local portion of public K-12 education spending.
- Allow phase-in period for localities to make desired electoral adjustments.

Chairperson Davis called for a motion to approve the proposed 2011 Legislative Agenda.

Mr. Morgan moved, seconded by Mr. McElrath that the Board approve the proposed 2011 Legislative Agenda, and a discussion followed.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Mr. White reported that changes to the calendar are being considered but it will not get out of the committee because there is opposition from the camp business in the western part of North Carolina. The calendar is still being discussed but it will continue to be an uphill grind.
- Ms. McGarry said the only item she could support on the proposed Legislative Agenda is Item 1 regarding providing adequate funding and budget flexibility. The Board has wanted this for several years, it is paramount, and should move forward. She said Item 2 is too nebulous and not clear. It is important to clarify evaluation tools and reform tenure laws but we are not sure where to find the money for the pay for performance piece. Regarding Item 3, charter schools are governed through the State Board of Education and that is where they need to be unless we go to an all charter school district. She would support eliminating school boards and superintendents and setting up a new commission to regulate charter schools. She is not sure what the underlining motives are in Item 3 and she will not support Item 3. Regarding 4, we can attend school on Saturday and blaming the State is not the way to go. She believes to have true reform the Board should consider a year-round calendar because that would move away from an agricultural economy and students can attend school in the summer. Ms. McGarry would support Item 5, taxing authority, but only if all Board members were at-large members and voted upon by the entire County.
- Mr. Morgan expressed concern that the western counties have opposition to calendar flexibility because they are the ones that have the most relief from the calendar restrictions due to inclement weather. Mr. Morgan thanked Mr. Battle for the changes and he will support the Legislative Agenda.
- Dr. Waddell said she could not support the Legislative Agenda in its totality as it is written. Dr. Waddell expressed concern regarding Item 2 and wants to ensure this will not eliminate the incremental steps that the State gives teachers as they progress. She would support the other items.
- Ms. Lennon will support the Legislative Agenda in its totality and she would also supportive eliminating the State scale. Effectiveness and longevity are two separate issues and they should not be measured on the same scale.
- Mr. Tate said the Legislative Agenda addresses adequate funding and flexibility regarding the budget, reforming schools, setting the calendar, and taxing authority for

school districts. Mr. Tate also has some concerns regarding Item 2 but he is comfortable that it is seeking a balance to ensure it will work for the long run. This is the type of Legislative Agenda that the Board needs because it will help to make a difference given the fact that we will be working with fewer dollars. School districts get restrictive dollars and the flexibility will help to ensure that every child in CMS will be educated. Mr. Tate thanked Mr. Battle for his work on the Legislative Agenda.

- Mr. Merchant said this is basically a play book and once the play is in progress we will need to adapt. This is a plan and Mr. Battle will adapt as doors are opened or closed on items. Some Board members are concerned about Item 2, but this is an effort in which we are trying to be a leader to implement an initiative that other districts have not pursued. Item 2 allows the Board to have the conversation and it is another step in what will be a long process. Mr. Merchant will support the Legislative Agenda.
- Mr. McElrath said regarding Item 2, he would also have the same concerns as Dr. Waddell but this says review, clarify, and examine. It does not say implement and as long as the Board has the last word he will support this item.
- Mr. White said as the federal government moves towards the reauthorization of *No Child Left Behind* or ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), ESEA talks about qualified teachers and there is a move to change that terminology to “effective teachers” and determining that “effective teachers” is not just based upon credentials and longevity. It is anticipated that this will also rollover into the state level.

The Board voted 7-2 in support of the motion.

Ayes: Board members Davis, Merchant, White, Lennon, McElrath, Tate, and Morgan.

Nays: Board members McGarry and Waddell.

C. Recommend Approval of Proposed Amendments to Policy GCBC, Overtime and Holiday Work Pay

Chairperson Davis called upon Tom Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to present the recommendation to approve proposed amendments to Policy GCBC, Overtime and Holiday Work Pay. Mr. Tate said Policy GCBC is before the Board for approval on proposed amendments that affect when non-exempt employees are entitled to overtime pay or compensatory time off. With the change in the policy, holidays will no longer be considered “time at work” for purposes of calculating when employees have worked more than forty hours in a regular work week. Rather, holidays will be treated in the same way as annual vacation leave, sick leave, personal leave, FMLA leave and other leave or time away from work, and will not be included when computing overtime pay or compensatory time. The amendment was approved unanimously by the Policy Committee on December 14, 2010. The proposed amendments to Policy GCBC were posted on the CMS Website and the Board held a Public Hearing on January 25th and February 8th.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board approve proposed amendments to Policy GCBC, Overtime and Holiday Work Pay, the motion was presented through the Policy Committee and did not require a second. The motion to approve Policy GCBC passed upon unanimous Board voice vote.

D. Recommend Approval of Proposed New Policy JLCF, Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Chairperson Davis called upon Tom Tate, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to present

the recommendation on new Policy JLCF, Do Not Resuscitate Orders. Mr. Tate said new Policy JLCF is before the Board for approval. Children who are so ill as to have Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders from physicians present very unfortunate and delicate situations for both their family and school. While CMS understands the crisis facing these families, it is the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Policy Committee that the Board adopt this new policy, which instructs staff to not accept or comply with DNR orders, but rather to develop and implement appropriate emergency health care plans and procedures for our most fragile children. North Carolina law does not require school districts to honor DNR orders. Moreover, we believe that it is the school's responsibility to do whatever possible to preserve the safety and well being of every student. We are also concerned about the message that withholding CPR might give to other students about the lack of caring on the part of adults in the school. Having this policy in place will give school staff the tools to respond to the needs of parents who are dealing with difficult and challenging situations. It will also provide clarity and consistent guidance of both process and response throughout the district, which will be beneficial both to school administrators/staff and to parents if they seek to present a DNR Order to a school. The proposed new policy was posted on the CMS Website and the Board held a Public Hearing on January 25th and February 8th. Mr. Tate believes this is the right policy.

Mr. Tate moved that the Board approve new Policy JLCF, Do Not Resuscitate Orders, the motion was presented through the Policy Committee and did not require a second. The motion to approve new Policy JLCF passed upon unanimous Board voice vote.

- E. Recommend approval to allow approximately 5,300 CMS employees the option to continue to be allowed to have payroll deductions for the employee benefits they currently have, as requested by Kaye McGarry, At-Large Board members

Chairperson Davis called upon Kaye McGarry to present the recommendation. Ms. McGarry made the following motion.

Ms. McGarry moved that the Board approve allowing approximately 5,300 CMS employees to have the option to continue to be allowed to have payroll deductions for the employees benefits they currently have, as requested by Kaye McGarry, At-Large Board member, seconded by Mr. McElrath, and a discussion followed.

- Ms. McGarry encouraged the Board to support this motion. Mandates under North Carolina General Statutes include that once an employee has selected an insurance product for payroll deduction that product may not be removed from payroll deduction for that employee without his/her written consent. This mandate protects state employees from loosing coverage they have selected. This mandate is not required by law for public school system employees but most public school systems have followed this statute as a guide for their employees to continue their existing pretax payroll deductions. CMS recently changed its benefits carrier and this motion references voluntary benefit policies that employees have previously chosen. If employees are forced to go with the new carrier they may have additional expenses due to a pre-existing medical condition, the post-tax versus pretax payment, and may have a waiting period in order to be fully covered. These employees have been told that their payroll deductions will end July 2011 and this motion gives those employees the option to keep

their current policy on the pretax payroll deduction. The pretax savings to CMS could equate to \$340,000 and employees also have the potential to save \$340,000 plus federal and state income tax. Ms. McGarry expressed concern that these employees may not be covered for preexisting conditions or may have a waiting period before their pre-existing condition would be covered. She believes these employees should be allowed to make their own decision to stay with their existing carrier or go with the new carrier. Ms. McGarry expressed concern that CMS is forcing CMS employees who perhaps have not gotten pay increases for two or three years to change carriers and this will make their life easier. CMS can do this and Ms. McGarry encouraged the Board of Education to stick up for these employees.

Chairperson Davis said Dr. Gorman provided the Board with information regarding this matter and he asked Dr. Gorman to review that information. Dr. Gorman said CMS staff is the people looking out for our employees, finding them the best program, and putting an item out for bid that had not gone out to bid in fifteen years. Staff is looking out for our employees to find a high quality program with the best benefits, the best rates, and negotiating the contract to carryover people with preexisting medical conditions and waiving waiting periods. Dr. Gorman said we are the people working hard to look out for our employees and we will do that every day and on a continual basis.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Mr. Merchant expressed concern that this is like déjà vu because the Board has previously discussed this same matter. He keeps hearing this is about the employees but he has not received any calls or concerns from employees. Mr. Merchant asked Dr. Gorman if staff had received any calls regarding this matter. Dr. Gorman said CMS has the HR Direct call center to respond to employee concerns and they have not received any calls and the Board Office received three E-mails through Constituent Services. Mr. Merchant said the previous carrier sent the 5,300 CMS employees a letter notifying them that there was going to be a change but that only generated three E-mails. Mr. Merchant said it was stated that there could be a risk that employees could lose their coverage and he asked how was that issue handled in the bidding process? Dr. Gorman said the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to qualify for the service required that the new provider would carryover people with pre-existing medical conditions and the waiting period would be waived. Mr. Merchant asked who conducted the RFP process? Dr. Gorman said this was outsourced to a professional firm that does this as their core business because they have the most knowledge for running this type of program. Mr. Merchant expressed concern regarding the motive for this agenda item because this was outsourced to ensure we have the best decision and the process addressed all the employee concerns about pre-existing conditions and pretax dollars. Mr. Merchant is sure the new vendor was able to offer CMS a good deal because the bid proposal included exclusivity. Mr. Merchant questioned why a Board member is pushing this issue, why they showed up at a meeting with a list of questions from the previous vendor who did not win the bid, and why this is on the agenda for the third time for one vendor. Mr. Merchant believes this is a dangerous path follow.
- Mr. White said as a school system we have only made this program available and we have not recommended to any employee to drop one program for another. Dr. Gorman

said employees may continue with the previous vendor but this is the only vendor in which they can continue to have payroll pretax deductions.

- Ms. McGarry expressed concern regarding Mr. Merchant's comments. She is not here to debate but to stand up for the employees. She made this a Board decision because Dr. Gorman could have made this an administrative decision but he declined to do so. Ms. McGarry discussed the State statute regarding protecting state employees, these are not the same insurance policies, and the guarantee issue does not mean pre-existing conditions will be covered. Ms. McGarry expressed concern regarding this process.
- Dr. Waddell expressed concern regarding this item and noted that this is not an issue that the Board needs to vote upon. Chairperson Davis said Ms. McGarry made a motion and the Board will have to vote on that motion but the action behind the motion is an operational issue that is in the Superintendents prevue. Dr. Waddell said this is below the line of the responsibility of the Board and employees do have the option to remain with the previous company or go with the new provider.
- Mr. Morgan said the RFP was written in a manner so that the winning firm would be the exclusive provider as it relates to payroll and pretax dollars. Dr. Gorman said, yes, that was a part of the process. Mr. Morgan expressed concern that this contributed to the low cost and if this was changed that would violate the bid. Dr. Gorman said, yes, and the bid process would need to be reevaluated to ensure we are following the guidelines of the contract. The RFP was open for any vendor to bid on the program and there was a response from the particular group being discussed but they were not selected. Mr. Morgan expressed concern that this had not been sent out to bid for fifteen years and he asked should this go to the Policy Committee to review how often items should be sent out to bid or should staff do this internally? Dr. Gorman said he would recommend sending items out to bid more frequently. Staff considered sending this out to bid two years ago but CMS was in the midst of changing over to the Lawson process. This does not need to be a policy issue but staff needs to ensure it happens regularly and that will be part of the process for the new Chief of Human Resources.
- Ms. Lennon said at School Board 101, Board members learned about ethics and areas that fall above and below the line of Board responsibility. This is below the line and puts the Board in a situation in which we are recommending vendors and that is not our job as a Board. She is happy this went out for bid and that several vendors were reviewed for the best program and this company won because they presented the best proposal. Ms. Lennon will not support this motion.
- Ms. McGarry discussed she is being the voice of the people and wants to give the employees the option to make that decision.

The Board voted 3-6 and the motion failed.

Ayes: Board members McGarry, McElrath, Waddell

Nays: Board members Davis, Merchant, White, Lennon, Tate, and Morgan

Chairperson Davis recommended the following Board Direction:

1. Explore Managed Competition: Chairperson Davis said this is related to the topic of privatization and outsourcing and he believes it is an appropriate time for the Board to move forward to review managed competition. Chairperson Davis commended Mr. Morgan for his interest, energy, and expertise in that area and he asked Mr. Morgan to work in tandem with Dr. Gorman to explore what other activities the Board may want

to consider. With this initiative, the Board is not committing to any specific outsourcing effort because that must be done with great care and skill.

2. Policy Committee: Chairperson Davis asked Mr. Tate to have the Policy Committee to review the Board's policy for agendizing items for the Board meetings and to research how this Board accomplishes that task compared to other local governmental bodies and bring recommendations to the Board.

Ms. McGarry said regarding vendors, she suggested the CMS print shop be put out to bid because it has been in place for ten years. Chairperson Davis said that is an item the Board can discuss if appropriately agendized as a part of the meeting.

V. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Budget Amendments for December 2010

Chairperson Davis called upon Dr. Gorman to present the report. Dr. Gorman reported agenda items V.A. and V.B. are the monthly reports and are as presented.

B. Report on Financial Statements for December 2010

Agenda Item V. B. was presented with V. A.

VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gorman reported he did not have a report to present.

VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Joe White said he had been in Washington DC for the past several days and just arrived back today. He noted that yesterday was his 52nd Wedding Anniversary and he wished his wife, "Happy Anniversary Pretty Girl, I will be home soon."

Joyce Waddell visited Turning Point Academy and was impressed with the activities that the students were doing. She has seen great things happening in CMS and students are learning. She attended the January 31st Mid-Year Graduations at the Bojangles' Coliseum and she congratulated the students for graduating high school. She attended the *Souls of our Teachers*, met with teachers, and was impressed with the panel discussion because it shared with the public what teachers are thinking and how they are making a difference in the lives of children. Dr. Waddell participated in a TIF-LEAP interview and she is happy that they are concerned about what teachers are thinking. She believes the TIF-LEAP initiative will make a difference and the program will be a benefit for everyone. She attended the unveiling of the Investment Study Group Project *LIFT*, which will be serving, 7,500 students, and the announcement of what they will be doing. The community and the schools are excited about this investment and Dr. Waddell commended corporations for investing millions in CMS.

Ms. McGarry invited everyone to attend "Kaye About Town" on February 17th at Starbucks, Burkedale Village, from 7:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. to discuss school related issues. She shared comments from a constituent regarding the cost taxpayers should be paying for education in Mecklenburg County. If the schools not needed were closed, if social programs were cut, if busing to achieve student disbursement was eliminated, if the

bureaucracy that was not needed was terminated, and if magnet programs were offered at neighborhood schools...what should it cost the taxpayers. Ms. McGarry suggested this be taken to the public for their support. She discussed outsourcing, cut administration before cutting K-12 teachers, and she thanked the Investment Study Group for their contribution of \$55 million to help the CMS schools. She encouraged everyone to make education #1 in our community.

Richard McElrath reported that he would hold a District 2 Community Meeting at Harding University High School on February 15th at 7:00 p.m. He commended the students at Smith Academy of International Language Academy on their recent program they presented that was in Chinese.

Rhonda reported she would be announcing upcoming dates for District 1 Community Budget meetings. She wished the CMS DECA students good luck at the upcoming North Carolina State DECA Championships that will be held in Greensboro. She also recognized that this is the final week of basketball and conference playoffs begin next week. She wished all the students good luck in the upcoming events.

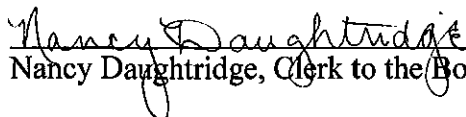
ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Davis called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Morgan moved that the Board adjourn the Regular Board meeting, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.


Eric Davis, Chairperson


Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board