

The Orange County Board of Education met in its offices located at 200 East King Street, Hillsborough, NC with the following business taking place:

Call to Order – Chairman Triebel called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following persons in attendance: Ted Triebel, Chair; Debbie Piscitelli, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Brown; Susan Hallman; Al Hartkopf; Anne Medenblik; Dennis Whitling; Patrick Rhodes, Superintendent; Associate Superintendent Dr. George McFarley; Associate Superintendent Dr. Denise Morton; Mike Gilbert, Public Information Officer; various media, patrons and staff.

Public Charge - The Public Charge was read.

Agenda Adoption - A motion was made by Susan Hallman to allow public comment at the special meeting today and to approve the agenda as presented with one agenda item – Central / Hillsborough Elementary Discussion of Next Steps and Direction. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Brown and unanimously approved.

Public Comment - The following public comments were heard:

1. Kylie Snyder – acknowledged the number of parents present to hear Board discussions; expressed concern about the proposal to forfeit federal funding.
2. Elvira Mebane – requested the Board deliberate carefully and make a decision.

Central / Hillsborough Elementary Discussion of Next Steps and Direction – Chairman Triebel made the following motion: To improve the SES balance between Central Elementary and Hillsborough Elementary Schools and provide for broadened educational opportunities for all students:

With respect to CES:

- Redirect Title 1 dollars to fund a quality pre-K program at CE (and EC)
- Make priority to preserve relatively small class size
- Establish a 4-week learning opportunity (enrichment/remediation) during summer break
- Ensure transfer policy is strictly adhered to
- Partnership with UNC for education opportunities
- Establish local business-school relationship
- Improve building aesthetics
- Add a program to help attract new families – examples include: AG teacher/s addition and K-2 nurturing program; Creative Arts (partnership with Arts Council); CGI (Cognitive Guided Instruction) across all math grades
- Evaluate progress annually with goal being to decrease FRL population with continued academic achievement by all students/subgroups.

With respect to HES:

- Change application and selection procedure. Cap enrollment: 20% of HES population would come from each districted elementary school. Increases in percentages allowed if additional students maintain/improve SES balance
- Rising 1st and 2nd graders will reapply; rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will not (grandfathered in along w/siblings)
- Priority given to FRL students; lottery implemented to fill other slots
- Establish 3 classes, vice 4, in grades K, 1st, and 2nd
- Establish class size (student-teacher ratio) in line with other elementary schools (except CES)
- Establish Free or Reduced Intersession Program
- Expand transportation opportunities
- Evaluate progress annually with goal being to increase FRL population with continued academic achievement by all students/subgroups

The motion was seconded by Susan Hallman.

Board discussion included, but was not limited to: procedural ramifications of the chairman's motion and, if approved, how it would affect the previously approved plan still on the table; suggestion to change the decrease of the free-reduce population to a percentage figure of the total for both schools; not losing Title 1 funds but replacing these funds; no loss of services or positions; suggestion to include a target for the free-reduced lunch population as a goal.

Susan – could we add in the motion to define the SES ultimate goal of +/- 10%?

Al Hartkopf made a friendly amendment to the motion that the 3rd colored bullet on his sheet stating in year 1 a goal of a 5% increase for Hillsborough and a 5% decrease for Central Elementary to work toward the district goal of 38% +/- 10% be added to the chair's current motion. The motion was seconded by Susan Hallman and accepted by the chair.

Board discussion continued to include: clustering of classes for the district; transportation; selection criteria for pre-K program applicants; funding sources for a pre-K program from Title 1 funds and other available state funding; current pre-K programs in the system operated by the Chapel Hill Training and Outreach Program and the number of Orange County School students being served; current make-up of pre-K classes; space needs/restrictions for additional pre-K classes; how possible changes would affect schools in school improvement status; program funding through fees charged; which grades to consider for grandfathering - 3rd, 4th and/or 5th graders; space availability to accommodate additional students at Hillsborough Elementary; Board commitment to programs needed; number of classes needed at each school and increase/decrease in number of students at each school, if plan adopted; processing of applications received once SES goal has been reached; SES balance by grade vs. by school; SES balance at K-2 having a waterfall affect in the future on grades 3-5; 20% cap for Hillsborough Elementary coming from each districted elementary school.

Anne Medenblik made a friendly amendment to the motion to establish four classes, if necessary, if the four classes reach the SES balance. The motion was seconded by Al Hartkopf and accepted by the chair.

Board discussion continued to include: housing location of central level staff for optimal program review/implementation; space restrictions on class sizes for safety of students.

Elizabeth Brown made a friendly amendment to the motion to remove the word "maintain" from the first bullet under Hillsborough Elementary. The motion was seconded by Anne Medenblik and accepted by the chair.

Board discussion continued to include: balancing k, 1 and 2 for the coming school year as grades 3, 4 and 5 are already set; grandfathering of siblings; effects of the plan on students who opted out of schools in improvement; cost to convert classrooms for pre-K classes; effects of the plan on transportation costs both during the school year and during intersession; cost implications of the plan for 4-week enrichment program and improving building aesthetics; confidentiality of/access to free-reduced lunch data; use of poverty bands to protect individual student identification; reapplication required/not required each year for students wishing to attend Hillsborough Elementary.

Board members discussed a Board member request to delay a vote on the plan until the next Board meeting to allow for time to hear from constituents who have not had time to view or comment on the plan presented this evening.

Chairman Triebel clarified the motion and second on the floor as follows: the motion includes Chairman Triebel's handout, friendly amendment #1 made by Al Hartkopf adding the bullet from his sheet stating in year 1 a goal of a 5% increase for Hillsborough and a 5% decrease for Central Elementary to work toward the district goal of 38% +/- 10%, friendly amendment #2 made by Elizabeth Brown to remove the word "maintained" under the Hillsborough Elementary bullets, friendly amendment #3 made by Anne Medenblik that if there is enough interest in another class and that class was to be a balanced class, it would be included to grow Hillsborough Elementary. Mr. Whitling also clarified: on the last bullet of each school, change to "% of the total" and the attendance zone bullet should read "cap enrollment at 20% of attendance zone".

The motion with amendments as listed above was approved by a vote of 5 to 2. Voting against the motion was Al Hartkopf and Anne Medenblik.

Adjournment – Upon motion by Al Hartkopf, second by Debbie Piscitelli and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

_____, Chair

_____, Secretary