

BAC 8 Minutes at Holly Ridge Elementary
Dec. 8, 2008

I. Meeting called to order at 5:30. Due to traffic and main speakers not present, a topic from the 2007-8 BAC Final report was brought up in regards to the current three year **WCPSS Reassignment Draft Data**.

BAC Parent Representatives discussed concerns that some of the data being used for the reassignment draft is inconsistent, and some is totally wrong.

- Some examples were given, such as capacity numbers and students or seats not accounted for accurately in the draft plan.
- WCPSS is not using the SAS software like Mr. Dulaney promised last spring 2008
- On a countywide basis, a calculation is used to estimate children per house that was calculated ten years ago. It might be appropriate for WCPSS to visit with current data and possibly different estimates divided for growth or established areas.
- Growth projections: in the draft plan's data, the projection seems to be high and ITRE data is even higher. Some of it needs to be explained and validated.
- Someone pointed out that one benefit of possibly delaying the reassignment plan to verify the accuracy of the data is it will also allow time for the Wake CARES Supreme Court decision to come down.
- A comment was made that WCPSS should do the one-year plan but not to finish 3-year assignment plan until we have good validated data. Some people who are being reassigned are being told that there's no capacity at their current school. Parents then look at the numbers and there is capacity at their original school. If the reason citizens are being given for being reassigned is that their school is too full, then WCPSS needs to be accurate.

Therefore, Ann Rouleau made the following motion, which Curt Stangler seconded:

The District 8 BAC is concerned about the accuracy of the capacity and projected enrollment numbers used to create a 3-year assignment plan. We encourage WCPSS to validate and ensure that the numbers used to create this 3-year plan are accurate.

The motion passed by BAC Representative vote.

II. Agenda Topic: BAC Required Topic? “Shift Happens” video and “What Components Should be in a World Class Education System?”

A. Presentators from Wake Ed Partnership's Julie Crain, VP of Programs, and Tim Simmons, VP of Communication gave introductory remarks before showing video. Handout was given out on Wake Ed Partnership's 2 year initiative (see attachment.) A group is walking through a road map of what the curriculum would look like in terms of standards and tests, etc. (Our BAC8 Chair is a member of this Committee.) This initiative will be a roundtable topic with the COCs and public next school year (2009-10).

Year 1: In Spring we'll publish what this definition might look like.

Year 2: We'll publish what this idea is then make strategies and suggestions as to how to accomplish this. We'll be looking for community buy-in and feedback at that point.

B. QUESTIONS from BAC8 Parent Representatives to speakers:

- There are world-class education futurists in education around the country. Are you planning to go outside of the 20 mile radius of downtown Raleigh to get input from these world class futurists?

Julie: We don't intend to recreate the wheel but do intend to recreate the wheel makers. We HAVE invited these folks to be our partners in this initiative (see handout attached).

- Are any other chambers of commerce besides Raleigh invited?

Tim: The short answer is yes. WEP has made much more of an effort to reach out to other COCs. They have to be involved in this discussion.

- Is there any buy in from the school system?

Julie: We advocate for them but we are not a part of them. We have worked very hard to involve them in this commission. We want to create a good product that will take time; not something that can be done the very next year. Dr. Burns and two Board of Ed members and one prior Board Member is on the Committee discussing this topic.

C. "Shift Happens" provides in a tightly packed Powerpoint with bullet point data that gets your attention about what's going on in the world: where we stand now and in the future. It brings home the need for the US to be competitive globally in education. Schools are trying to teach kids skills that they don't know they need yet for jobs that have not yet been created. How is Brazil or China tackling this? This video is 9 minutes long and easy to watch at www.shifthappens.wikispace.com

D. Feedback from BAC 8 for what a world class education system would look like:

- Teach foreign languages in addition to Spanish.
- Bring the arts back into the school system.
- Need the ability for advanced or academically gifted students be taught at an accelerated rate. Ability grouping.
- Mr. Margiotta commented that we need a method to measure our results as we try to achieve these goals. Tim replied "We'll go there; standards have to be established."

III. Meeting concluded by 7 p.m.

A huge thank you to Principal Pam Peters for the hospitality in hosting the meeting.

Next meeting on Feb. 9 at Laurel Park Elementary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Beth Shugg (BAC8 Secretary)& Nancy Caggia (Chair)