

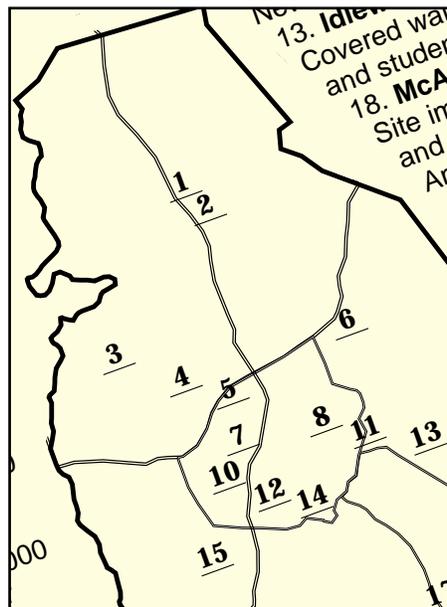
Details released on costs of choice plans past, future

Of the nearly \$5 million that school officials say they spent last fall on the choice plan, \$1.5 million won't be repeated.

That leaves about \$3.5 million that was lost when a court ruling forced the school board at the last minute to cancel the December Showcase of Schools and the choice plan application process that it was to begin.

According to school budgets reprinted here, the first installment of the next round of choice will cost \$3.4 million, with costs of transportation and mobile

Continued on Page 5



A whole lot of contracts have been signed to get more school construction under way – keeping faith with the community. Page 4.

New policy proposals mark path to equity

Committee's work goes to public hearing in June

As the schools brace for new court rulings and a new choice plan for student assignment, the Board of Education is codifying its commitments to equity.

And with an election coming up, it's time to put in writing the direction that board members have taken in the ongoing struggle to give every child the excellent education so often denied their parents and grandparents.

The three policies, unveiled at Tuesday's board meeting, are "key to the work of this Board of Education," said board member Louise Woods.

A national search of board policies found no single model for a thoroughgoing equity policy. "We found that we're going to have to, as in so many other things, set the stage for this," Woods said. The policies, if approved, could become "an example for other school systems throughout the country."

Board member Wilhelmenia Rembert called the policies "timely and appropriate" and said they should "help prepare staff and others for how we intend to ensure equity and excellence in all of our schools."

There may be some surprises

Continued on Page 7

A school budget discussion for people who hate numbers

This is a budget story for people who don't like numbers.

There ARE no numbers.

Oh, all right: For those who love numbers, we'll put them at the end.

People who don't like numbers still have a big interest in the schools. And what we and most of the public want to know is whether the schools are getting the money they need.

We know that if a soda goes up in price, a textbook will be going up too.

If the state is chipping in more money to run the schools, chances are the local folk will have to be chipping in more money too.

And one thing more: We know that we want the schools to do better by our children – all our children.

Commentary

And, if we are honest with ourselves, we will say, yes, that means the schools must have more money.

This article will focus on a small part of the budget debate. We will look here not at the numbers themselves, but at how one part of the budget relates to another. The first slide, please:

County appropriation

There has been talk on the county board that the schools have asked for too much money. Each year for a number of years, the schools have asked for more. Here is a chart showing the cur-

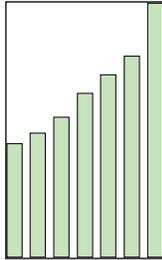
Continued on Page 2

Budget story for folk who hate numbers

Continued from Page 1

rent expense budget for the schools over time.

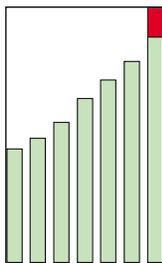
The tallest bar at the right is the proposal for next fiscal year. The shortest one at the left is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995. Notice that each year there is an increase in spending by the county for the schools. Notice also that the latest request is truly bigger than others, in two ways: First, the total amount is bigger -- the bar is tallest. Second, the increase from last year's request is also bigger than other increases.



Look at the "slope" of the increase from year to year. In the rest of this story, it is the "slope" in the charts that we must watch for. Next slide, please.

Status quo not enough

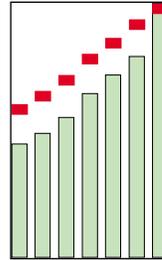
Supt. Eric Smith makes this point about his budget request for next year. Most people want the schools to do their work better. In most cases, "better" also means "more costly." Smith says more than half of the dollars in the proposed increase from last year will go toward doing things better. In this chart, the increase now before the county board has been split in two parts: The top portion of the bar on the far right shows the money in the request that Smith says is just for doing things better. That makes the lower portion stand for just doing next year what the schools do now -- plus finding space for all the new students coming next fall. The message is clear: If we just want the schools to add seats for new students and hire enough teachers to teach them, and do



nothing better, the increase in money is not very large. The size of the increase Smith actually wants is big because the public has high hopes for the schools, and for its children. Is that fair? Next slide, please.

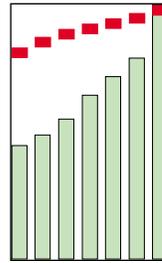
State share rising

The county increase asked for by the schools is not out of line when compared with recent increases in money coming from the state. In this chart, we now start adding to the familiar bars a set of fat lines, which are in red on a color printer or on your screen, and in a darker gray on a black printer. In this case, the lines show recent years' levels of state money. Notice the "slope" of the increase -- another steep one. That's not a surprise: The state is the major funding source for schools. In a growing school system, that's what we should see. But here's a surprise: State and county money going to the schools have been rising at a very similar rate. The county is not alone. Next slide, please.



The bulge in students

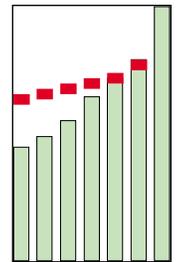
The number of students in school here is rising. Five new schools will open this fall to make places for them. But this increase, as big as it is, does not compare to the increase in local money for the schools. Next slide, please.



Lots more people

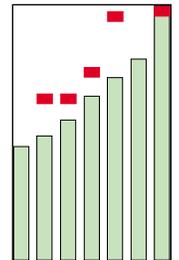
The number of people in the county is also rising. But the rise, shown here in the "slope" of the lines, does not compare to the increase in money needed from the county. Not to put too fine a point on it, but this is the reason the county must raise taxes to give the schools the money they need. That means we all must pay

a bit more, but it is good to recall that this state has had low taxes for decades -- and it has cost us a great deal. One way we have paid is by having schools that do not meet the needs of our children. The budget approved by the school board seeks to keep moving toward the better schools the people know they want, and that their children need. Next slide, please.



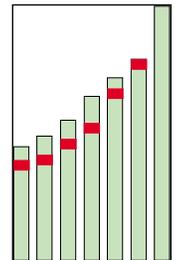
Our dear Uncle Sam

Uncle Sam's share of the schools' budget has been tiny, and will remain so. The federal share also changes a lot from year to year. The line that is outside the box at the right does not mean Uncle is thinking outside the box. It only means that the school board plans to have less money from Uncle next year than it has this year. These numbers change as grants and other programs start and stop. Next slide, please.



Pressures on budget

The schools, and the county, face big pressures on their budgets. One such pressure is shown here: It is the growth in the number of families who get Medicaid money. Note that costs here, borne in part by the county, are rising even faster than the school budget. We had no numbers for what the county expects to pay next year, so there is no fat line at the far right.



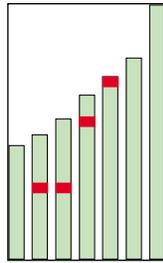
The schools are under the same kind of pressure when it comes to students who do not speak English. Again, we do not have full data, but it is clear in the chart on the next page that costs have been rising quickly in

Continued on Page 3

Budget story for folk who hate numbers

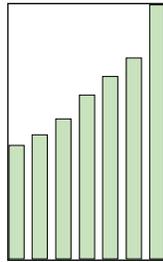
Continued from Page 2

the last year or two. And with new people flooding in from Spanish-speaking countries, those costs will keep on rising. The costs of teaching these students is part of the reason for the need for more money in the school budget. The final slide, please.



Prospects for future

We are back to where we began, with a little chart that shows that, yes, the school budget request to the county is rising, and that the increase is a big one. The truth, though, is that the hopes and goals that we as a people have for our children are just as big. And while we don't have a little chart that



can show you this, we believe we all can agree that this is a wealthy place, one that can well afford to pay for great schools. We can. We really can. It's only a matter of will.

A final note

This is our first effort to look at the schools budget this way. We hope it was helpful. As always, your comments and ideas on how to improve are welcome.

Years ago, teachers used something called the SMOG test to judge the reading level of a piece of writing. Cut to its basics, the SMOG test simply counted the words of three or more syllables. The more long words, the higher the grade level that is given to the piece of writing.

In this story, we hope the only words of three or more syllables so far are "Medicaid" and, of course, "syllables." The story would then get a SMOG score somewhere in the lower grades, and could be read by all people. That's fair, right? All people should have the data to know about their children's schools. It's, er, elementary!

Briefs

Bullying common: Respect is hard to find on school campuses, the Washington Post reported. Among the data they collected: 16% of schoolchildren say they are bullied; two-thirds of teens involved in deadly shootings were bullied; bullies are 6 times more likely to be convicted criminals by age 24, and 5 times more likely to have serious records by age 30; after age 8, "aggressive behavior becomes resistant to change." The Post said experts encourage school officials to be pro-active, getting parents involved in efforts to curb bullying before violence occurs.

www.washingtonpost.com

Voucher fiasco: New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, with voucher skeptics from his city school board in tow, made a whirlwind tour of Milwaukee to "investigate" how that city's voucher program works. But the group was steered to two private schools, but no public schools, that accept voucher students and that set folk in both Milwaukee and New York City to grinding their teeth. Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist, who set up the tour, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: "We only have so much time. The mayor of New York is a very busy person."

www.jsonline.com

New broom: Denver Public Schools, with a reputation in Charlotte for returning to racially isolated neighborhood schools, is now getting to know its new superintendent. Jerry Wartgow told the Rocky Mountain News he's "asking the fundamental 'the emperor has no clothes' questions." "The system isn't working for many students," he said. "It's working for some students, but that's not good enough. It has to work for all."

www.rockymountainnews.com

"The Recommended 2001-2002 Budget: An in-depth look at what the budget means" is an excellent overview. Download at: <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/inside/news/budget01/propbudget.pdf>

This data was prepared for the story above. Not all of it was used.

FISCAL YEAR	'95-'96	'96-'97	'97-'98	'98-'99	'99-'00	'00-'01	'01-'02
Schools: County money (\$ millions)							
Source: County	129	140	159	186	207	228	287
Schools: State money							
Source: CMS	284	310	338	376	405	442	469
Schools: Federal money							
Source: CMS		27	27	31	40	44	41
Schools: Total money							
Source: CMS	443	477	524	593	652	715	791
Schools: Per-pupil spending, constant dollars							
Source: CMS		3,243	3,452	3,724	3,921		
Schools: Student population							
Source: Ed. Found.	88,975	92,935	95,727	98,470	100,303	103,144	106,238
Schools: Students with limited English							
Source: CMS		2,041	2,044	3,729	4,805		
County: Average household income							
Source: Chamber		45,171	47,622	50,935	52,913		
County: Mecklenburg population							
Source: Census	578,832	596,256	614,209	630,813	648,400	695,454	
County: Medicaid caseload for families and children							
Source: County	10,300	11,000	12,500	14,200	17,800	20,800	

Keeping faith: Work on schools under way

Quietly but efficiently, the school system is building, rebuilding and rehabilitating on sites all over the county, as it committed to do during recent bond referendums. In the last two weeks alone, the school board has approved contracts to build 5 new schools, 4 of them on existing sites; make major renovations at three more; and set in motion smaller renovations at more than a dozen other sites. For those keeping count, the contracts below, totaling \$54.1 million, are part of projects totaling \$92.7 million.

on School name
map This contract Total project cost

on School name
map School name Total project cost

New Schools

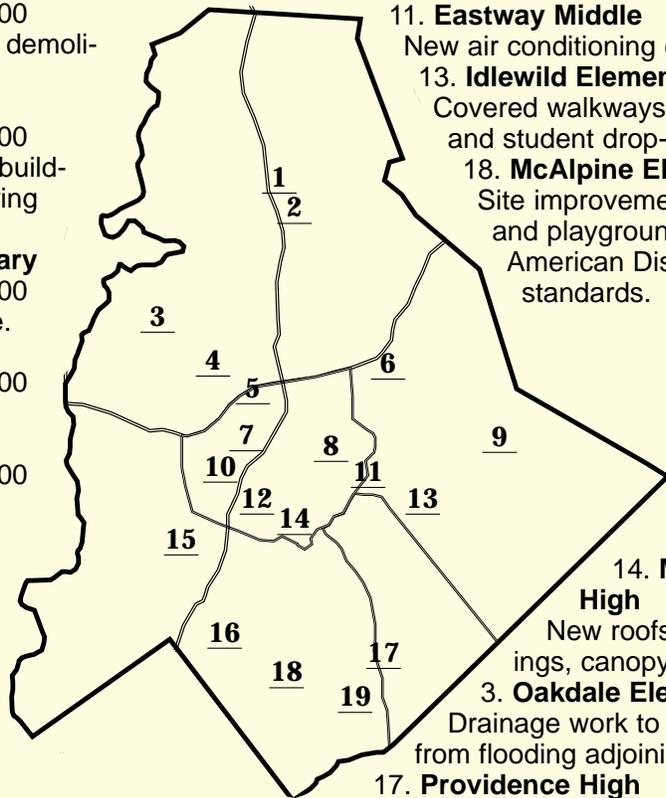
- 10. **Barringer Elementary**
\$8,312,650 \$12,224,000
New school on existing site, site improvements, demolition of old building.
- 9. **J.H. Gunn Elementary**
\$8,148,509 \$12,171,000
New 800-seat school on old site, demolition of old building.
- 8. **Merry Oaks Elementary**
\$7,845,250 \$12,082,000
New school on existing site. Old building will house another school during later construction.
- 19. **New Providence Elementary**
\$7,429,065 \$10,307,000
New 800-seat school on new site.
- 12. **Sedgefield Elementary**
\$7,874,116 \$12,105,000
New school on existing site.
- 16. **Sterling Elementary**
\$176,000 \$12,288,000
Phase 1 site and utility work for new school at existing site.

Major Renovations

- 15. **Nations Ford Elementary**
\$1,175,000 \$2,193,000
Renovations of kitchen, administrative area, PA and fire alarm systems, and selective plumbing, mechanical and electrical needs.
- 2. **North Meck High**
\$4,883,500 \$7,693,000
Fire alarms, heating and cooling, plumbing, bathroom upgrades, site improvements, painting, ceilings, floor covering and dry marker boards.
- 4. **Thomasboro Elementary**
\$6,944,250 \$10,297,000
Renovation, expansion and site improvements.

Other Contracts

- 1. **Alexander Middle** \$136,500
Re-roof and replace exhaust fans and skylights on gym, walkway, weight room.
- 6. **Briarwood Elementary** \$100,800
Re-roof two classroom buildings.
- 11. **Eastway Middle** \$29,600
New air conditioning cooling tower.
- 13. **Idlewild Elementary** \$48,700
Covered walkways at bus parking and student drop-off.
- 18. **McAlpine Elem.** \$163,800
Site improvements to track and playground to meet American Disabilities Act standards.
- 14. **Myers Park High** \$199,200
New roofs for 4 buildings, canopy.
- 3. **Oakdale Elem.** \$49,702
Drainage work to stop runoff from flooding adjoining property.
- 17. **Providence High** \$167,250
Resurface and renovate 8 tennis courts.
- 7. **Spaugh Middle** \$153,100
New roof
- Utilities** \$260,760
Tie schools to CMUD water and sewer, remove treatment plants, close wells at Bain, Reedy Creek, J.H. Gunn, Long Creek, Newell, Statesville Road and Tuckaseegee Elementaries; Quail Hollow and Wilson Middle and North Meck High.
- 16. **West Charlotte High** \$62,000
Swimming pool building dehumidification, HVAC.



Source: CMS. Additional information is at www.cms.k12.nc.us

\$1.5 million recouped from choice budget

Continued from Page 1

classrooms not yet finalized but in the range of up to another \$14 million.

Since December, many questions have been raised about the accounting for the choice plan. Some deal with whether the costs really totaled \$5 million. Others focus on whether some of the numbers are "padded." And still to be dealt with is where the

money came from. To assist the public in its understanding of the choice plan costs, the full budgets are reprinted here and on page 6.

The numbers in the budget below have previously been released. What is new is school officials' designation of some of the costs as nonrecurring. Some won't recur because, for example, buses purchased last year need not be purchased again. Some tasks won't be repeated, like informational trips out of state.

On page 6 are two more budgets. The first, approved by the school board May 8, is the budget

for a new Showcase and a new school choice application process. The second, not yet approved, is a tentative look at how much transportation and new mobile classrooms might cost. Supt. Eric Smith told the board that additional costs for transportation and mobile units could fall to zero, depending on how the choice plan is written. He promised a draft plan by early June.

Readers, please share with Educate! your questions about these budgets. Send messages to SwannFello@aol.com and we will try to get answers.

2000 choice costs: Some won't be spent again

	Reusable or not to be repeated	Gone		Reusable or not to be repeated	Gone
Opening Schools Committee			Betty Cunningham: Consulting		
Public information budget		418,600	Kinko's printing		2,463
Printing and supplies		25,000	Assignment plan maps		44,867
Family Resource Center staffing		10,000	Mike Stolee: Consulting		8,519
Warehouse storage contract		50,000	Duncan Parnell: Printing		18,265
New buses	\$750,000		Student assignment plan expenses		15,668
Choice forms		50,000	TSSI Microsage: Consulting		5,029
Curriculum	10,000		Romayne St. John: Transcriptions		10,000
			Maria Ellis: Committee facilitation		4,500
Technology			Department and School Expenses		
Phone system	150,000		Staff trips to Fla., Ky.	3,926	
96 phone lines		27,064	Staff trip to Fla.	5,078	
Forms		15,000	Board trip to Fla.	4,595	
Showcase phone lines		5,000	Staff trip to Ky.	2,758	
Showcase setup		25,000	Staff trip to Boston	1,771	
Cabling, software	5,000	11,000	Site capacity study		3,500
Contract labor	380,000	130,816	Public hearing expenses		9,980
Systems operations costs		450,000	Schools: Printing and communication		137,385
Equity & student success plan	128,700		Graphic Production printing		39,412
			Transportation Department supplies		8,261
Planning Office			Public Information operating expenses		104,470
Equipment, computers	31,159		Opening Schools committee seminar		7,155
Office expenses '99-'00		104,226	Magnet Department printing, maps		54,987
Office expenses 7-00 to 10-00		52,889			
Contracted Services			CMS Staff Time		
Sarah Crowder: procedures	4,600		Technology Department		240,341
UNCC: Focus groups	4,500		Planning Department		541,687
Plan design		194,907	Magnet Office, Grants Office		104,148
MapInfo Corp. software support		7,343	Bulding Services Department		3,879
Ike Heard Jr., services		79,312	Transportation Department		19,802
Ron Inlow, opening		55,800	Legal and Administrative staff		204,426
Phone lines to parent centers		34,563	Opening Schools Oversight Committee		61,319
Marketwise survey		13,122			
Advanced Geografx planning		33,938			
Chris Folk: Feedback plan	4,055				
			TOTALS	\$1,482,087	\$3,454,898
			GRAND TOTAL	\$4,936,985	

The new choice costs: The approved operations budget

Choice Application Development	\$50,250	New Showcase of Schools	149,500
Overtime to create forms	12,000	Communications to parents	226,550
Dry run mailing	1,500	Communication research	20,000
Mailing of forms	36,750	Information lines	40,000
Curriculum and Instruction	89,000	Purchasing: Temp help, overtime	25,000
New themes for schools	25,000	Planning: Contracted services	300,000
Themes for targeted schools	64,000	Technology	694,139
Distribution process	279,000	Phone system programming	20,000
Warehouse storage	50,000	Phone system added hwre.	65,000
Labor for distribution	54,000	Contract support	5,000
Moving student records	175,000	48 phone lines for 6 months	10,939
Family Resources Centers	146,386	Showcase phone, data lines	5,000
Staffing and training		Showcase setup	25,000
Printing Costs	70,000	Cabling	5,000
Human Resources	246,459	Hotline setup, software	5,000
Staff for new schools	200,000	Help desk overtime	5,000
Extended employment	46,459	Hardware, software	60,000
Magnet Program Relocations	1,061,745	Supplies	5,000
Relocating 9 programs	361,745	Forms	15,000
Replacing eqpt. at old sites	700,000	Internet application hardware	130,000
Public Information	441,550	Internet application labor	120,000
Promotional video	3,500	Web site development labor	193,200
Train principals	2,000	Postings to CMS site labor	25,000
		Emergency Printing	20,000
		TOTAL	\$3,423,529

The new choice costs: Major expenses not yet budgeted

At the school board's May 8 meeting, Supt. Eric Smith said he would delay creating a budget for the following items because the exact needs could not be estimated before the final choice plan is approved. He promised the board a plan by June. Some or all of these costs might be delayed until the next fiscal year that begins July 1, 2002.

Transportation	1,655,000	Driver recruitment, retention	5,000
12 to 15 buses	750,000	Mobile units	12,081,000
Administrative	35,000	Plan A: Basic	
Specialist, support staff	50,000	Move 151 units	1,661,000
Mechanics, operators	175,000	Site costs for 151	500,000
Fuel, oil, tire trucks	150,000	Plan B: Expand top 'choice' sites to max	
Computers	80,000	Buy 128 units	4,032,000
Shop equipment supplies	60,000	Set-up for 128	704,000
Staff for summer, 2002	350,000	Plan C: Differentiated staffing	
		107 units cut class size	3,370,500
		Set up 107	588,500
		If B and C:	
		Buy 25 restroom units	1,112,500
		Set up 25 restrooms	187,500
		New sewerage	75,000

Policies to codify push for equity

Continued from Page 1

for staff and others. One policy, reprinted below, for example, tells teachers that the superintendent will be under obligation to juggle staff assignments so that every school has a “reasonable balance” of new and experienced teachers.

School board members seem determined to avoid a problem so often seen nationally among school systems that have neighborhood school assignments: The schools in low-income neighborhoods invariably are dominated by inexperienced teachers, and instruction for children most needing it tends to lag.

Woods told the board that the policy reprinted at the top of page 8 is the overall statement on equity. It sets up a system of annual

Home / Search / Site Map / Inside CMS / K-12 Schools / Community / Resources

Inside
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS
Charlotte, North Carolina

COMMENTING ON CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS
PROPOSED POLICIES

It's simple to comment on a proposed policy. Put your comment in written form and send it to us in any of these ways:

- * E-mail: cmspolicy@cmsk12.nc.us
- * Mail: CMS Policy Administrator
701 East Second St.
P.O. Box 30095
Charlotte, NC 28220-0095
- * Fax: (704) 340-5739

All proposed policies will be available for public review and comment for ten working days.

reviews of key equity issues so the public will know what progress is being made.

The policy on instructional materials, also on page 8, codifies the board's efforts to give all teachers what they need to teach.

The policies will be the subject of a board hearing on June 12.

Suggestions and comments should be made in advance of that hearing, or in person at the hearing.

The annual reviews envisioned in these policies could well figure in court settlements on assignment and desegregation issues. They offer a way for public audit of school progress on equity.

Proposed policy on teacher transfers, pay incentives

Text of proposed revisions to existing board policy on teacher assignments and transfers. A hearing on the policy will be held June 12.

As set forth in Board of Education Policy ADA, “Equitable Educational Opportunities,” the Board of Education is committed to providing equal access to excellent educational opportunities for all its students in all its schools. That commitment will be met, in part, through job assignments of the instructional staff of the school system. In assigning the instructional staff to schools and programs, the Superintendent will develop and implement regulations and strategies designed to:

- Meet the goals of the Board of Education and the needs of the school system;
- Support the educational needs of all students in the school system, which are expected to require differentiated staffing in certain circumstances including,

but not limited to, schools that have student populations with high concentrations of: low-performing students; high turnover of students; Exceptional Children; children with limited English proficiency; and/or students in poverty;

- Ensure that all schools have a reasonable balance of teachers who are new and/or experienced and ensure that no school will have an over-concentration of new and/or inexperienced teachers;
- Ensure that all schools have a significant complement of teachers with advanced degrees and additional certifications;
- Create diverse instructional staffs at each school;
- Staff each “targeted” school with teachers and administrators reflecting the average degree level, additional training, certification level, number of years of experience, and classroom success on state and local assessments of the school system’s Schools of Excellence, Distinction and

Exemplary Growth for the preceding two years, as measured by the North Carolina ABCs program. (The targeted schools will be determined by the Superintendent and the Board of Education.);

- Staff all schools to meet the requirements of the educational program in each individual school;
- Provide differentiated pay and other incentives to individual members of the instructional staff to address critical needs of the school system;
- Be fair to individual instructional staff members; and
- Monitor and report to the Board of Education the assignment of instructional staff on an annual basis.

The Superintendent retains the right to transfer or reassign a member of the instructional staff at any time during his/her employment as will serve the best interests of the school system.

Overall policy on assuring equity in all schools in system

This is the text of a proposed overall policy on assuring equity in all schools. A hearing on the policy will be held June 12.

The Board of Education is committed to providing equal access to excellent educational opportunities for all its students in all its schools.

The provision of such opportunities for all students is expected to require providing additional resources and implementing innovative strategies to schools serving students with additional educational needs, particularly students at risk of academic failure. Such resources and strategies may

include, but are not limited to: differentiated staffing; smaller class size; increased instructional supplies and materials; expanded and renovated facilities; innovative family and community involvement initiatives; upgraded technology; comprehensive co-curricular activities; supplemental guidance and counseling; enhanced professional development; and preschool educational opportunities.

In determining whether all students are being provided with such opportunities, the Board of Education shall adopt baseline standards in the following areas: educational opportunities; student achievement; instructional materials and supplies; media equipment

and resources; technology; facilities; faculty; teacher/student ratio; and family and community involvement.

On an annual basis, aligned with the annual budget process, the Superintendent shall present to the Board of Education the following: recommendations related to the baseline standards in the areas listed above; assessment of whether all students are being provided equal access to excellent educational opportunities; strategies for ensuring that all students are provided such opportunities; determination of the amounts of funding and resources needed to provide such opportunities; and recommended allocation and reallocation of the funds and resources needed to provide those opportunities.

On an annual basis, aligned with the annual budget process, the Board of Education shall do the following: comprehensively review and revise the baseline standards in the areas listed above; assess whether all students are being provided equal access to excellent educational opportunities; direct the Superintendent to develop strategies for ensuring that those opportunities are being provided; determine the amounts of funding and resources needed to provide such opportunities; seek and direct the Superintendent to seek the funds and resources needed to provide such opportunities; and allocate, reallocate, and direct the Superintendent to allocate and reallocate, the funds and resources needed to provide those opportunities.

The Board and Superintendent may appoint a committee to help facilitate the annual analysis of the provision of equal access to excellent educational opportunities for all its students in all its schools. The Superintendent shall establish and implement regulations and strategies designed to accomplish the requirements of this policy.

Proposed school board policy on instructional materials, resources

Text of proposed board policy on equitable distribution of materials. A hearing on the policy will be held June 12.

As set forth in Board of Education Policy ADA, "Equitable Educational Opportunities," the Board of Education is committed to providing equal access to excellent educational opportunities for all its students in all its schools. That commitment will be met, in part, through equitable allocation of various material resources, including instructional materials and supplies, media equipment and resources, and technology. In allocating resources to schools and programs, the superintendent will develop and implement regulations and strategies designed to:

- Meet the goals of the Board of Education and the needs of the school system;
- Meet the baseline standards, as adopted by the Board of

Education, for those resources;

- Support the educational needs of all students in the school system, which are expected to require differentiated resource allocation in certain circumstances including, but not limited to, schools that have student populations with high concentrations of low-performing students; Exceptional Students; children with limited English proficiency; and/or students in poverty; and high turnover students;

- Supply all schools with the resources to meet the requirements of the educational program in each individual school;

- Update the standards and guidelines for the resources to ensure alignment with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study; and

- On an annual basis, monitor the allocation of resources and reallocate those resources as necessary to meet the above-referenced objectives.

Graduation Calendar

Tuesday, June 5

Metro School	Metro School Multipurpose Room	7:00 p.m.
--------------	--------------------------------	-----------

Wednesday, June 6

Midwood	Dana Auditorium, Queens College	7:00 p.m.
---------	---------------------------------	-----------

Northwest	Ovens Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
-----------	------------------	-----------

Thursday, June 7

West Charlotte	Charlotte Coliseum	8:30 a.m.
----------------	--------------------	-----------

South Meck	Charlotte Coliseum	11:30 a.m.
------------	--------------------	------------

Olympic	Charlotte Coliseum	2:30 p.m.
---------	--------------------	-----------

Harding	Charlotte Coliseum	5:30 p.m.
---------	--------------------	-----------

West Meck	Charlotte Coliseum	8:30 p.m.
-----------	--------------------	-----------

Butler	Cricket Arena	8:30 a.m.
--------	---------------	-----------

Providence	Cricket Arena	11:30 a.m.
------------	---------------	------------

Garinger	Cricket Arena	2:30 p.m.
----------	---------------	-----------

Vance	Cricket Arena	5:30 p.m.
-------	---------------	-----------

Friday, June 8, 2001

Independence	Cricket Arena	8:30 a.m.
--------------	---------------	-----------

Myers Park	Cricket Arena	11:30 a.m.
------------	---------------	------------

East Meck	Cricket Arena	2:30 p.m.
-----------	---------------	-----------

Charlotte, you learn so quickly!

Back in March, when school officials began explaining to schools staff the reading adoption program, one of the numbers bandied about was attributed to the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, and said that 46% of Charlotte adults were illiterate.

Big number. Big problem. But wait! Look how much we've learned in the last two months:

In the new CMS "Recommended 2001-2002 Budget" document, CMS officials now quote the Chamber of Commerce this way: "More than 20% of Mecklenburg County's adult population is illiterate.... Poor reading levels can stifle the economic progress of our county."

Congratulations, Charlotte: At this rate of learning, we'll all be reading by Independence Day!

Inner change

Mecklenburg Ministries offers to facilitate sessions at churches or other community groups exploring "issues of race, power and prejudice." Weeknight programs run three hours once a week for four weeks. Weekend workshops begin Friday evening and continue Saturday. For more information, contact Shantel Ingram, program director, at 704-347-2404 or shantel.ingram@meckmin.org

Educate! a newsletter of The Swann Fellowship

1510 E. 7th St. Charlotte NC 28204
704-342-4330 SwannFello@aol.com Locally produced content © The Swann Fellowship. Lucy Bush, president; B.B. DeLaine, vice president. Published since September 2000. 6-week avg. circ. through last issue: 2,248.

To unsubscribe, send us a "Remove" message. If you'd like to see it regularly, message us with "Subscribe."

The name: The Swann Fellowship was named for Darius and Vera Swann, who on behalf of their son James became the lead plaintiffs in Swann vs. Mecklenburg in the 1960s. Darius Swann was the first African American Presbyterian missionary ever assigned outside of Africa. His experiences in India led him to appreciate the value of an integrated society for human development.

The vision: As people of faith, our vision is that all children in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System will have excellent educational

opportunities which are both equitable and integrated.

The background: Formed in 1997 out of several Charlotte religious congregations, the Fellowship focuses on being a witness to the value of diversity, and educating the public on public school issues as they relate to this and allied subjects. The Swann Fellowship is a non-profit organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code 56-2106776. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the state.