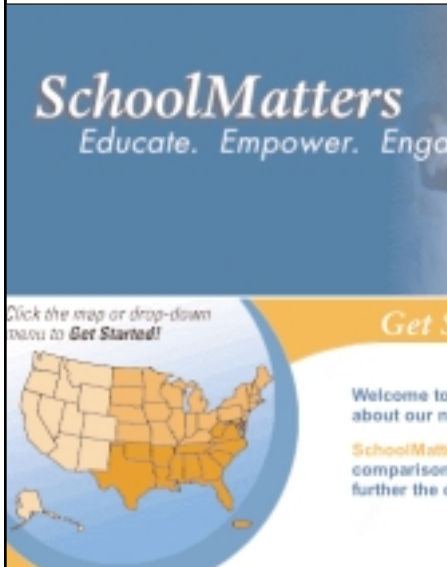


Data for all



Two foundations put \$45 million into www.schoolmatters.com to give both educators and the general public access to data on how U.S. school districts perform. More, Page 4.

One key part of Pughsley's legacy still taking shape

One of retiring Supt. Jim Pughsley's most tangible legacies is a fast-growing list of principals he has put in place.

And since the list includes not only seasoned principals transferred to a new school, but also those taking on a top job on campus for the first time, the nature of the legacy won't be easily assessed until long after the superintendent leaves.

The list of schools receiving new top leadership just since Jan. 1 already includes nearly a third of CMS's high schools. Pughsley said Tuesday night that contract talks with two more principal appli-

Continued on Page 5

Exchange Day

Teen leaders swap campuses for the day, say reputations don't do schools justice

CMS student leaders last month stalked the rumors of bad things going on at area high schools and came away with some rather different impressions.

"Students were discouraged with the negative media attention focused on their high schools," Butler's Ashley Church told the school board Tuesday night. "The superintendent encouraged us to be part of the solution, so we decided to provide students a 'see-for-yourself' opportunity and let the change begin with us."



Church

The resulting exchange days, sponsored by the CMS Association of Student Councils, were held March 23-24 and paired Harding and Hopewell; Vance and Garinger, Northwest Arts and North Meck; East Meck and Butler; Independence and West Meck; Waddell and South Meck; Myers Park and West Charlotte; and Providence and Berry Tech.

Some of the students reported Tuesday on their experiences.

About the exchange trip to Harding University High, "we were a little hesitant at first, due to the school image we assumed was true," said Hopewell's Molly Lusk.

"But when we arrived, the assumptions were proven wrong.

"Security guards greeted us when we walked on the campus. When we arrived at the office, the secretaries and students there were very accepting and kind. Immediately we felt welcomed.

"Harding is very definitely a very diverse school and it was amazing to see all the different people interact and get along with one another.

"While there are so many racial differences among the school's population, they still meshed and bonded to make Harding exactly what they should be proud of.

"I'm no diversity expert," Lusk said, "but the Hopewell executive council agreed that they see each other as equals over there, and nobody seems the minority.

"The Red Cross blood drive was there the day we went, and my friend [and Harding student]



Lusk

Continued on Page 3

West Charlotte into IB

The International Baccalaureate Organization has approved West Charlotte High for diploma status in the rigorous academic program, Supt. Jim Pughsley said Tuesday.

West Charlotte this fall will join East Meck, Harding, Myers Park and North Meck with the competitive program. The program at Independence High phases out this June. The only Mecklenburg private high school with the program is Charlotte Country Day School.

The Make It Happen Campaign

Q: Who donates so I can receive *Educate!*?

(A) Somebody's fairy godmother.

(B) Readers like me who value it.

(C) Nobody, so it may shut down soon.

Prevent (C) by being part of Answer (B)!

To make a tax-deductible donation, send a check to The Swann Fellowship, 1510 E. 7th St., Charlotte, NC 28204. Or sign on to www.networkforgood.org, and use the keyword Swann Fellowship to make a secure donation.

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**Donations To Date:
\$1,050**

Letters

Review past results

Now that Dr. Pughsley has resigned is an excellent time for the school board to look at the policies of superintendents past, examining them for success or failure.

Every superintendent has promised wonderful results if his plans are followed. And in large part they have been. Some, if not most, of the programs remain in place. Yet the end-of-the-year results remain unsatisfactory.

How can CMS continually ask for more money, giving huge bonuses to superintendents who leave, yet fail to explain and address the lack of results from expenditure of millions of taxpayer dollars from previous years?

So long as we continue to believe in the blue sky of a new "leader" and avoid examination and addressing the failures of previous administrations, our school board will continue to tell us what we want to hear, while

accomplishing little.

Lewis Guignard

Are athletics top priority?

Thank you greatly for *Educate!*. I have lived in Charlotte six years, am now retired, but was formerly involved in many efforts in reform and support of public schools and introducing innovations, etc.

Your reporting has kept me involved here – but at times unbelievably discouraged as I see the repetitions of past mistakes and the slow movement forward.

As I visit and look at public schools here, I am rather astonished at the land area schools use, and the extraordinary emphasis on sports facilities. Is it possible the school system does not keep its focus on learning and teaching? Are priorities right?

And for Dr. Pughsley I would like to extend thanks and understanding. What a position we place a superintendent in, asking him to grapple with the culture overload of today.

Mary Sherburne

Educate! is a journal on public education focused on Charlotte-Mecklenburg and N.C. We aim to supply information useful to you in your role as student, parent or citizen.

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People: Lucy Bush Carter, vice president; Steve Johnston, executive director and *Educate!* editor. Assisting with this edition: Stephanie Southworth.

Exchange Day

Continued from Page 1

Angel [Dawkins], whom I followed, gave blood and passed out an hour later.

"We ended up in the nurse's office and, while we were there, three different administrators came in, called her by her name, and asked if she was OK. The principal personally knew her and came in just to make sure she was feeling better.

"The administrators there trust their students and build relationships with them and make an environment that is fun but still structured.

"Whatever they're doing over there at Harding is working...."



Chancellor

Harding's Warren Chancellor reported on Harding students' exchange visit to Hopewell.

"The first thing we noticed when we went to Hopewell was that things

were not as portrayed through the media.

"Security was nice, which created a sense of healthy environment and created a feeling of safety for us.

"We formed a bond of friendship with other members of Hopewell...."

The group thanked Pughsley for his support of ASC projects.

"We thank you for always being willing to listen," said Butler's Brooke Decker. "We appreciate



Decker

that you offered guidance and perspective and encouraged us to find our way instead of telling us how to get there. You charged us to be the change agent, to better our schools and our community and we were better individuals for it."



Pughsley

"Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools education at work, people," said

board chair Joe White. "Take a look at them."

Teacher fairs at the neighboring campuses of Vance High and Martin Middle last weekend drew more than 2,000 teacher candidates, 610 contracts were signed on the spot, "and we continue to sign individuals from that experience," Supt. Jim Pughsley reported Tuesday.

"Our challenge at this point in time is to be able to hold them through this period between now and when school actually starts, but we're off to a tremendous start," Pughsley said.

Pay-for-performance: It's more than scores

The Southeast Center for Teaching Quality in its bimonthly "Teaching Quality in the Southeast: Best Practices & Policies," reviewing results of a poll conducted by Hart-Harris for the Teaching Commission:

"The majority of the public also believes that teachers should be compensated based on some measure of performance. But while a full 67% of the public believes that teachers should be paid extra for 'gains in student achievement as measured by test results and other indicators,' only 35% of Americans believe that the 'standardized tests students currently take in (their) state accurately measure student achievement.'

"The public clearly believes that it is important to pay teachers more and differently, but not solely on the basis of standardized test scores.

"The statistical methods being developed to measure student achievement gains have many important applications, especially related to teachers' professional development.

"However, the public seems to realize what some of our nation's best researchers have noted, that standardized achievement tests and value-added methods currently used to judge teachers do not alone tell the entire story of teacher effectiveness."

— www.teachingquality.org

Uniforms don't raise achievement, but also...

University of Missouri's David Brunsmma in Teacher Magazine:

[The uniform issue is] fairly problematic because it's diverting our attention from much more fundamental aspects of public education. I mean, we have a funding problem. We've moved away from civic engagement in this country. We're so concerned with our own kids' success, but what about other people's kids? The disadvantage of one child in my kid's kindergarten class affects my kid, too.

"These are social issues, not educational issues per se, but they've become educational issues as we have, for the last hundred-plus years, expected the school to solve all of our social ills.

"What we really need to do is look outside. If you want to level the playing field in school, you have to level the playing field outside of school."

— www.edweek.org/tm/articles/2005/05/01/06interview.h16.html

Web site offers public a wide range of school data

A new Web site offers educators and parents a common core of information useful in making inquiries about how similar districts spend money. And as more comparable academic data piles up, it will become easier to compare achievement results as well.

The Broad Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have reportedly invested \$45 million in the start-up www.SchoolMatters.com.

Want to look at CMS and Wake and vaunted Fairfax County, Va.? It takes some doing, but the data is now available, say, on:

– Percent of households making less than \$30,000 a year.

	CMS	Wake	Fairfax
– Percent of households making less than \$30,000 a year.	24.1	21.5	10.2

– Percent black enrollment.

	CMS	Wake	Fairfax
– Percent black enrollment.	44.5	27.6	10.7

– Capital construction spending, per student.

	CMS	Wake	Fairfax
– Capital construction spending, per student.	1,654	1,297	955

– Core spending annually, adjusted for geographic and other variables.

	CMS	Wake	Fairfax
– Core spending annually, adjusted for geographic and other variables.	4,617	4,475	5,455

The Web site opened to some national media attention earlier this month. The site is operated by Standard & Poor's and includes a variety of financial ratios.

The chief source of academic data is state-based achievement testing, which is not comparable across state lines. Not all states and districts are as yet reporting scores on NAEP, the National Assessment of Student Progress.

Former N.C. Gov. Jim Hunt, a Standard & Poor's adviser, says in a note on the Web site that "I find real value in the information provided on SchoolMatters.

"However, what I find most useful and unique about the Web site are Standard & Poor's ... customized ratios and robust analytics. In particular, I find S&P's Reading & Math Proficiency indicator (RaMP) extremely useful.

"For me, RaMP is a starting

point – no more, no less – that helps inform states, districts, and schools about their progress toward reaching the federal No Child Left Behind Act requirement of having all students proficient in these subjects by 2014....

"Using RaMP, or one of S&P's other indicators like the Return on Spending Index (RoSI) or the Performance Cost Index (PCI), helps users understand the complexities surrounding public edu-

cation. However, these ratios should not be used alone to draw conclusions about education performance. These ratios should always be considered with other academic, financial, and demographic indicators....

"SchoolMatters is one resource available to the public, and I invite you to explore the Web site and use this information to educate, empower, and engage in a dialogue...."

One Standard & Poor's measure for N.C. districts

Available at the SchoolMatters.com Web site is a Standard & Poor's Return on Spending Index for N.C. districts. The numbers below have been adjusted by S&P to account for geographic differences in the purchasing power of the dollar, and for the higher costs of educating students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and/or limited English proficiency. As adjusted, S&P says the index is "a measure of the average number of Reading and Math Proficiency (RaMP) points that a school district... achieves per \$1,000 spent per student on core operations" and is a "useful tool in the context of the proliferation of equity and adequacy issues being debated across the country." Districts differ in size and other ways, making comparisons even across one state difficult. S&P says it "does not intend for these ratios, alone, to be used to draw conclusions about school systems' performance. With hundreds of facts and figures used to evaluate school systems, S&P offers these ratios as a place to begin asking diagnostic questions." Districts below in **bold face** surround CMS. Those in *italics* are the state's largest urban districts.

Randolph	21.9	Lee	19.2	Lenoir	18.1	Scotland	16.6
Onslow	21.5	Macon	19.2	Whiteville City	18.1	Bladen	16.4
Davidson	21.4	Mooreville City	19.2	Clinton City	18.0	Caswell	16.4
Burke	21.0	Moore	19.1	Greene	18.0	Clay	16.2
Pender	21.0	Robeson	19.1	Brunswick	17.9	Edgecombe	16.2
Union	20.9	Transylvania	19.1	Kannapolis City	17.9	Halifax	16.2
Harnett	20.7	Wilson	19.1	Newt.-Con. Cty	17.9	Martin	16.2
Cabarrus	20.4	Cherokee	19.0	Currituck	17.8	Anson	16.1
Catawba	20.4	Pitt	19.0	Richmond	17.8	Warren	16.1
Sampson	20.4	Wayne	19.0	Mitchell	17.7	Alleghany	16.0
Alexander	20.3	Cleveland	18.9	<i>New Hanover</i>	<i>17.7</i>	Edenton/C'wan.	15.9
Henderson	20.2	<i>Cumberland</i>	<i>18.9</i>	Rutherford	17.7	Pamlico	15.9
Lincoln	20.2	Duplin	18.9	Vance	17.7	Perquimans	15.7
Craven	20.0	Kings Mtn.	18.9	Madison	17.6	<i>Durham</i>	<i>15.6</i>
Davie	19.9	Person	18.9	Pasquotank	17.5	Lexington City	15.6
Caldwell	19.8	Rowan-Salisb.	18.9	Yancey	17.5	Montgomery	15.5
Iredell-States.	19.8	Hickory City	18.7	Avery	17.4	Jones	15.4
Alamance-Burl.	19.7	Dare	18.6	CMS	17.4	Northampton	15.3
Gaston	19.7	Ashe	18.5	Shelby City	17.4	Gates	15.2
Polk	19.7	Franklin	18.5	Carteret	17.3	Elkin City	15.1
<i>Wake</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>Guilford</i>	<i>18.4</i>	Columbus	17.3	Hertford	15.0
Granville	19.5	Nash-Rky. Mt.	18.4	Jackson	17.3	Bertie	14.9
Johnston	19.5	Rockingham	18.4	Orange	17.3	Chapel Hill-Carr.	14.4
Stanly	19.5	Beaufort	18.3	Swain	17.3	Washington	13.9
Yadkin	19.5	Haywood	18.3	Mount Airy City	17.2	Tyrrell	12.6
Surry	19.4	McDowell	18.3	R'noke R. City	17.0	Asheville City	12.3
Wilkes	19.4	Watauga	18.3	Camden	16.9	Weldon City	11.2
Stokes	19.3	<i>Asheboro City</i>	<i>18.2</i>	Chatham	16.9	Hyde	9.6
Buncombe	19.2	Hoke	18.1	Forsyth	16.9		

Pughsley's legacy

Continued from Page 1

cants, located by a search firm, were still continuing.

Tuesday night, while applauding Pughsley for not only promoting from within but bringing qualified applicants in from districts nationwide, District 3 board member George Dunlap said he was concerned.

"Concerned that in the last two meetings we have seen as many as 20-plus administrators named. And my guess is that, based on previous history of this board, between now and June, there will be a number that exceeds the number that we've already seen announced."

If Dunlap's prediction is accurate, a third of all CMS schools could have new principals this fall as an interim superintendent or management team leads the district.

About the interimcy, board chairperson Joe White told the press that the board had begun its discussions, but had nothing yet to report.

The list of schools and principals named since Jan. 1:

School	Name	Date Named
PRE-K		
Plaza Road	Valerie Todd	3-22
ELEMENTARIES		
Allenbrook	Lawanda Williams	3-22
Bain	Barbara Steadman	2-22
Billingsville	Byron Campbell	1-11
Hornets Nest	Arthur Christian	4-26

DidYaHear?

✓ North Carolina's legislators seem to be slashing every budget in sight, but Georgia's legislators went home this month after increasing spending on elementary and secondary education by 8.5%. The Southern Regional Education Board, headquartered in Atlanta, reported that money to equalize school district spending (Georgia has its own version of the Leandro suit) saw a boost of 9% to \$371.7 million.

✓ As we look for ways to encourage high achievement expectations for all children, imagine a district that had banished the stigma of being on "free lunch." One stellar way to get there would be to erase poverty. But, alternatively, what if the community kicked in more to run the child nutrition program, and EVERY child had access to a free lunch? Next year, only \$7.3 million or 16% of CMS's \$46.2 million child nutrition budget is slated to come from student meal sales anyway. Children and their families could be encouraged to donate as they were able, covering some of the \$7.3 million and giving young children an early, daily lesson in giving back. No telling how No Child Left Behind would report its beloved FRL statistics, but who would care?

✓ Charlotte Advocates for Education last weekend had a commencement for its first class in its Parent Leadership Network. The event follows six days of training that the 18 parents will put to use at their 12 CMS schools. Details: www.theparentleadershipnetwork.org

– Send intelligence to swannfello@aol.com

School	Name	Date Named	School	Name	Date Named
Lebanon Rd.	Guyla Vardell	4-26	Southwest	Valerie Williams	2-22
Pawtucket	Chad Thomas	4-26	McClintock	Michele Miller	2-22
Reedy Creek	John Stover	2-22	Quail Hollow	Mark Bosco	4-26
Shamrk. Gar.	Duane Wilson	3-22	J.T. Williams	Angela Bozeman	4-26
Sharon	Steve Hall	3-22	HIGH SCHOOLS		
Statesv. Rd.	Ronnie Scott	4-26	Ardrey Kell	Michael Mathews	4-26
Winterfield	Jacqueline Blackwell	2-22	Indep.	Nancy Bartles	1-25
MIDDLE SCHOOLS			North Meck	Joey Burch	4-26
Alexander	Joanna Smith	4-26	Providence	Teresa Cockerham	4-26
Bradley	Alecisa Johnson	1-11	West Char.	John Modest	4-26
Alex. G'ham	Kandace Williams	2-22			

The Make It Happen Campaign

Q: Who donates so I can receive *Educate!*?

See Page 2.

Briefly...

Accessible debate: Northport, Fla., high school students are among the first to use video teleconferencing to debate, the Miami Herald reported. Although the National Forensics League, which regulates most high school debate teams, still requires face-to-face competition, educators say widespread use of video conferencing will allow students in poor schools to compete. Traditionally, debate has been reserved for high-income schools and families who have the resources to travel from state to state for debates. A new league, the urban debate league, is trying to focus debate at urban schools and video teleconferencing will help. Instead of spending thousands of dollars in travel, they only have to spend \$30 per hour teleconferencing.

www.miamiherald.com

Clearer type: Natascha Frensch from the Netherlands has developed a font intended to help children with dyslexia, the Guardian reported. The "Read Regular" typeface takes away all the extra parts of letters to make each one appear more clear. The new font's "b" and "d" are also not mirror images of one other. Although its effectiveness has not been proved, the director of the Dyslexia Institute says the font "looks promising."

www.Guardian.co.uk

Wake kickbacks: Wake County Schools' losses in a bus parts inventory fraud and kickback scheme that came to light last summer may be at least \$2 million, the News & Observer reported. Restitution from school employees who resigned is underway, and a Wilson-based company has reportedly returned \$1.34 million to the district. Indictments in the case are expected this summer. The dis-



Top three success stories

At last week's Uptown Democratic Club, school board chairperson Joe White was asked to list the district's top three success stories. The old coach never claims he was good at math. His response:

– **Managed instruction.** The change under former Supt. Eric Smith wasn't popular with teachers and some parents, but the district led a national revolution to ensure that all teachers in a given course teach students the same material, and that the material covers the requirements of the N.C. Standard Course of Study.

– **Bright Beginnings.** Done properly, the program for 4-year-olds should head off dropouts in ninth grade, White argues.

– **Raising expectations.** White credits retiring Supt. Jim Pughsley with not only installing Advanced Placement diplomas throughout the district, but holding all children regardless of background to high standards.

– **Transition 9.** The remedial program for eighth-graders who enter high school below grade level puts students in afternoon and Saturday classes "until they earn their way into the ninth grade."

trict says it has tightened inventory controls. Lack of inventory records made it hard to detect that some parts ordered and paid for were never delivered, or represented personal purchases by district staffers. Five schools employees have resigned and two company employees have been fired in the case, the N&O said.

www.newsobserver.com

Global village: Some Florida schools are adding classes in Chinese, the Miami Herald reported. Enrollment in such classes nationwide is nearly 24,000, far from the 5 million in high school Spanish classes. Mandarin Chinese is spoken by 1.1 billion people, about three times the number whose first language is English.

www.miami.com

New-SAT blues: The new SAT is causing confusion for students and parents, the Washington Post reported. The new test is 45 minutes longer than the old test and includes additional components. The confusion, however, is in the scoring. The new perfect score is 2,400, not the old 1,600. It will be at least a year before enough students have taken the new writing test to create comparisons such as

percentile rank.

www.washingtonpost.com

Outsourced grading: A large British examination board is planning to scan and e-mail student exams to India for grading, the London Telegraph reported. Delays in returning the papers reportedly marred a pilot program. Graders in India make 20% of the British labor rate.

www.telegraph.co.uk

Calendar

APRIL

28 Betsy Leondar-Wright, author of "Class Matters: Cross-Class Alliance Building for Middle-Class Activists," 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 234 N. Sharon Amity Rd., free. Sponsor: Mecklenburg Ministries.

28 "Building Common Ground: Claiming Your Child's Right to a Sound Basic Education," 6:45 p.m., Durham Main Library. Sponsors: N.C. Community Advocates for Revitalizing Education; N.C. Child Advocacy Institute; N.C. Justice Center.

MAY

3 School board work session on magnet programs, 5 p.m., Board Room.