

## **CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO CITY SCHOOLS**

Lincoln Center, Merritt Mill Road  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516  
Telephone: (919) 967-8211

**Neil G. Pedersen**  
Superintendent

**Nettie Collins-Hart**, Assistant Superintendent  
for Instructional Services

**Raymond J. Reitz**  
Chief Technology Officer

**Steve Scroggs**, Assistant Superintendent  
for Support Services

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Neil G. Pedersen  
Superintendent

RE: Resolution on Proposed Options to Merger

DATE: October 9, 2003

The following resolution was written based upon the memorandum of October 9, 2003 from the Superintendent to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education and the ensuing discussion at the November 6, 2003 meeting of the Board of Education.

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS there is a need to provide more equitable funding of educational resources across the two school districts in Orange County, while recognizing that there may be educational and operational differences that dictate different levels of funding;

WHEREAS it is desirable for the Orange County Schools and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, two of the highest performing and best financed school districts in the state, to retain their identity and continue to match educational programs to the educational vision of their constituents;

WHEREAS it is desirable to retain two school districts that can be more responsive to all of their constituents than creating a larger district; a district that very well could be dominated by the citizens in the current Chapel Hill-Carrboro district where approximately two-thirds of the voters live;

WHEREAS it is desirable to avoid the potential of a major redistricting that likely would result in longer bus rides for many students to distant communities, increased parent apprehension and decreased parental involvement in schools, and longer bus rides that would consume more energy and contribute to the air quality challenges faced by Orange County;

WHEREAS it is desirable to retain the authority for educational decision-making in the hands of school boards that the public elected to serve in this capacity;

WHEREAS both school districts have major educational challenges that cannot be placed on hold while a merged district is being designed;

WHEREAS a merger debate that could divide residents throughout the county could be avoided and replaced with a model based upon good will and trust that two districts can collaborate effectively and, thereby, best serve the students of this county.

WHEREAS two central offices could be retained that are conveniently located to the communities that they serve and the staffs that they support.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the CHCCS Board of Education go on record of supporting a local system for funding education that would be comprised of a countywide ad valorem tax and district taxes in both school districts;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHCCS Board of Education reiterate its commitment to a study of collaboration opportunities and commit to implementing recommendations that clearly demonstrate that they will provide cost savings (so long as no negative impact on services occurs) or improve the quality of services;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education formally go on record of supporting the establishment of middle college and/or more extensive dual enrollment programs with local community colleges and in collaboration with the Orange County Schools if they so desire;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education charge the CHCCS administration to work collaboratively with the OCS administration in the development of a plan that would allow any of our high school students who wish to attend an OCS high school to participate in a program of study not available in our district;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reciprocal arrangement be developed that would go into effect upon the opening of our third high school, anticipated to be in 2006-07, or could be instituted sooner on a one-to-one trade-off of students (so as not to increase high school enrollment due to collaboration); and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education invite the Orange County Board of Education to hold a joint meeting facilitated by a third party to decide how to proceed with collaboration efforts and who should financially support this process.

Adopted by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Board of Education on November 20, 2003