

For Immediate Release: Sept. 7, 2010

Guiding principles applied in preliminary list of schools *Board of Education asks staff to continue to develop framework for improving schools*

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Sept. 7, 2010 – The guiding principles developed by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education during the summer got their first application Sept. 7 in a work session, as CMS staff presented a list of 32 schools where change may be needed.

Using the Board's guiding principles, CMS staff developed an index that uses four factors to compare schools: academic proficiency, academic growth, per-pupil cost and condition of the school. Because the Board has made academic growth a top priority, the index weights it more heavily than other factors.

Mike Raible, executive director of planning and project management, gave a presentation explaining how the index was created and how it was used in generating the list. Dr. Christopher Cobitz, executive director of state and federal programs for the CMS Office of Accountability, provided in-depth statistical explanations of the index.

In choosing the list of schools where change is needed, the staff also looked at site-specific factors at schools. CMS staff emphasized that the list was the starting point for Board discussions about changes at schools, and that the list is very likely to change as that conversation continues.

"This is not going to be an easy process," Dr. Gorman told employees in an email after the meeting. "Whenever lists are made, anxieties rise. That's understandable. But I hope that our employees and our parents and the community at large will see this list for what it is: a starting point for Board discussions that will resume on Thursday and last well into the fall about our schools and how we can work together to improve academic achievement and most wisely use the resources that we have."

The Sept. 7 work session continued a series of Board meetings and forums on best ways to improve Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and use resources wisely. The public forums began in June and continued through the summer.

-more-

The Case for Continuous Improvement: A Comprehensive Review of CMS is the title of the Board review intended to refine the guiding principles used to set policy in such areas as transportation, student assignment, magnet lottery and other district operations.

Staff will offer further recommendations to the Board Sept. 14. Public comment on the recommendations will begin after Sept. 28.

To see the slide presentation from the Sept. 7 work session click [here](#). To see the full list of CMS schools and their ranking using the index, click [here](#).

###

For more Information, please contact:

Kathleen Johansen
980-343-0472 Phone
704-506-1731 Cell
980-343-3647 Fax

Tahira Stalberte
980-343-1081 Phone
704-614-3635 Cell
980-343-3647 Fax