

School system gets strict with new student dress code

Starting next month students won't be able to sport many popular styles

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A systemwide dress code adopted this fall by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education will go into effect in January 2003.

The new policy was approved after consultations with teachers, principals, parents and students, according to Superintendent Dr. Don Martin. "We believe it is important that students wear clothes that are compatible with an effective learning environment," he said. "We have urged teachers and principals to use appropriate discretion and common sense in implementing this policy. We will make reasonable accommodations on the basis of students' religious beliefs or medical conditions."

He noted that individual schools may maintain additional written guidelines to help students and parents determine appropriate dress for school.

Some examples of prohibited dress or appearance include, but are not limited to, the following:

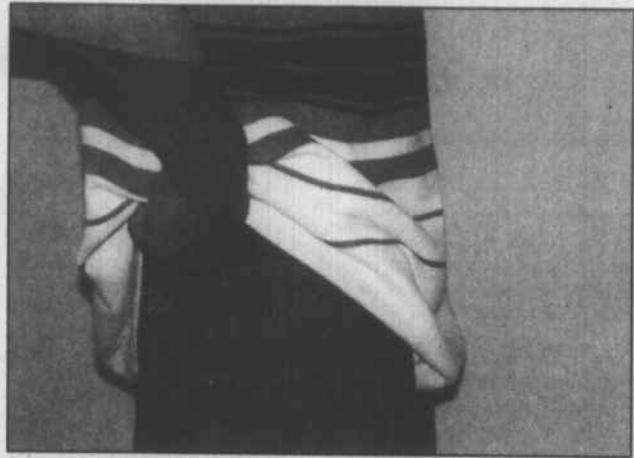
- Clothing that contains advertisements for tobacco, alcohol or drugs; pictures or graphics of nudity; words that are profane, lewd, vulgar, or

indecent.

- Halter or bare-midriff tops, or bare midriffs.
- Spaghetti straps or tank tops.
- Strapless shirts or tube tops.
- Bare feet.
- Short shorts or skirts.
- Pants, slacks or jeans that sag below the waist.
- Hats, caps, or bandanas (unless the headwear is based on

a sincerely held religious belief or practice).

- Underwear showing or worn as outerwear.
- Provocative, revealing attire that exposes cleavage.
- Any symbols, styles or attire frequently associated with gangs, intimidation, violence or violent groups about which students at a particular school have been notified.



File Photo

The school system's new dress code will prohibit students from sagging their pants below their waists. Students also will not be allowed to show any part of their underwear or to wear their underwear as outer-wear.

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Lowery

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to maintain the well-sculpted physique showcased in the Joe Boxer ads.

"Vaughn is so much more than a goofy pretty-boy," said Pugh, an anchor at Detroit television station WJBK. "He's a smart guy, an excellent writer and very business-minded. I'm very proud of him."

After earning a bachelor's degree from Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Lowery moved to New York City to enter an executive training program.

But the call of the camera would wait no longer.

Like all good discovery stories - which Lowery says are "always cheesy" - he begins with a mutual friend, a hastily constructed portfolio and a "just give me one chance" attitude.

Lowery since has traveled the country and the world, adding to a resumé that includes appearances in Glamour, FHM and GQ magazines as well as ad campaigns and runway shows for companies such as Skechers Shoes and Nordstrom.

And of course, Joe Boxer.

The audition in Los Angeles, where Lowery moved more than two years ago, didn't call for a striptease - but it didn't rule one out either.

"They played the music and I went crazy, dancing like my little cousins and I do in the living room," said Lowery, adding that he didn't necessarily plan his next move. "Then I stripped down to my Joe Boxers and kept on dancing."

Patrick O'Neill, a creative director with TBWA/Chiat/Day, which produces the commercials, said it's common for people to stray from a script to get attention.

"But this wasn't common; this was quite inspired," said O'Neill, who was at Lowery's uninhibited audition. "He didn't just audition to get the job; he created a combination of things we didn't foresee."

"It was what we call a 'happy accident,'" he said.

Lowery said before he knew it, he was in a studio doing 25 takes of the dance.

"At first it was like, 'Oh my God, what did I just do?'" Lowery recalled. "But then all the Joe Boxer people, Kmart people, production people, they were all standing, whistling and clapping."

Lowery said his Joe Boxer success has sparked interest in Hollywood, and though he can't talk specifics just yet, he hopes to soon fulfill his longtime goal of acting in a major motion picture or television series.

But for now, he'll revel in the popularity of the Boxer Boogie, which he says has mass appeal for a very simple reason.

"You know, everybody has that underwear dance in front of the mirror before going out with their friends. I just do mine in front of the camera."

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