The Charlotte Post

School advocates combine

Continued from page 1A

agreement than disagreement because there is no question in my mind they are dedicated to the education of our children."

Said Gantt: "There was only one right person for this job. Along with Dr. Woodward's credentials in the education field, he is a civic leader and a bridge builder with a passion for education."

CMS Superintendent Peter Gorman said the merged group's singular voice on issues will help communication between the state's largest school district and its constituents. However, he cautions that ultimate change in CMS will come from the school board.

"I expect the board to be my supervisor," Gorman said. "I will work with them and continue to partner on those issues, but at the same point in time, there's another group of folks out there ready to provide some thoughts and insights. I'm looking forward to working with them."

The board will be made up of 18-25 individuals picked by a nominating committee of "four or five" members from each of the four member entities. Ten will come from the partner organizations, with the rest selected from civic and corporate organizations.

"I'm excited they want a broad-based and diverse group of members," Gorman said. "That excites me."

The task force oversaw a study on management and governance for CMS that was released in December. The panel detailed 21 recommendations, including formation of the civic commission, which will be funded by local and national grants.

Gorman said the commission has the potential to be an independent asset for public education. No one expects total agreements, but that isn't necessary for success.

"I like having a critical friend," he said. "I like someone who's telling me the truth and not giving me filtered water."

Turn-around on desegregation

By Lorinda M. Bullock
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — Briefs filed last week by the Bush administration to halt voluntary school integration programs have civil rights and progressive legal groups fearful the gains made by the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision will be reversed.

"Brown vs. Board was one of the most significant land mark decisions of the 20th Century in 1954. Now 52 years later in 2006, that battle is still being fought in the schools," said John Brittain, chief counsel and senior deputy director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, D.C.

The administration has sided with white parents in districts in Seattle and Louisville, who claim integration guidelines actually discriminate against White students and violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

U.S. Solicitor General Paul D. Clement urged the justices in the briefs to rule "That the use of racial classification to achieve a desired racial balance in public schools" is as unconstitutional as racial segregation.

Along with the lawyers for the Jefferson County and Seattle school districts, Ted Shaw, Director-Counsel and President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Brittain will file briefs that argue voluntary integration does not violate the Constitution in October.

"What we're talking about here in these two cases is the question of whether voluntary integration measures are going to be legal and constitutional. This is all that's left of public school desegregation efforts. For the most part, mandatory desegregation no longer is in play. All that's left is voluntary desegregation measures," Shaw said.

The Supreme Court should hear the arguments in December and are expected to rule by next spring, Brittain said.

In the Louisville case Meredith vs. Jefferson County, Crystal Meredith, a white parent said her son was prohibited from attending the elementary school nearest to his home because of the district's integration guidelines developed in 2001. The district's guidelines said that Black enrollment in each elementary school should be at least 15 percent and no more than 50 percent.

In the case of Parents Involved in Community Schools vs. Seattle Schools, a group of parents brought legal action against the district, saying their children were not accepted in to their first choice high school because of their race. Seattle schools adopted their integration guidelines in 1998 to prevent segregation that was caused by the self segregation in housing patterns in the area.

Help for autism families

Continued from page 1A

children," she said.

That's why Boujlil started the alliance as an advocate for autistic kids. On Sept. 17, WAFC will sponsor a carnival at 5865 Albemarle Road. Proceeds will go to the alliance's family center, which provides programs for children and support for families.

Getting help for an autistic child often means navigating a maze of agencies and rules, Boujlil said. It's more difficult for parents who lack the financial resources or command of English.

"It took me a little time to get help for him," she said.

For immigrants to the U.S., disabilities are rarely discussed. The center, Boujlil said, helps families cope with autism by offering support and referring families to evaluations and therapy. The center also offers classes in English and other languages as well as after-school care and crafts.

"For some of the families, it's hard for them to hear the big word," she said. "For some cultures, it's taboo."

Boujlil, a native of Morocco who also speaks Spanish, Italian, French and Arabic, believes developing a supportive, nurturing environment is as important to families as their children.

"We don't care about their status or income," Boujlil said. "We just want to offer help regardless of their race or origin."

For information on the alliance or the carnival, call (704) 523-3237; 523-3238 or 618-1489.

KEZIAH's FURNITURE
BIG SALE
Large Pillow - Top Queen Mattress Set $299
Sofas, Bedroom Suit and Dinettes All on SALE
12 Months No Interest
8004 Blair Rd. (Highway 51) Mint Hill
704.573.6150
2914 Gibbon Rd. (Off I-77 & I-85)Charlotte, N.C
704.596.7427

Genesis Eye Center – Personal and Quality care
• Cataract evaluation and treatment •
• Glaucoma evaluation and treatment •
• Laser vision correction •
• Diabetic eye examinations •
At Genesis Eye Center, we don't just care for eyes, we care for people.
Board certified eye specialists
Board certified glaucoma specialist
Most insurance plans accepted, including Medicare and Medicaid
Call today for your appointment at our state of the art facility.
• Convenient Charlotte location •
Genesis EYE CENTER
704.295.0001
817 E. Morehead St., #200
Charlotte, NC 28202
WWW.GENESISEYECENTER.COM

Stay in touch when you're back at school
Call friends & family for free
my circle℠
Exclusively from Alltel
choose who you call for free — any number, any network, anywhere in America
Text & IM at warp speed with these cool new phones!
• Fastap Keypad
• Camera with flash
• Preloaded with free game demos, ringtones and wallpaper
$59.99 after $40 mail-in rebate with 2-year service agreement
LG AX490
fastap keypad exclusively from Alltel Wireless
STROBE
$49.99 after $40 mail-in rebate with 2-year service agreement
• IM-ready
• Full keyboard
• Camera with flash
Kyocera Strobe
come and get your love℠
alltel wireless
For exclusive online deals shopalltel.com 1-800-alltel-1
Alltel Retail Stores These Retail Stores Now Open Sunday.
North Carolina
Albemarle: 725-16 Hwy 24/27 E (704) 983-2515
Charlotte: 1828 Galleria Blvd (704) 532-4866; 4704-C South Blvd (704) 716-3835; Grand Promenade 230 E Harris Blvd (704) 716-3388
Rea Village: 11524 Providence Rd (704) 845-2144
Huntingdon Market: 3419 Huntingdon Way, Ste 109 (704) 295-1000
Gastonia: 3044 E. Franklin Blvd (704) 861-3000
Kannapolis: 2228 Route 51 (704) 793-4860
Lexington: 1428 E. Main St (704) 748-9229
Mooresville: 167 Gateway Blvd (704) 292-7474
Mooresville: 350-H W Plaza Dr (704) 662-9444
Pineville: 9105 Pineville Matthews Rd (704) 543-8503
10500 Centurion Pkwy (Inside Kohl's) (704) 542-9248
Statesville: 1820 E. Broad St (704) 871-8191
Waxhaw: 1009 E. Caswell (704) 694-7050
Rockingham: 1789 E. Broad Ave (910) 997-7089
Salisbury: 910 E. Innes St (704) 638-0040
Shelby: 1105 E. Dixon Blvd (704) 480-3400
Shop at a Participating WAL-MART
Premier Agents Equipment & promotional offers at these locations may vary
Albemarle (704) 983-8988
Charlotte (704) 567-9770
Gastonia (704) 868-8501
Kannapolis (704) 932-4567
Salisbury (704) 633-4405 (704) 637-8035
Shelby (704) 480-8303
York (803) 628-8388
Authorized Agents Equipment & promotional offers at these locations may vary
North Carolina
Biscoe: 33 Wireless (910) 428-2218
Concord: Future Cellular (704) 788 9838
One Stop Cellular (704) 782-7936
1 Touch Mobile (704) 979-8767
Monroe: Talkabout Wireless (803) 699-4067
Pineville: 1 Touch Mobile (704) 541-9760
Talkabout Wireless (803) 699-4067
Proud Sponsor of:
For Business & Government Accounts call 1-877-BIZ-CNTR or visit alltelbusiness.com
Federal, state & local taxes apply. In addition, Alltel charges a monthly connectivity, regulatory & administrative surcharge up to $1.70. Federal & state Universal Service Fund fees (both vary by customer usage) & a 911 fee of up to $1.50 (where 911 service is available). These additional fees may not be taxes or government-required charges & are subject to change. My Circle: Available to new and existing customers on current Latest rate plans $59.99/mo & higher. My Circle applies to ten numbers per account, which must be shared among all lines on account. Not available on prepaid plans. Customer may not designate own wireless or voice mail number. Directory Assistance of 500 minutes as one of the ten available numbers. Calls must begin & end in your plan's calling area. Designated numbers must be within the U.S. Program may be discontinued at the discretion of Alltel. Phone Promotions: Phones available at sale prices to new customers & eligible existing customers. Qualifying Alltel rate plan required. Contact Alltel to determine if you are eligible. Phone Details: Phones & applicable rebates available for a limited time, while supplies last. With activation of a qualifying rate plan. Limit 1 rebate per qualifying purchase. Phone cannot be returned once mail-in rebate certificate has been submitted. Customer pays applicable taxes. Sale rebate certificate for details. Access Instant Messaging: Text Messaging service required. The charges for Text Messaging service will vary depending on your plan. Every outgoing message sent and received will count against your Text Messaging plan. Visit alltel.com/access for complete Access details. Additional Information: Limited-time offer at participating locations. While supplies last. Qualifying Alltel rate plan, credit approval & approved handset required. $35 non-refundable activation fee applies per line. $200 early termination fee may apply per line. Offers are subject to the Alltel Terms & Conditions for Communications Services available at any Alltel store or alltel.com. All product & service marks referenced are the property of their respective owners. Screen images are simulated. ©2006 Alltel Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.