

**Rotary**  
Club of  
Charlotte



# REPORTER

May 1, 2018

## **DR. CLAYTON WILCOX** Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



Dr. Clayton Wilcox delivered a strong message to those who would allow Matthews and other areas to create tax-supported charter schools, in effect separating them from the public school system.

Addressing that sentiment without mentioning Matthews, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools superintendent Wilcox was succinct: "I think what's about to take place, if cooler heads don't prevail, is a tragedy in terms of public policy."

Speaking to Charlotte Rotary, Wilcox was responding to a request from member Ed Driggs, a Charlotte city councilman, to address pupil assignment.

On busing students, Wilcox said, "We do not bus for desegregate purposes. For people who want to drag you back to that discussion, shame on them. We believe that every school ought to be a great school."

Addressing charter schools, Wilcox said he believes in competition. "If we're not worthy of your children's attention, find another option. We have to be the schools of choice."

Introducing Wilcox, Rotary member and CMS associate superintendent Valerie Truesdale said he is "working to break the link between poverty and achievement for our children."

Helping Charlotte achieve its aspirations is top of mind for him and his team, Wilcox said. A priority is identifying "change to make a difference for the community and for our kids."

Wilcox took the top job at CMS on July 1, 2017. He left Washington County, MD, where he had been superintendent for six years. The Iowa native has been in education since 1979.

Wilcox began and ended his presentation with a slide listing what CMS students need: Safe schools, great educators, strong support, positive learning spaces – and they need us.

Numbers and statistics dominated his remarks. They were clearly aimed at supporting the system's proposed budget for the 2018-19 school year.

CMS is the country's 18<sup>th</sup> largest school district with 148,000 students and 19,000 employees. Those employees include 9,000 teachers or teacher-related positions. There are contractors, cafeteria workers, teacher's aides, administrative team members and mechanics, plus 105,000 volunteers.

The system is 60 percent funded by the state and 30 percent by Mecklenburg County. Ten percent is federal.

Per pupil spending has increased \$416 a year since 2009.

For the coming year, Wilcox said, CMS will ask the county for almost \$40 million. Of that, \$4.4 million is for hiring 33 more elementary school counselors, 17 additional social workers, more school psychologists and five additional police officers, including one specialist in responding to an active shooter. Another \$6.9 million is for a teacher supplement worth \$42 more a month for a 10-year educator. Other highlights include funds for 20 additional English language teachers and 57 more custodians.

He realizes the county commission won't approve the whole request, Wilcox said. But he added he hopes the ask will receive fair and open consideration.

"We're a \$1.6 billion business," he said. "We're asking for a 5.5 percent increase. We're not asking for anything we don't need."

*Speaker Write-Up:* Elly Clary; *Head Table:* Wil Bosbyshell, Katie Tyler, Valerie Truesdale, Gene Bratek; *Invocation:* Mac McCarley; *Visitors & Guests:* Greg Reagan; *Photos:* Bert Voswinkel

## CLUB NEWS



This is Kuba, the club's 2018-2019 exchange student that arrives from Poland in August. Kuba will attend Myers Park High School, enjoys outdoor activities and is looking forward to exploring Charlotte.

**An immediate need is to identify a family that can host Kuba from August – November.** If you are in the Myers Park district or know of a neighbor that may be interested in hosting (this time frame or any other time frame), please contact **Bill Loftin**, [bill@loftinco.com](mailto:bill@loftinco.com). Everyone should be thinking of an activity or something that could be done to support Kuba during his time in the USA.

Welcome new members! **Phil Van Hoy** introduced **Linwood Bolles**, an experienced Rotarian and former member of Charlotte South Rotary Club. Linwood is a broker with Allen Tate Real Estate and can be reached at [linwood.bolles@allentate.com](mailto:linwood.bolles@allentate.com). Linwood grew up in Charlotte, is married to Jeanne and they have five children. He's quite active in the community, has a BA from the University of North Carolina and was a graduate from Virginia Episcopal School. Welcome Linwood!

**Phil Volponi** introduced **Frank Mueller**, who was a member of Rotary in Houston, Texas and Eschborn, Germany, where he served as club president. Frank was born in Frankfurt and is fluent in German, English, and Latin. And has good/basic knowledge of Italian, Latin and French. He is president of ICC-International Ceramic Construction LLC and can be reached at [frank.mueller@icc-tileconstruction.com](mailto:frank.mueller@icc-tileconstruction.com). Frank is married to Maria-Jose and they have three children. Welcome Frank!

**Tom Cottingham** has retired after almost 43 years of law practice. Update Tom's email to [ttcottingham3@gmail.com](mailto:ttcottingham3@gmail.com).

The club's Facebook page is Rotary Club of Charlotte....consider a "like" and while you're there, check out the Harding University High School Interact club's video for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico.

**Terri DeBoo** forwarded information on a seminar/breakfast at Brookdale South Charlotte on May 9, 9am. Danica Little will present on the topic “Be Savvy and Don’t Get Conned.” [www.brookdale.com](http://www.brookdale.com)

The platelet challenge has wrapped up and thanks to **John zumBrunnen** for his diligence to ensure the goal of 100 platelet donations to honor his friend, Kim Popky was met. The effort included 20 participants and 100 donations in 300 hours! John committed a donation of \$10,000 once the goal was achieved. The top three donors - **John & Lee Tabor** (19 donations, 47 units), **Carolyn Carlburg** (13 donations, 20 units) and **Jerry Coughter** (26 donations, 57 units) were given an opportunity to name a club project to receive a donation....\$1500 Environmental committee, \$1500 The Rotary Foundation Permanent Fund, and \$2500 The Rotary Foundation Polio Eradication. The remaining \$4500 will be designated to The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund. John expressed his sincere appreciation to all that participated.



**Kim McMillan** and the Literacy committee are making a request for members to help promote summer reading. For just 40-minutes of your time on a date and location of your choice, you can change a life.

## ROTARY 101

Let’s talk about attendance. Rotary International has relaxed attendance requirements, but that doesn’t mean attendance is not important. Regular attendance is essential to a strong and active Rotary club. If you are not attending, you are not getting the full benefit of Rotary, you are not meeting new people, you are not taking advantage of listening to good speakers, and you are missing the point of why you joined in the first place. An empty table may happen from time to time, but lately there are sometimes two or three empty tables. Our speakers are seeing the empty tables as well.

Anyway – your Rotary membership gives you an opportunity to attend any Rotary meeting in the world! The 18 club locations in Charlotte and North Mecklenburg are shown in your club roster. If you need more extensive information to find a meeting, go to [rotary.org](http://rotary.org), club finder and do a search. You do not need to make a reservation to attend another Rotary meeting. Rotary offers several ways to “make up” missed meetings: attend a regular meeting of a Rotaract or Interact club, attend the RI convention or a District conference, participate in a club service project or a club-sponsored community event, attend a board meeting or a meeting of a service committee, or utilize the virtual “E-Club” where you are given the opportunity to read Rotary stories. Remember to report your “make up” to the Rotary office for attendance credit.

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE:** Rotary Districts 7680 and 7750 are teaming up to host a joint conference May 18-20, 2018 in Charleston. The conference will be held at the Charleston Convention Center with hotel accommodations at Embassy Suites by Hilton. Scheduled to speak: Immediate Past RI President John Germ and RI Director-Elect David Stovall will talk about how Rotary is making a difference throughout the world. SC Attorney General Alan Wilson will speak about human trafficking. And, business consultant Peter Chatel will talk about leadership. 202 Rotarians have already signed up to attend. Conference registration is \$150; hotel is \$170 per night and sign up is available on the database (DACdb.com). This conference is open to everyone.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

07/01/2017 309

05/01/2018 290

Net Increase: -19

New Members: Frank Mueller, Linwood Bolles

Resignations: Mark Duncan

Visitors 20

Club Members 135

Total 155 (54.7%)

Visitors & Guests: Derek Root, Jessica Smith, Zaman Rashid, Cynthia Conine, Barbara Caldwell, Beth Monaghan, Brian Lucas, Ross Davis, Joe Padilla, Braxton Winston, Kim Walker, Sheila Shirley, Jeffery Neurauter, Cheryt Turner, Bob McCarter, Sonja Gantt, Earnest Winston, Charles Prince

## **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (05/10/18 – 05/16/18)**

05/12 Gene Williams

05/14 Mac McCarley, Bob Culbertson, Neal Triompo

05/15 Al Allison

## **UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (05/10/18 – 05/16/18)**

05/10 Nicole & Alex Browning

05/11 Ronda & Irwin Carmichael, Randi & George Edmiston

05/15 Maria-Jose & Frank Mueller

05/16 Scarlett & Jay Westmoreland

## **ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (05/10/18 – 05/16/18)**

01 year – Victor Chen

06 years – Kathy Boone

17 years – Biff Virkler

19 years – John Tabor

22 years – Bob Webb

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

05/08 Tai Jaiyeoba, City of Charlotte Planning Director

05/15 Sean Garrett, Executive Director, United Way Central Carolin

05/22 Sherry Chisenhall, Editor, Charlotte Observer

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on [Flickr](#) [Click here](#)

**BERT VOSWINKEL** has taken pictures for this Rotary club for 30 years. He uses his personal camera and last week, the camera just stopped working. We are

working on a replacement and hope to be back in the photo business next week.

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[charlotterotary.org](http://charlotterotary.org) 704.375.6816  
1850 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street | Suite 220 | Charlotte, NC 28204 USA  
Rotary Club of Charlotte