



Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

February 26, 2013

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680
www.charlotterotary.org

A BETTER TOMORROW

By: Suzanne Bledsoe

We were honored to have Dr. Heath Morrison, Superintendent of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), speak to us today. In his introduction, Eric Davis, former chair of the CMS school board, described Dr. Morrison as the right leader for the right time in the right place to deliver and implement a new promise: To provide a personalized environment of academic excellence that prepares “Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.”



Dr. Morrison, a Fairfax County, Virginia native earned his undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary and his Doctorate from the University of Maryland. He is a self-described Social Studies teacher, has been an outstanding principal and is proving to be a superb choice as Superintendent for our school system. Among his many accolades he was most recently named 2012 National Superintendent of the Year by AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

Quoting Charles Dickens, “It is the best of times, it is the worst of times,” Dr. Morrison claims that this is an apt description of where we stand in the US with respect to public education. While high school dropout rates are at an all-time low, and standardized achievement tests are reflecting strong increases in the US, particularly relative to other countries participating, the opportunities for creativity in using educational resources are vast, particularly with respect to technology.

With that thought in mind, he shared with us a quick snapshot of his first 100 days as head of CMS: 160 school visits, 13 town hall meetings, and untold numbers of individual and small group meetings with community leaders, all infused with a simple objective to listen and learn. The outcome of this process, working with his the Board and management team, resulted in a strategic plan with eight well defined and measurable goals. Acknowledging that change is hard, Dr. Morrison pointed out that educational systems must conform to changes globally as well as emerging demographics. A high school degree is no longer a promise of a better tomorrow; 77% of jobs require some sort of post graduate education. Additionally, students need workforce development skills that will enable them to successfully develop in the areas of critical thinking, collaboration and entrepreneurship.

Technology is rapidly changing the way we teach and the way we learn—textbooks are practically extinct and online classrooms are becoming increasingly popular.

Briefly, the eight goal strategic plan provides:

1. Accelerate academic achievement for every child so that every child graduates college or career ready
2. Hire effective teachers, effective principals and quality support staff.
3. Cultivate partnerships with parents, caregivers and the community to provide sustainable support systems for every child.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

MARCH 2013

5th **Keith Larson**
Radio Host, 1110 WBT-AM

12th **Cecil Newton**
Cam Newton Foundation

19th **Wayne Cooper**
Honorary Consul
Carlos Florez
Consul General for
Mexico to US

26th **Harry Jones**
Mecklenburg County Manager

12:30 Tuesday

Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42974089870/>

4. Nurture a culture of engagement, customer service and cultural competency
5. Maximize performance
6. Strengthen and expand educational choices to drive learning, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship
7. Increase technology access and integration
8. Communicate proactively to strengthen public trust and establish CMS as premier K-12 district.

Achievement of these goals will set the path for “The Way Forward” and deliver the new CMS Brand Promise: To provide a personalized environment of academic excellence that prepares Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.

Head Table: Natalie English, Bob Freeman, Marilyn Bowler, Eric Davis, Karen Price; Invocation: Pender McElroy; AV: Nikki Keith
 Visitors & Guests: Tom O'Brien; Song: Chris Kemper; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

CLUB NEWS

→ The club welcomes new member **Bruce Walker**. Bruce is sponsored by **Byron Bullard** and was introduced by **Pender McElroy**. Bruce is director, community investment for the Charlotte Bobcats Sports Entertainment and can be reached at bwalker@bobcats.com.

→ **Jay Westmoreland** introduced JA’s executive director, Sarah Cherne, and presented the club’s check for \$2000 to support JA and Biz Town. March 6 is Rotary Day at JA...if you are interested in volunteering ½ day at Biz Town, you are encouraged to sign up on the website (charlotterotary.org; click on our projects then JA).

→ **Dan Rajkowski** provided an update on Knights Stadium, which is currently under construction in Third Ward. The Knights have one more year to play ball at the Ft. Mill facility, then on to Uptown in April, 2014.

→ Scott and **Katie Tyler** have been hosting exchange student Juan Carlos for the last couple months. A criterion of the youth exchange program is for the student to be under the care of a host family in three month increments. Scott and Katie’s time with Juan Carlos will be up in a couple weeks and a new family needs to make itself know pretty quickly. If this appeals to you, please get in touch with **Matt Joyner, Katie Tyler** or any member of the club’s exchange committee.

CLUB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

→ Help is needed to **deliver dictionaries**: March 13 at 2:00 (Collingswood Language Academy); March 15 at 1:30 (End Haven Elementary); March 20 at 1:30 (Crown Point Elementary). Contact the Rotary office.

→ **Group Study Exchange (GSE)** for 2012-2013 is with District 4740 in Santa Catarina, Brazil. The team from Brazil will be in the USA April 24-May 21. **Charlotte Rotary Club will be hosting** the five member team from **May 13-16**. Several things are needed to pull this off: A Committee Chair; five families willing to host a member for three nights; and more than likely we will have to provide some sort of activity (dinner, sporting event, etc.) to occupy their evenings. They will not be presenting their program to our club but will be attending our meeting. Plans will come into view as we get closer. Bottom line for now is the need for a chair and five host families. Contact the Rotary Office.

UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

→ 2013 District Conference, May 3-5 will be held at the Grandover Conference and Golf Resort, Greensboro, NC. Registration is available through the District Database (or call Sandy).

→ Installation dinner for District Governor-Elect Luther Moore to be held at SMS Catering on Friday, June 14th – details to follow.

Attendance	<u>02/26/2013</u>	<u>02/26/2012</u>	Membership	New Members: Frank Watson, Todd Arnold, Laura Thomas, Bruce Walker
Visitors & Guests	24	18	07/01/2012 316	
Club Members	158	165	02/26/2013 315	
Total Attendance	182	183	Net Increase -1	Resignations: Lori Gougeon
Percentage	55.5%			
Birthdays March 5-11		Anniversaries March 5-11		
05 Bobby Lancaster	05 Ken Samuelson	07 Carol and David Jordan	11 Bonnie and Wes Jones	
06 Edwin Peacock	06 Luke Maybry			
08 Harley Dickson	09 Greg Jones			
10 Luther Fincher	11 Jack Smylie			