

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – September 24, 2012

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools. Board members in attendance included Arlene Yates, Walter Leigh, Susan Cox, Ralph Hollowell, Steven Magaro and Wallace Nelson.

Board Chair Arlene Yates called the meeting to order. Susan Cox led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Ralph Hollowell opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Special Recognitions

Dr. Stallings recognized Brianne Jennings Woodley as the 2012 Exceptional Teacher of Excellence for Perquimans County Schools. Mrs. Woodley has been an educator at Hertford Grammar School since 2007. She serves as a Reading Foundation trainer and has served in leadership roles such as EC Department Chair and IEP Chair. Mrs. Woodley's passion for student learning, her teaching style and technique for empowering students and her belief that those special needs children can and do succeed earned her the nomination for this award. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Stallings presented Mrs. Woodley with a personalized hoodie for earning this special award.

April Benton was recognized as the nominee from the eastern region of the state for the North Carolina School Library Media Association Media Coordinator of the Year Award. The state winner will be announced at the state conference in Winston-Salem on October 5th. Mrs. Benton is the media coordinator at Hertford Grammar School and is National Board Certified in the area of library/media. On a regular basis, she collaborates with teachers, technology facilitators and instructional specialists to make sure both the teachers and students are aware of the ever-changing resources available. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Stallings presented Mrs. Benton with a personalized hoodie for earning this special recognition.

Hertford Grammar School Principal Linda White offered a few words of congratulations to these ladies who are both staff members at her school.

Best wishes were also extended to Lisa Byrum, Instructional Facilitator at Hertford Grammar School, who has resigned to accept an assistant principal position in Camden County.

Board Chairperson Arlene Yates thanked Mrs. Fields and her staff for the excellent job they did last Thursday following the bus accident that occurred in front of Perquimans Central School. Mrs. Fields thanked those who assisted with the crisis including Perquimans Central School staff, EMS workers, law enforcement, Albemarle Hospital staff and Central Office staff.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2012 regular meeting as presented.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Walter Leigh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented, including the addition of an individual for public comment and the deletion of the closed session.

Consent Agenda

In regard to the Personnel Summary Report, Ralph Hollowell asked about the number of applicants for the GEAR UP positions. Assistant Superintendent Mr. James Bunch noted that there were 30 applicants for the positions and those that met the minimum requirements were scheduled for interviews. Approximately 24-25 people were actually interviewed. The members of the interview committee included PCHS Principal Chante Lassiter, PCMS Principal Andrea Greene, Eastern Regional Director for GEAR UP Donnell Graham, and Assistant Superintendent James

Bunch. Mr. Magaro asked about the board profile that listed a name instead of the position at the top of the page. The profile should have read, "Position – School Psychologist." Mrs. Yates asked about the number of applicants for the vacancies. Mrs. Mead stated that a good number of applicants applied for the vacancies. Mr. Hollowell asked if any of the appointments on the report were in-house. Dr. Stallings noted that four of the appointments were in-house. Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for September 24, 2012 as presented.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

Mr. Jack Bradley addressed the Board about the length of bus rides. Mr. Bradley stated that he lived on Winslow Road which is located near the end of New Hope. He stated that if his 1st grader rode the bus in the morning and afternoon, he would be on the bus for a total of four hours. Mr. Bradley stated the length of the bus ride is unacceptable, so he takes his child to school in the morning, which is about a 25 minute drive, and his child rides the bus home in the afternoon. Mr. Bradley suggested using feeder buses or perhaps having the buses serve one school instead of two. He asked the Board to look into the situation to reduce the time young children have to ride the bus. Mr. Magaro concurred with Mr. Bradley, noting that he lives in the area and has two students that ride the bus. One gets on the bus at 6:08 a.m. and the other at 6:20 a.m. and they arrive home about the same time as Mr. Bradley's child. Mr. Hollowell suggested that Dr. Stallings look into the situation.

Old Business

PCHS Principal Chante Lassiter presented the revised procedures for early graduation from Perquimans County High School. She noted that the first sentence in the second bullet and the first part of the sentence in the third bullet had been deleted. The procedures were also revised to state that parents could appeal early graduation decisions to the Superintendent. Mr. Nelson thanked the administration for revisiting the process. On a side note, congratulations were extended to Miss Lassiter on her wedding on Sunday.

New Business

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented an update on the Driver's Education Program at Perquimans County High School. Mr. Bunch noted that when he addressed the Board last year about the decrease in state funding for the program, he informed the Board there was no intention of implementing a fee for the class. This year, the 2012-2013 allotment is just under \$30,000. This amount is based upon the ADM of projected 9th graders which is 149 students. There are currently 147 9th grade students registered. With this in mind, Mr. Bunch stated that if a student fails a Driver's Education course, there will be a fee of \$30 to take the course again. This is the same amount the school has to pay for a student to take the course. There is some flexibility as in the case of a student getting sick and not being able to complete the course. Mr. Magaro asked if a particular group of students might be affected by this change. Mr. Bunch said no, other than students involved in extracurricular activities, noting that five Driver's Education sessions are offered per year.

In regard to a board representative on the STEM Committee, Dr. Stallings stated that the person should have experience and/or expertise in the STEM areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The STEM initiative is a collaborative effort with Edenton-Chowan Schools and College of The Albemarle. Mr. Nelson mentioned that he would be interested in serving on this committee. Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to elect Wallace Nelson to serve on the STEM Community Advisory Committee for 2012-2013.

In regard to the budget amendments for consideration, Finance Officer Candy Tilley noted that most of the amendments were for carryover funds from last year. She noted two new grants being added, the Monsanto Grant and the NC Science Scholars Grant. Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve State Public School Fund – Budget Amendment #1; Local Current Expense Fund – Budget Amendment #1; Federal Grants – Budget Amendment #1; Capital Outlay Fund – Budget Amendment #1; and Other Specific Revenue Fund – Budget Amendment #1 as presented.

In regard to the voting delegates for the NCSBA Conference, Ms. Cox noted that usually the chair, vice chair and one other person are nominated to serve. Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to elect Arlene Yates, Walter Leigh and Susan Cox as voting delegates for the NCSBA Annual Conference, November 12-14, 2012 in Greensboro.

Dr. Stallings noted that a salary study was conducted by Stan Morgan in 2008; however, the district was not able to implement it to the downturn in the economy. Dr. Stallings would like for Mr. Morgan to update the figures in the salary schedule so that the Board could discuss it at the upcoming board retreat. Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve a proposal with Stan Morgan in the amount of \$1,200.00 to update salary schedules for the Perquimans County School System as presented.

Superintendent's Report

In regard to the recent bus accident, Dr. Stallings stated he joined the Board in applauding the efforts of the Perquimans Central School staff, Mrs. Fields' leadership and all organizations that assisted at the scene. He also applauded Albemarle Hospital for having staff ready to assist the students and bus driver who were seen at their facility. Although they would not have helped with the bus accident, Dr. Stallings added that the bus security cameras would be installed in the near future.

Dr. Stallings stated that the School Improvement Plans would be presented to the Board in October for a first reading. He noted that although the plans are no longer required by the state, they are still an expectation of the school district as are the Safe School Plans.

Board Chair's Comments

The Board Chair reminded board members of the NCSBA awards available for nomination for the November 2012 conference. Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Walter Leigh, the Board voted unanimously to nominate Wallace Nelson for the Raleigh Dingman Award. Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to nominate the Perquimans County Commissioners for the County Commissioners of the Year Award.

Mrs. Yates read a thank you note from Teresa Beardsley for being recognized as Hertford Grammar School's Teacher of the Year and for the gift and award she was presented from the Board.

Ralph Hollowell thanked Dr. Stallings, Brenda Dail and Andrea Greene for their efforts in communicating and meeting with parents to address their concerns regarding AIG at Perquimans County Middle School.

Announcements

- Board of Education Tour of Schools
Perquimans Central School and Hertford Grammar School – Monday, October 1, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.
Perquimans High and Perquimans Middle – Monday, February 11, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.
- Annual Board Retreat, Thursday and Friday, October 18-19, 2012, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, Winfall
- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, October 22, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., Board of Education Building
- North Carolina School Boards Association Annual Conference, November 12-14, 2012, Sheraton Koury Convention Center, Greensboro

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Arlene Yates, Board Chairperson

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent