

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – July 22, 2013

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 22, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members in attendance included Arlene Yates, Walter Leigh, Susan Cox, Steven Magaro and Wallace Nelson. Ralph Hollowell was absent.

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

In accordance with Board Policy 2120, at the annual organizational meeting of the board, all board members signed a code of ethics statement that included the provisions in the policy.

Board Chair Arlene Yates relinquished the gavel to Superintendent Dwayne Stallings to conduct the election of the Board Chair. Since Board Member Wallace Nelson had not yet arrived at the meeting, Steven Magaro offered a motion to table the elections until Mr. Nelson arrived. The motion was seconded by Susan Cox. After the motion was offered, Mr. Nelson arrived. Mr. Magaro made a motion to rescind the motion to table the elections. Susan Cox seconded the motion. The elections proceeded.

Dr. Stallings opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Arlene Yates nominated Walter Leigh for Board Chair. There being no further nominations, Susan Cox offered a motion to close the nominations. Steven Magaro seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to elect Walter Leigh for Board Chair.

The gavel was passed to Board Chair Walter Leigh who conducted the elections for Vice Chair. Wallace Nelson nominated Susan Cox for Vice Chair. There being no further nominations, Susan Cox was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

Dr. Stallings noted that he appreciated the opportunity to work with Mrs. Yates and Rev. Leigh and that he is looking forward to working with Rev. Leigh and Ms. Cox as Chair and Vice Chair.

Special Recognitions

None

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2013 regular session, the June 24, 2013 special session, and the July 11, 2013 special session as presented.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Student Transfer Requests Report for July 22, 2013 as presented.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for July 22, 2013 as presented.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Old Business

After coming to a consensus about the dates for the annual board retreat, the Board took action on the proposed board meeting calendar for 2013-2014. Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the board meeting calendar for 2013-2014 as presented, including the dates discussed for the board retreat. The Board also discussed scheduling a date in October or November to meet with the County Commissioners. The annual school walk-throughs will be scheduled at the next meeting.

New Business

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch stated that the \$98,000 Governor's Crime Commission Grant that was awarded over two years ended this fiscal year. For next fiscal year, Perquimans County Schools has been awarded \$29,668.12 for one year. This funding will be used to continue the after school program in grades 6-12 and to hire a Teen Court Coordinator. Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Governor's Crime Commission Grant as presented.

Mr. Bunch also presented information about the 2013-2014 IDEA Part B Plan. The projected allotment for the 611 Grant is \$362,973.00 which will be used to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities ages 3 through 21. The projected allotment for the 619 Preschool Grant is \$18,252.00 which will be used to provide special education programs for children with disabilities ages 3 through 5. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2013-2014 IDEA Part B Plan (611 Grant and 619 Preschool Grant) as presented.

Mr. Bunch shared information about the proposal for adding Cross Country to the fall athletic schedule at Perquimans County High School. Cross Country is a sport that competes from August to November each year. At the present time, athletes will use the current track uniforms and will practice under the coach's supervision in the parking lot and on the campus at Perquimans County High School. Financial concerns include a supplement for the coach and transportation-related costs. Practice will begin on August 1st and a schedule will be prepared for the year to include a limited number of away events. In the future, PCHS hopes to establish a course and begin hosting events. Mr. Bunch applauded Principal Chanté Jordan for recognizing and acting upon the requests of her students.

Mrs. Brenda Dail, Director of Title I, Elementary Curriculum, Pre-K, AIG K-12 and Teacher Development K-12, presented information on the Title I Focus Plan. She indicated that the items in the Focus Plan are items found in the Title I Plan. These items will be focused on specifically, along with the other items in the Title I Plan. The Plan included the following: Focus #1 – Activities for at-risk students; Focus #2 – Increase the academic performance for underperforming subgroups; Focus #3 – Improve literacy skills among all students in Title I schools; and Focus #4 – Family and community engagement.

Human Resources and CTE Director Sandy Meads announced that a Fire Fighter Safety Course has been added to the CTE Program at Perquimans County High School. The district will obtain turnout gear from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools at no cost and cooperating fire departments will be asked to bring fire trucks to the school as needed to supplement instruction. An instructor will be secured for the class, as well as the necessary textbooks. Currently, there are only seven such programs in the state. Board members urged the administration to seek the involvement of all six fire departments in Perquimans County. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Since the bus fleet for the two elementary schools will be split beginning in August, Dr. Stallings thought it would be a good time for the Board to discuss the procedure for releasing elementary students from school buses in the afternoon. The current procedure is that the bus driver will not release a Perquimans Central School or Hertford Grammar School student without seeing a parent or an adult at the drop off to receive the student. In the past, there have been a few parents who have challenged this procedure. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to continue with the current procedure that bus drivers should not release students without seeing a parent or an adult at the drop off to receive the student.

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution to request funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation Public Access Fund for widening the bus loop at Perquimans Central School. Fund balance plus the \$10,000.00 from the NCDOT Public Access Fund will be used to pay for this project.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to award the bid for remodeling the front entrances at Perquimans County High School, Perquimans County Middle School and Perquimans Central School to Eure & Sons Construction in the amount of \$70,880.00. It is expected that the contractor will submit a letter regarding a material delay of six to eight weeks for the materials needed for Perquimans County Middle School. Funding from lottery proceeds will be used to fund this project.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to approve an application to request funds in the amount of \$85,000.00 from the Public School Building Capital Fund, North Carolina Education Lottery, for the front entrance redesign at Perquimans County High School, Perquimans County Middle School and Perquimans Central School as presented. The application, signed by the Board of Education Chair, will be forwarded to the County Commissioners for action at their next regular meeting.

Mr. Jonathan Nixon, Director of Maintenance, Construction & Custodial Services, and District Safety Coordinator, presented drawings from LS3P for the redesign of the front entrance at Hertford Grammar School. The Board had asked that the design be revised to include a canopy extending to the student drop-off area. The estimated cost for the canopy is \$120,000 - \$125,000, in addition to the \$175,000 estimate for the redesign of the front entrance. The Board discussed bidding each section on the canopy as an alternate or phasing in the project over the next few years. Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to proceed with the canopy design, putting in the bid request each section of the canopy as an alternate, with Dr. Stallings and Mr. Nixon deciding on the number of alternates after talking with contractors about the best options for the number of alternates.

Mr. Nixon also presented the utilities report for fiscal year 2012-2013, noting that it was a fairly stable year for utilities. Mr. Nixon noted that he does anticipate some increases in rates. The sales tax on services and utilities is expected to increase from 3% to 6 - 7%.

Mr. Nixon provided an update on the progress of the performance contract. A successful pre-proposal meeting was held on July 2, 2013 with five ESCOs (Energy Service Companies) in attendance. Currently three ESCOs are reviewing our joint project, which include: ABM Building Services, LLC, Ameresco, and Trane Comfort Solutions, Inc. Mr. Nixon provided a list of the eleven Perquimans County and Perquimans County Schools buildings included in the facilities to be analyzed. He also highlighted the anticipated project schedule which included a proposed date of April 2014 for the contract to be presented and signed at the County Commissioners' Meeting.

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to elect Board Chair Walter Leigh to serve on the Perquimans County Schools Foundation Board for 2013-2014.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings provided the following legislative update related to public education:

- Authorization of a private school voucher for students of certain income levels beginning in 2014-15.
- A 5-year phaseout of teacher tenure by 2018 and conversion to contracts. Principal contracts do not change under this plan.
- Addition of a student growth component to the new A-F school performance grades and a delay in the roll out of those grades until August 2014.
- Elimination of the \$376 million LEA Discretionary Reduction by replacing it with line item cuts to teachers, instructional support and teacher assistants.

- Increased flexibility for schools to move funds around to head off some of these mandated personnel cuts to take cuts in other line items at the district's discretion.
- No pay increase for state or school personnel, but 5 bonus leave days are provided to all.

In an update on the second School Resource Officer (SRO), Dr. Stallings noted that the County is looking favorably at paying the additional two months for the SRO; however, the Commissioners have not yet voted on this item.

Dr. Stallings provided an update on his meeting with staff from Albemarle Resource Conversation & Development (RC&D), Rodney Johnson and Mark Powell, regarding options for the property for the proposed athletic complex. Some of the discussion included making the detention pond a wetland and placing wind towers on the property to measure wind speeds which could allow possible avenues for funding, although not very lucrative. The Board asked the Superintendent to contact Dr. Nixon regarding his thoughts on placing wind towers on the property.

Dr. Stallings informed the Board that he would like to have more information about the budget cuts before sending letters to teacher assistants about a possible reduction in force. He will let board members know about the status of this in the weekly update to the Board.

Board Chair's Comments

Board Chair Walter Leigh thanked staff for their hard work and board members for their support and dedication to the students and staff of Perquimans County Schools.

Announcements

The next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Monday, August 26, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Building. The Perquimans County Schools Foundation, Inc. Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at Albemarle Plantation. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to sponsor three holes at the upcoming golf tournament. Each board member will contribute \$50 toward the cost of the sponsorship.

Mr. Magaro asked about the number of CEUs board members have earned to date. Mary Kay Peele will research this and bring information back at the next board meeting.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously at 9:01 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) regarding personnel matters.

Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously at 9:25 p.m. to return to open session. No action was taken upon returning to open session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Walter L. Leigh, Board Chairman

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent

**Perquimans County Board of Education
Special Session – August 6, 2013**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, at 7:30 a.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools. Board members in attendance included Walter Leigh, Susan Cox, Wallace Nelson and Arlene Yates. Steven Magaro was present via speaker phone. Ralph Hollowell was absent.

Chairman Walter Leigh called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented.

Old Business

None

New Business

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) regarding personnel matters.

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously at 8:37 a.m. to return to open session. Upon returning to open session, the following action was taken.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to implement a Reduction in Force due to financial exigency as outlined in Board Policy 7921.

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for August 6, 2013, as recommended by Superintendent Dr. Dwayne K. Stallings.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Stallings invited board members to the annual Opening Day Convocation on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at Perquimans County High School.

Board Chair's Comments

None

Announcements

- Board of Education Meeting – Regular Session, Monday, August 26, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., Board of Education Building
- Fire Fighter Safety Training Meeting – Thursday, August 22, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., Perquimans County High School

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

Walter L. Leigh, Board Chairman

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent

**Perquimans County Board of Education
Special Session – August 21, 2013**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, August 21, 2013, at 7:30 a.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools. Board members in attendance included Susan Cox, Ralph Hollowell, and Arlene Yates. Steven Magaro was present via speaker phone. Walter Leigh and Wallace Nelson were absent.

Vice Chair Susan Cox called the meeting to order. Arlene Yates opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Upon motion by Ralph Hollowell and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented.

Old Business

None

New Business

Dr. Stallings presented personnel items for the Board's consideration. Upon motion by Ralph Hollowell and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for August 21, 2013 as recommended by Superintendent Dr. Dwayne K. Stallings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 a.m.

Walter L. Leigh, Board Chairman

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent