

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – August 26, 2013

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 26, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members in attendance included Walter Leigh, Susan Cox, Ralph Hollowell, Steven Magaro, Wallace Nelson and Arlene Yates.

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

Special Recognitions

Maintenance Department employees Douglas Sawyer, Darrell Swinney and Ed Williams were recognized by the Board of Education as the Employees of the Month for August 2013. (Mr. Sawyer was not able to attend the meeting due to the illness of an immediate family member.) Dr. Stallings noted that Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Swinney and Mr. Williams were nominated by EC Coordinator Kanika Griffin for their hard work and dedication to the school system. On behalf of the Board of Education, each employee was presented with a certificate and check for being named Employees of the Month.

The Teachers of the Year for 2013-2014 were also recognized. Dr. Stallings read a brief passage from each teacher's application on their philosophy of education. On behalf of the Board of Education, each teacher was presented with a gift for this special recognition. Perquimans County Schools Foundation President Susan Cox also presented each teacher with a monetary gift from the Foundation. Teachers recognized included: Angela Rose – Perquimans County High School (Mrs. Rose was unable to attend due to a recent fall. Her husband and daughter accepted her gifts on her behalf.); Nena Felton – Perquimans County Middle School; Julie Roberts – Hertford Grammar School; and Helen Lane – Perquimans Central School.

Dr. Stallings announced that Julie Roberts was selected as the system-wide Teacher of the Year and will advance to regional competition. Board members thanked the teachers for their hard work, realizing that they have a very challenging job.

Following the special recognitions, Dr. Stallings introduced the new Director of Transportation, Mr. Jeffery Miller, and welcomed him to Perquimans County Schools.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2013 regular session, the August 6, 2013 special session, and the August 21, 2013 special session as presented.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Student Transfer Requests Report for August 26, 2013 as presented.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for August 26, 2013 as presented.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter presented, "Taking the Social Media Plunge," which included information about using social media as an avenue of communication with parents and the community. Mrs. Lassiter announced that Perquimans County Schools now has an authentic Facebook site dedicated to communicating information related to upcoming school events and weather delays or closings. She also talked about what social media is and why Perquimans County Schools became a part. She explained that young people don't answer e-mails anymore because e-mail is outdated. Text, chat, or Facebook are their main avenues of communication. She talked about the rules of engagement and having to be careful who has access to the site and who will monitor it. She pointed out that the site will provide information; it will not allow people to respond or make comments. Currently, the main way to communicate with parents is through phone calls, text and Facebook. Mr. Magaro mentioned the possibility of providing training so that people are not discouraged with the change.

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch mentioned the nine areas of concern regarding school safety, some of which have been implemented this school year. He noted that legislation also provided for an anonymous tip line for which a link has been created and placed on the district website, along with the link to report incidents of bullying. Both links work basically the same way. Mr. Bunch receives an e-mail that indicates a report has submitted. He forwards the report to the appropriate principal and then follows-up with the principal, making sure that the situation has been handled. The anonymous tip line allows the community, students and staff to report incidents other than bullying—weapons, drugs, etc. With these links, our school district meets the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction. Mr. Bunch thanked Mrs. Lassiter for her assistance in designing these links for the webpage.

In regard to the budget resolution for 2013-2014, Dr. Stallings noted a revision on the top of page 5—"video cameras" should actually be "Lobby Guard upgrade." Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the budget resolution for 2013-2014 with the noted revision.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Capital Outlay Fund – Budget Amendment #1, with the date edited to read "August 26, 2013."

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to award the fresh bread bid to Flowers Baking Company of Norfolk, LLC, as presented.

The legislature appropriated five bonus annual leave days which must be used by June 30, 2014 or employees will lose them. Dr. Stallings proposed that the five bonus annual leave days be designated to be used during spring break, April 21-25, 2013. By doing this, staff will not lose the five bonus annual leave days and they will be able to use their regular annual leave days at another time. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve calendar revisions for the 2013-2014 school year as presented.

In regard to participation in the North Carolina School Boards Action Center, board members discussed the topic, but believed they could gather more information from the NCSBA District I meeting. Therefore, upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to defer action on participation in the North Carolina School Boards Action Center until the September board meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Stallings reported on the first day of school, expressing his appreciation to principals and staff who have "been in the trenches" since early in the morning. Of the 1,811 students enrolled, 1,739 were present for the first day of school. He reminded board members that some students don't return to school until after Labor Day.

Dr. Stallings thanked Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter for working with the principals to compile the student handbooks for publication and distribution to parents. The cost of the handbooks is approximately \$4 to \$5 per handbook. Mrs. Lassiter noted that the handbooks are used regularly, especially when school staff are challenged on policies and procedures. Although the handbooks are available on-line and high school students receive their handbooks on flash drives, the school district is challenged to meet the needs of all parents, those with and without Internet access.

The Superintendent is working on obtaining possible dates from principals for the Board to tour the schools.

Dr. Stallings noted that in addition to the board retreat on September 26-27, he is working on a possible presentation on the 1:1 initiative for the County Commissioners. At the meeting, Commissioners will hear the district's vision of 1:1 and how it would benefit the students in our school system. The support of the County Commissioners is vital in order to sustain an initiative such as this. Dr. Stallings explained that several staff members met recently with a vendor that offered to participate in the retreat to examine costs and sustainability. Upon asking board members if they would prefer meeting with the County Commissioners on Wednesday or Thursday evening of the retreat, the Board decided to let the Commissioners choose which night would work best for them for a meeting on this topic.

Board Chair's Comments

Board Chair Walter Leigh reminded board members about the upcoming NCSBA District I meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 2013, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Middle School in Williamston. He also mentioned the NCSBA Annual Conference scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18-20, 2013, at the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro. In addition to the conference, he mentioned the NCSBA Awards that were open for nominations for the 2013 conference.

The Board thanked Wallace Nelson for his service on the State Board of Education and the NCSBA Board of Directors as the Raleigh Dingman Award winner for 2013.

Board members were given a copy of the training credits they had earned as recorded by the School Boards Association.

Announcements

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education building.

The Board of Education retreat will be held on Thursday and Friday, September 26-27, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in the auditorium at the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation building in Winfall.

Susan Cox mentioned the Firefighter Technology meeting that she attended on Thursday. The meeting was well attended with nine volunteer firefighters from departments in the county. The departments are on board and support the program which will be taught by Michael Cartwright. Ms. Cox thanked Mrs. Meads, Mrs. Jordan and Mr. Bunch for their efforts and support in adding this class at the high school. Upon completion of the course, students can go to work as a full-time fire fighter.

Arlene Yates reminded board members that the Black Caucus of School Board Members will meet the first weekend in October. She also mentioned that Congressman Butterfield was in the area this afternoon and will be returning to the area in the near future. She asked if the Board would like to schedule a meeting with him to discuss school matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Walter L. Leigh, Board Chairman

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent