

Perquimans County Board of Education  
Special Session – June 22, 2015

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in special session on Monday, June 22, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members Susan Cox, Arlene Yates, Ralph Hollowell, Steven Magaro, Amy Spaug, and Anne White were in attendance.

Board Chair Susan Cox called the meeting to order. Anne White led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Steven Magaro opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Anne White mentioned that the issue of prayer at public meetings had been readdressed recently in the courts.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Remote Participation

The question regarding remote participation is whether to adopt a policy or proceed without one. Anne White stated it was a good idea to have a policy. She said perhaps the Board could use John Leidy's draft as a base and adopt parts of other policies instead of hiring Richard Schwartz to do it. Amy Spaug stated it might be prudent not to vote if the remote participant can't hear. Steven Magaro asked why a board member should participate remotely if he/she can't vote. He stated a board member shouldn't participate remotely for each meeting. However, if he/she does participate remotely, it should be considered full participation. Susan Cox stated if a board member doesn't understand the discussion, he/she should not vote.

Mr. Magaro stated that John Leidy's draft policy was "very vanilla." It does not have flavor and does not go deep. Mr. Magaro said that the value of having a policy is when it is challenged. He said there should be appropriate microphones available in the room. He also said that remote participation is a convenience when a board member can't be at a meeting physically. Arlene Yates stated the Board shouldn't step out too far if it is not ready. Dr. White suggested that Mr. Magaro revise the policy and share it with the Board at the meeting Monday night. Ms. Cox noted that the policy should be reviewed by the attorney for approval.

Amy Spaug mentioned that there are challenges even with the best technology. She doesn't want to lose the touch and feel of the community and she has reservations about missing interaction with people. Anne White noted that remote participation is not something that the Board would take advantage of. Ralph Hollowell stated that the Board could still have a quorum and a person be virtual.

The Board went through each of the ten items in the policy drafted by John Leidy and indicated whether or not each item should be revised. Upon motion by Anne White and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to postpone further discussion of this item to the meeting on Monday, June 29. Mr. Magaro noted that he would be remote for the meeting on June 29.

### Athletic Eligibility

Board members asked if athletic eligibility is a policy or procedure and questioned if it should be addressed at the school level or at the Board level. Dr. Stallings and Mr. Bunch gave a brief history on the matter, referring to board meetings held in June and July of 2014. The current requirements for athletic eligibility for Perquimans County students include the NCHSAA requirement of passing 3 of 4 classes (block schedule) the preceding semester for the present semester and the local requirement of having a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

Ralph Hollowell asked about DPI's involvement in this. Mr. Bunch noted a 2.0 GPA is an 80 now. A 2.0 GPA will be a 75 (average) as of July 1. Anne White asked how teachers would adapt to this new grading scale. Amy Spaugh asked about keeping the 2.0 GPA, but whether it should be cumulative or each semester. Mr. Hollowell asked if the 2.0 would open the door for more students. Mr. Bunch said that it would, but also mentioned there are students that pass all 4 classes, but don't have a 2.0 GPA. He said there are students who never pass a state test, but graduate from high school.

Dr. White asked why our district has to go beyond the NCHSAA requirements. Mr. Hollowell said the district should do the right thing for students, but asked if the Board "has a dog in this fight." Susan Cox mentioned that with opening the athletic eligibility, it is not certain that the students will make the team. Mrs. Spaugh questioned the Board's role in this matter. Steven Magaro stated the district wants to do what is right, but not punitive. Dr. White asked what the administration's input is in this. Mr. Bunch noted that the administration did meet to see if revisions need to be made to the athletic handbook. Dr. Stallings noted that it is necessary not only for the principal, but also for the coaches to make sure the student athletes stay at or above the 2.0 GPA. Mr. Magaro stated that it may appear arbitrary when the principal waiver is a possibility. Dr. White stated "the carrot is there" with the NCHSAA requirements to pass 3 of 4 courses and asked why the extra caveat of a 2.0 GPA is necessary.

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to let the high school leaders decide if there would be academic requirements above the NCHSAA requirements, and if so, what the academic requirements would be. Mrs. Spaugh suggested there be a revision history with the signature page for the athletic handbook. Mr. Bunch noted that there will be a meeting with the head coaches to go over every paragraph and address questions and the signature page.

### Superintendent Search

Board Chair Susan Cox presented the proposals she received for the superintendent search. The first was from the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) which has provided this service for several years for many school boards across the state. The cost for the search is about \$16,750, plus expenses, with the total bill being no more than \$24,000. The proposal provided a list of things that the search service includes, as well as a list of school boards across the state that the NCSBA has served.

The proposal from the Masonboro Group included a numbered list of items that would be provided during the superintendent search process. The fee for these services is \$7,500 with a \$1,500 retainer and the balance of \$6,000 due upon selection of a superintendent.

Ms. Cox stated she spoke to Board Attorney Richard Schwartz regarding the search. He indicated that he has done lots of superintendent searches and would do this search for the same price as NCSBA. Mr.

Schwartz offered to help the Board in any way that he could and also referred Ms. Cox to the Masonboro Group.

Ms. Cox stated that she shared these costs with Finance Officer Candy Tilley. Mrs. Tilley stated that the expense for the superintendent search would come out of local funds. Ms. Cox stated she spoke with John Guard, the board chair for Edenton-Chowan Schools, who said he was pleased with the service provided by NCSBA. NCSBA also did the superintendent search for Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Schools. Washington County Schools employed the Masonboro Group for its superintendent search.

Following a discussion of these proposals, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted to accept the proposal from the Masonboro Group to lead the superintendent search. Arlene Yates opposed.

#### Closed Session

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) regarding personnel matters, specifically to conduct the Superintendent's annual evaluation.

Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

There was no action taken after the Board returned to open session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Susan B. Cox, Board Chair

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Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent