

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – September 22, 2014

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 22, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members in attendance included Susan Cox, Arlene Yates, Ralph Hollowell, Steven Magaro, Amy Spaug and Anne White.

Board Chair Susan Cox called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Ralph Hollowell opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Special Recognitions

Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings, Director of Maintenance Jonathan Nixon and Mickey's Sales and Service Representative Annabell Baker recognized custodians for the Grade "A" rating their schools received on the recent quarterly custodial inspections. The following custodians were recognized: Perquimans Central School – Sandra Bizzell, Melvin Jackson, Mary Williams, Ronald Wilson; Hertford Grammar School – Robert Banks, Willie Downing, Joyce Hunter; Perquimans County Middle School – June Hunter, Webb Jackson, Easie Revell, Elmer Rumble; Perquimans County High School – Quinton Brickhouse, Bernadette Ferebee, Annette Johnson, Tim Jordan, Elizabeth Tavares; Board of Education – Ruby Ainsley; Substitutes – D'Mondrae Downing, Terica Lee, Gerald Walker. Each school received a plaque and each custodian received a special gift for their diligence in keeping our schools clean and safe for students and staff.

Transportation Department employees Aaron Bunch, Terry Sawyer and Julie Williams were recognized as the Employees of the Month for September 2014. At the annual summer conference, NCDPI announced each LEA's inspection score ranked by region and state. A perfect score is 0. The average score for our region this year was 38.83. Perquimans received score of 18.0, which tied Camden for 3rd in our region and also tied Camden for 19th in the state out of 115 LEAs. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Stallings presented Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Bunch and Mrs. Williams with a certificate and monetary award for their outstanding service and dedication to the school system.

Hertford Grammar School EC Teacher Donia "Dee" Winslow was recognized as Perquimans County Schools' 2014 Exceptional Teacher of Excellence. Mrs. Winslow has served EC students at Hertford Grammar School since 2012. As the NC SIP Reading Coordinator, member of the CIPP Committee, Autism Problem Solving Team, Special Olympics Committee, and PBIS Team, she serves her students, school and community in many capacities. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Stallings presented Mrs. Winslow with a special gift in recognition of her achievement.

The Perquimans County Board of Education was recognized for all of its members earning at least the minimum 12 credit hours of training for the 2013-2014 school year. The Board received this award at the North Carolina School Boards Association District I meeting held recently in Hyde County. On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairman Susan Cox accepted the certificate recognizing local school board members for meeting this requirement.

Ms. Cox thanked all those who were recognized for their dedication to the school system. Board members congratulated Dr. Stallings for being named the Superintendent of the Year for Region I.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2014 (afternoon) special session and the August 25, 2014 (evening) regular session as presented.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda, including an addendum for an overnight field trip, Child Nutrition loan, and addition to the Personnel Summary Report.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Student Transfer Requests Report for September 22, 2014 as presented.

Upon motion by Anne White and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for September 22, 2014, including the addendum, as presented. Included in the motion, the Board provided for the Superintendent to use his discretion to make the necessary personnel recommendations prior to the next board meeting.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Hertford Grammar School Principal Jason Griffin and Region 9 Coordinator Leah Mayo presented information on the Active Routes to School initiative, noting that the goal is to increase the number of elementary and middle school students who safely walk and bike to school. Ms. Mayo spoke about the benefits of Active Routes to School, along with project strategies, the five elements, and collaboration on programming, training/workshops, and policies. Mr. Griffin shared information on Hertford Grammar School's Walk to School Day which is scheduled for October 8, 2014. The event will be organized at the old shopping center parking lot beside the Hertford Fire Department. He explained the procedures for the parent drop off, the route for the walk, the permission slip for student participation and invited board members to take part in the event. Board members raised questions about liability, future plans for students to walk and bike to school and the number of students who currently walk and bike to school.

Following questions and discussion regarding carryover, discretionary money and release of Federal funds, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2014-2015 Budget Resolution as presented.

Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to elect the following board members as voting delegates for the NCSBA Annual Conference, November 17-19, 2014 in Greensboro, NC: Chair Susan Cox, Vice Chair Arlene Yates, Member Steven Magaro and Member Ralph Hollowell, alternate.

Following discussion about alternate travel arrangements and possible monetary assistance from the Perquimans County Schools Foundation, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Ralph Hollowell and seconded by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve an overnight, out-of-state field trip request to Louisville, Kentucky, October 28 – November 1, 2014 for certain students and staff to attend the National FFA Convention. Perquimans County High School student Charles Maus will present his award-winning project and teacher Angel White will present during a session at this event.

In regard to a request for a loan, Child Nutrition Director Donna Harris explained that the Child Nutrition carryover was less this year than in previous years. Federal reimbursements were not as much this year due to student participation being down across the board. There has been a 10% increase in cost due to healthy food choices. Child Nutrition staff are seeing more lunch bags being brought to school than ever before as students don't care for whole grain foods and foods not being fried. Mrs. Harris stated that she is researching ways to increase participation in the program. She noted that employees were paid a full month's salary on August 25. However, over the last ten years, no Child Nutrition employees have been replaced due to retirement, etc., resulting in staffing being at bare minimum. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to loan Child Nutrition \$50,000 to meet payroll expenses for September and October 2014, with the loan to be repaid by June 30, 2015.

Superintendent's Report

It was the consensus of the Board for Dr. Anne White to be the board representative on the Pay for Performance Committee.

Dr. Stallings and Jonathan Nixon have been in touch with the land owners. They hope to have requested information at the October meeting.

Dr. Stallings has issued a survey to superintendents in Region I regarding JROTC, the results of which he plans to share at the October meeting.

Dr. Stallings, Perquimans County High School Principal Chante' Jordan and Assistant Superintendent James Bunch will travel to Durham on October 3 when Perquimans County High School will receive an award for being among the top ten high schools with the highest graduation cohort rate in the state.

Board Chair's Comments

Ms. Cox shared a letter from Attorney Richard Schwartz for the Board's consideration regarding a two-year term with Schwartz & Shaw, ending June 30, 2016, without any rate increase in cost during that time. It was the consensus of the Board that the Board Chair sign this document. It was noted that any interaction with the attorney should occur through the Board Chair and/or Superintendent.

In regard to County Commissioner Peeler's questions that were discussed at the Board Retreat, Ms. Cox presented a final draft of the letter for the Board's review. Ms. Cox will send the letter, along with Mr. Eure's checklist, to all of the County Commissioners and County Manager Frank Heath. Ms. Cox will contact Commissioner Chair Cole about meeting with her next week to discuss the athletic complex.

There was discussion about the amount budgeted for board members' travel to workshops and conferences. It was noted that \$10,500 is budgeted and \$10,350 was actually spent last year. Board members expressed concern about planning/choosing events to attend and how to pay for these things. The Board considered Arlene Yates' request to attend the law conference and the Black Caucus

conference. Mrs. Yates noted she would prefer to attend the Black Caucus conference in Greensboro if attending both would create a financial hardship. Upon motion by Anne White and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously for Mrs. Yates to attend the North Carolina Caucus of Black School Board Members in October in Greensboro and for Mrs. Yates' attendance at this event be submitted to NCSBA for training credit.

Announcements

- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, October 27, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Board of Education Building
- NCSBA Annual Conference, Monday-Wednesday, November 17-19, 2014, at the Sheraton Four Seasons Koury Convention Center, Greensboro
- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, November 24, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Board of Education Building

The closed session that was scheduled on the agenda was not held because it was not needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Susan B. Cox, Board Chair

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent