

Perquimans County Board of Education  
Joint Work Session with County Commissioners – October 19, 2015

The Perquimans County Board of Education met with the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners for a joint work session on Monday, October 19, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members Susan Cox, Arlene Yates, Steven Magaro, Amy Spaugh, and Anne White were in attendance. Ralph Hollowell was absent.

Board Chair Susan Cox called the meeting to order and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chair Arlene Yates opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Board Chair Cox welcomed to the meeting County Commissioners Janice Cole, Ed Muzzulin, Wallace Nelson, Matthew Peeler, Fondella Leigh, and Kyle Jones; County Manager Frank Heath; Economic Development Consultant David Goss; and school district staff.

Ms. Cox stated when the five-year strategic plan was revised in the late spring, a sixth goal was added that deals with the economic development of the county. The team members for this goal include Co-Chairs Dr. Dwayne Stallings and Susan Cox, Frank Heath, David Goss, Jill Cohen, Douglas Layden, Anita Bennett, and Mary Kay Peele. At the team meeting, it was decided that the next step would be to meet with County Commissioners about where we're at and where we need to go.

With that being said, Dr. Stallings presented a PowerPoint presentation that included information from the Public School Forum Roadmap of Need 2014 about the 20 indicators of wellness across the four domains of health, youth behavior and safety, education and economic development. The overall ranking in the state for Perquimans County was 46<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Stallings provided a graph showing the counties in need, noting that Perquimans was in Quartile II (counties ranked 26-50). The graph also illustrated that "our state is becoming two North Carolinas—one populated by young people living in areas that are attracting jobs and industry, and another populated by young people living in communities in a state of economic decline."

According to the Public School Forum Local School Finance Study 2014, Perquimans is ranked 64<sup>th</sup> in actual effort and 26<sup>th</sup> in actual effort with supplemental funding for Low Wealth and Small Counties. According to the study, "young people born into one of the state's economically thriving counties will have levels of investment in their education not shared elsewhere in the state." It went on to say, "there is a widening gap between counties with many taxable resources and those with few, and simultaneously, a widening gap in counties' school spending patterns."

Dr. Stallings shared that the district found out recently that it no longer qualifies for Low Wealth Funding as it is now above the 100% threshold (from 93% to 103%). In 2014-2015, Perquimans County Schools received \$148,130 in Low Wealth funding—an amount that equates to about three teaching positions.

Dr. Stallings provided information about the opportunities that students have in Perquimans County through NCVPS classes, COA classes, NCSSM classes and industry-level certifications. He also provided information about new opportunities available for 2015-2016 including an OSHA course for agriculture, Accounting I, E-Commerce I, Entrepreneurship I, and Public Safety II. In addition, he shared information about the after-graduation plans for the PCHS Graduating Class of 2014.

Dr. Stallings showed a chart on economic development that he pulled from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners 2015 NC County Snapshots. Perquimans County was colored red, meaning more of its residents work outside the county than in the county.

To end his presentation, Dr. Stallings shared a photo of the 2001-2002 Surge Team emphasizing that these students have gone on to be productive citizens. He noted, however, that only eleven of those students now live in Perquimans County and five of the eleven work for Perquimans County Schools.

Ms. Cox asked the Commissioners about "what's coming down the pike" and how the school district can prepare our students for the next step.

Dave Goss said there is a need in the county for people with trade skills. He stated there is a need to look at how COA can work with our vocational training. He is working with Jill Cohen on how to get students to see vocational careers, even at the middle school level. In regard to a recent meeting with the Economic Improvement Council, Chair Janice Cole asked about on-the-job training at the Perquimans County DOT shop, perhaps even as a regional training center. She said the Commissioners would support having that center in this county.

Chair Cox stated that the boards would continue this conversation and delve into the aspect of economic development a little deeper in the future.

The Commissioners left the meeting to attend their own meeting which was scheduled at 7:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) regarding personnel matters.

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

No action taken after returning to open session.

#### Announcements

- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, October 26, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Board of Education Building
- Special Board of Education Meeting, Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Board of Education Building

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