

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – November 23, 2015

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 23, 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, Amy Spaugh, and Anne White were in attendance. Steven Magaro was absent.

Board Chair Susan Cox called the meeting to order. Ralph Hollowell led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Amy Spaugh opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Approval of Agenda

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

Personnel Action

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Matthew Cheeseman as superintendent of Perquimans County Schools and Mr. Cheeseman's contract effective January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019 as presented.

Announcement / Remarks

Board Chair Susan Cox thanked the Masonboro Group for their assistance in the superintendent search and Richard Schwartz for his legal guidance in the process. Ms. Cox also thanked the Board for their hard work as appointing a superintendent is the most important job of the Board.

Ms. Cox presented Mr. Matthew Cheeseman, the next superintendent of Perquimans County Schools. Currently, Mr. Cheeseman is the Chief Administrative Officer at Washington County Schools. During his tenure, he wrote a \$1.8 million School Improvement Grant for Pines Elementary School. Under his previous leadership of Chief Academic Officer, 100% of all schools in Washington County met and/or exceeded growth during the 2012-2013 school year. Prior to his current position, Mr. Cheeseman was Director of Curriculum & Instruction for the Far South Side K-12 Network in Chicago Public Schools. He started his career as a chemistry and physics teacher with the Upper Adams School District in Biglerville, PA. In addition, Mr. Cheeseman served with the San Lorenzo Unified School District (San Lorenzo, CA), East Nicolaus Unified School District (Nicolaus, CA), and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (Charlotte, NC) in the roles of teacher, athletic director, and administrator.

Mr. Cheeseman congratulated Dr. Stallings on his service to Perquimans County Schools. He said he is excited and overwhelmed for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools. He added that he is humbled, thrilled and ready for the job. Mr. Cheeseman introduced Lisa, his wife of 19 years who he met in college in 1991. He also introduced his daughter, Sophia, a first grade student. Cheeseman stated he is thrilled to be joining the Perquimans County Schools team and is looking forward to meeting the students, parents, staff and the Perquimans County community.

Special Recognitions

Dr. Stallings recognized Kimberly Cullipher as the Employee of the Month for November 2015. Mrs. Cullipher is the assistant to the Child Nutrition Director, serving diligently within the department, at the schools, and even at the front desk at the Central Office. She has a positive attitude and goes above and

beyond to help where she is needed. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Stallings presented Mrs. Cullipher with a certificate and a monetary award for her outstanding service to the school district.

Dr. Stallings recognized Holly Winslow as the North Carolina Council of Teachers for Mathematics (NCCTM) Outstanding Elementary Math Teacher for Perquimans County Schools. Mrs. Winslow was nominated for this award for the effective job she does teaching mathematics as a second grade teacher at Perquimans Central School. Mrs. Winslow stated she couldn't imagine doing anything other than teaching and guiding her students through the learning process, while her students teach her a thing or two on the journey. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Stallings presented Mrs. Winslow with a certificate in recognition of this honor.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Ralph Hollowell and seconded by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2015 special session and the October 26, 2015 regular session as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Student Transfer Requests Report for November 23, 2015 as presented.

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for November 23, 2015, as presented.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Unfinished Business

Upon motion by Ralph Hollowell and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the School Improvement Plans for Perquimans County Middle School and Hertford Grammar School as presented.

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution to award the Fuel Management System Repair Project to Southwestern Petroleum Systems in the amount of \$16,622.53.

New Business

School Improvement Plans

The Board heard School Improvement Plan presentations from Perquimans Central School Principal Bonita Jones and Perquimans County High School Principal Melissa Fields. The plans addressed goals, strategies and action steps for improving student achievement at each school. This was a first reading only. Action will be taken at the December meeting.

Perquimans County Schools Quarterly Utilities Report

Maintenance Director David Buchanan provided a report on utilities usage for the first quarter of 2015-2016. He noted that 25%, or \$153,650, of the \$611,000 budget for 2015-2016 has been spent to date, which is on target for this time of the year. In comparing the usage for the first quarter of 2014-2015 to the first quarter of 2015-2016, Mr. Buchanan noted that there was an increase in consumption due to the hotter

summer, yet a decrease in cost. He stated that the Town of Hertford has decreased electrical rates 7% which began in October. He mentioned several things the Maintenance Department is looking at doing to continue to decrease energy costs including replacing older fixtures, using occupancy sensors, and writing a grant for building automation. Dr. Stallings thanked Winfall Mayor Fred Yates for not billing the school system for sewage at Perquimans Central School.

Budget Amendments

Upon motion by Anne White and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve State Public School Fund – Budget Amendment #1; Federal Grants Fund – Budget Amendment #1; Other Specific Revenue Fund – Budget Amendment #1; and Capital Outlay Fund – Budget Amendment #1 as presented.

Monthly Financial Report

Finance Officer Candy Tilley provided the financial report for October 2015. The Board thanked Mrs. Tilley for providing thorough reports regarding the district's finances. Dr. Stallings added that the auditor will be at the December meeting to present the financial statements for fiscal year 2015 and that the results of the audit are favorable.

Litigation regarding Collection of Improper Equipment Fines

Board Attorney Richard Schwartz explained that several of their school board clients have asked his firm to initiate litigation regarding the collection of improper equipment fines, in light of a recent Court of Appeals decision. He provided background information, noting that the General Assembly passed the Justice Reinvestment Act that created a new \$50.00 fine for those persons convicted of "improper equipment" motor vehicle infractions. The Act required all improper equipment fines collected by the State to be remitted to the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Fund in the Department of Corrections. The Richmond County Board of Education brought a lawsuit against state officials, arguing that the Act violates that provision of the North Carolina Constitution and that improper equipment fines should have been remitted to counties solely to fund public schools. The Superior Court ruled in favor of the Richmond County Board of Education and the North Carolina Court of Appeals upheld the decision. Since the Court of Appeals limited its ruling only to Richmond County, each local board of education would have to file a lawsuit to receive its share of the improper equipment fines. Mr. Schwartz stated that legal fees for joining the litigation should not exceed \$5,000. The amount of improper equipment fines collected in Perquimans County is \$173,095.00 as of the most recent report.

Upon motion by Anne White and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to join the litigation regarding the collection of improper equipment fines as stated in Attachment #10 of the agenda and explained by Board Attorney Richard Schwartz.

Superintendent's Report

Bus Drivers with Perfect Attendance

Dr. Stallings noted that there were 16 bus drivers with perfect attendance for October 2015 and 11 bus drivers with perfect attendance for the year to date.

Board Chair's Comments

Susan Cox reminded board members to complete the evaluation and credit hours form for the NCSBA annual conference that they attended recently in Greensboro.

Announcements

- Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday, November 25-27, 2015
- Tour of Schools, Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 8:30 @ Perquimans Central School and 10:30 @ Hertford Grammar School
- Retirement Celebration for Superintendent Dr. Dwayne K. Stallings, Monday, December 7, 2015, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the gym at Perquimans County High School (ticket required)
- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, December 14, 2015, 6:00 p.m. @ Central Office

In regard to the proposed resolution regarding student discipline that Vice Chair Yates presented at the last meeting, it was noted that principals would prepare a report for the Board on suspensions for August through December of this school year compared to suspensions for August through December of last school year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Susan B. Cox, Board Chair

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent