

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – December 19, 2016

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 19, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members Amy Spaug, Anne White, Ralph Hollowell, Russell Lassiter, Leary Winslow, and Arlene Yates were present.

Board Chair Amy Spaug called the meeting to order. Arlene Yates led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Leary Winslow opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Anne White and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda including the addendum.

Special Recognitions

Vet Science Career Development Event

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman recognized Agriculture Education Teacher/FFA Advisor Angel White and students Madison Loftis (not present), Tabatha Cox, Heather Chappell, and Anthony Strausser (not present), for their participation and accomplishments at the State FFA Vet Science Career Development Event held Saturday, November 19, 2016 in Sanford, NC. Anthony Strausser earned a perfect score on the Clinical Practicum which was preparing a surgical site. Tabatha Cox and Heather Chappell both earned perfect scores on the handling and restraint practicum which was applying a muzzle to a cat.

Shoes That Fit Grant

Superintendent Cheeseman recognized Perquimans Central School Counselor Freda Bonner for submitting an application and securing a Shoes That Fit Grant from Rack Room Shoes. Due to Mrs. Bonner's efforts, Perquimans Central School received a grant for \$5,200 to provide shoes for our students in need. To date, Mrs. Bonner has given out over 50 pairs of shoes to students who could use "shoes that fit."

EC Educator of Excellence Award

Superintendent Cheeseman recognized PCHS EC Teacher Annette Whidbee for being named the 2016 Perquimans County Schools Educator of Excellence. Mrs. Whidbee entered the teaching profession in 2004 after serving as a teacher assistant for eight years. During her career she has served as IEP Chair, Transition Coordinator, and a member of the Autism Coaching Team. She has also participated on the Safety, Hospitality, and Special Olympic Committees as well as serving as a first responder.

Grade "A" Rating on Quarterly Custodial Inspection

Maintenance Director James Davison recognized the following staff for earning an inspection grade of 90% or above for their school/location: Perquimans Central School – Ronald Wilson, Melvin Jackson, Mary Williams, and Sandra Bizzell; Hertford Grammar School – Robert Banks, Willie Downing, and Joyce Hunter; and Support Buildings – Ruby Ainsley.

Christmas Card Contest Winners

Communications Director Lisa Lane recognized the following students for their first place Christmas cards and/or verses: Perquimans County High School – Jessicah Brown, 1st place card and verse; Perquimans County Middle School – Shimia Modlin, 1st place card; Kayleigh

Forbes, 1st place verse; Hertford Grammar School – Litzzy Lara Selvan, 1st place card; Georgia Wand, 1st place verse; Perquimans Central School – Kolton Christian, 1st place card; Brandi Askew, 1st place verse.

Coaching Achievement 500 Wins

Superintendent Cheeseman recognized PCHS Men's Basketball Coach Tommy Johnson for achieving 500 career wins in men's basketball when Perquimans defeated Ocracoke 71 to 61 on December 6, 2016. Mr. Cheeseman read excerpts from a letter he sent to Coach Johnson congratulating him on this accomplishment and acknowledging him for the impact that he has had on student athletes.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2016 regular session with one correction.

Consent Agenda

None

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Board Committee Reports

Board members provided committee reports as follows: Russell Lassiter – Finance Committee; Anne White – Personnel Committee; Leary Winslow – Operations Committee; and Arlene Yates – Curriculum & Instruction Committee.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Financial Statements for Year Ending June 30, 2016

Donna Winborne and Courtney Riddick of Donna H. Winborne, CPA, PC, presented the financial statements for the Perquimans County Board of Education for year ending June 30, 2016. Mrs. Winborne stated an unmodified opinion was issued which is the highest level that can be received. She also noted that no management letter was issued this year and there were no findings. Upon motion by Ralph Hollowell and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to accept the auditor's report of the financial statements of the Perquimans County Board of Education for year ending June 30, 2016 as presented.

Budget Amendments

Director of Finance Candy Tilley explained in detail the proposed budget amendments. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the State Public School Fund – Amendment #4; Federal Grants Fund – Amendment #3; Capital Outlay Fund – Amendment #3; and Other Specific Revenue Fund – Amendment #3 as presented.

Financial Report

Mrs. Tilley presented the financial report for the month of November. She recently received information that our district was cut \$21,782 in state funds due to a decrease in ADM. Of that amount, \$16,600 was from the teacher assistant allotment. In preparing for next year, the district will plan for a 2% cut in state funds and a 5% cut in federal funds.

Reports / Updates

Student Discipline Data

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the student discipline data for the month of December.

Bus Driver Perfect Attendance

Transportation Director Jeff Miller announced that there were 16 bus drivers with perfect attendance for the month of November, and 9 with perfect attendance to date for this school year. In addition, he noted that Mae Belle Leigh has had perfect attendance for 4 years to date and Janice Butts for 8 years to date.

Superintendent's Report

Location of Board Meetings for February, March, April, and May 2017

Mr. Cheeseman asked the Board to consider moving upcoming board meetings to the community, specifically: February – Perquimans Central School; March – Hertford Grammar School; April – Perquimans County Middle School; and May – Perquimans County High School. It was the consensus of the Board to move these meetings to the schools as requested.

Legislative Priorities for 2017

Mr. Cheeseman shared an overview of the NCASA's recommendations for legislative priorities: Priority One – Invest Adequate Resources in North Carolina Public Schools; Priority Two – Increased Compensation for All Educators and School Personnel; Priority Three – Calendar Flexibility; Priority Four – School Performance Grades & Accountability; Priority Five – Accountability in School Choice Options. Mr. Cheeseman met recently with Representative Steinburg to discuss how these priorities impact Perquimans County Schools.

Budget

Mr. Cheeseman restated the possibility of a 2% cut in state funds and a 5% cut in federal funds for next school year. He has started to have conversations with County Commissioners about the assistance the school district will need. Mr. Cheeseman will contact County Manager Frank Heath to schedule a time to discuss the budget.

Athletic Complex

Mr. Cheeseman recognized Mr. Ed Nixon who has been working closely with him on the athletic complex. Mr. Cheeseman congratulated Mr. Nixon for appearing before the County Commissioners to secure the \$600,000 in funds from the Ward Family Estate. With the \$600,000 from the Ward Estate, over \$300,000 from the state lottery fund, and \$250,000 from an anonymous donor for the field house, the total amount available for the project is currently at \$1.1 million. Next steps include an RFP process for architects and lighting which will begin in January. Plans are to have the football field in place by February 2018. Mr. Cheeseman thanked Mr. Nixon for the continued relationship he and his family have with Perquimans County Schools.

Other

Mr. Cheeseman stated that the House voted to reverse HB13 which would reduce class sizes in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. The Senate now has to consider and vote on this. The unintended consequence of the bill would create a fiscal hardship on school districts. The impact on our district would be approximately \$400,000 for additional staff and classroom space.

Board Chair's Comments

Mrs. Spaugh thanked the staff, Mr. Cheeseman, and the Board for all they are doing, especially around this busy time of the year.

Announcements

- Holiday Luncheon – Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Building
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, January 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Building


Personnel Summary Report

Upon motion by Anne White and second by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding the personnel items in the Personnel Summary Report and addendum for December 19, 2016 as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Amy G. Spaugh, Board Chair



Matthew F. Cheeseman, Superintendent