

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – March 26, 2018

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 26, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members Amy Spaugh, Dr. Anne White, Ralph Hollowell, Russell Lassiter, and Arlene Yates were present. Leary Winslow was absent.

Board Chair Amy Spaugh called the meeting to order. Dr. Anne White led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Russell Lassiter opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented, including the addendum.

Good News

The Board recognized the following individuals for their outstanding accomplishments:

Regional Math 24 Competition Winner

Anna Fisher – 5th Grade Student at Hertford Grammar School

Donor Choose Grants (3)

Heather Rountree – Pre-K Teacher at Perquimans Central School

The Daily Advance 2018 Readers' Choice Award for Best Teacher

Nicole Ralph – Kindergarten Teacher at Perquimans Central School

The Virginian-Pilot Scholastic Achievement Team 2018

Raegan Tyler Workman – Senior

McKenzie Twine – Senior

Samantha Midgett – Junior

Lauren Winslow – Junior

Kyajia Jackson – Sophomore

Claribel Ordaz-Rios – Sophomore

Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program

Laura Moreland – Principal at Perquimans County Middle School

Digital Leadership Institute at The Friday Institute

Dr. Norris Parker – Chief Academic Officer

Martha Nixon – Chief Technology Officer

April Benton – Digital Learning Coach

CTE: NC Works Local Pathway Certification

Advanced Manufacturing

Presented by CTE Director Jill Cohen to PCHS Principal Wayne Price

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Anne White and second by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2018 regular session as presented.

Consent Agenda

Student Transfer Requests

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Dr. Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding student transfer requests for 2018-2019 as presented.

Personnel Summary Report

Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding personnel items as presented in the Personnel Summary Report and addendum for March 26, 2018.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

Quentin Jackson, a parent and 28-year resident of the community, stated he thinks about the messages we are sending county-wide from the School Board, the County, and the County Commissioners, etc. He stated when certain children are suspended from school, they are suspended for a couple of days and then return to school. They are given a second chance. Mr. Jackson stated it bothers him that certain minorities in this community are not offered second chances throughout the school system. He stated we are asking our kids to buy-in to systems that we don't believe in. Mr. Jackson referenced Senate Bill 445 and asked the Board to evaluate its policies and procedures to ensure fairness for everyone.

Unfinished Business

Board Policy Revisions

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted three to one, with Dr. White dissenting, to approve revisions to Board Policy 7410 Teacher Contracts as presented.

Proposed School Calendar for 2018-2019

Upon motion by Ralph Hollowell and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed school calendar for 2018-2019 as presented.

New Business

Presentations – NC Star School Improvement Plan Mid-Year Review

Principal Laura Moreland and Dean of Students Julie Roberts provided an update on the goals in the School Improvement Plan for Perquimans County Middle School.

Principal Wayne Price, Assistant Principal Isaac Lister and Dean of Students Teresa Blanchard provided an update on the goals in the School Improvement Plan for Perquimans County High School.

Finance

Budget Amendments

Finance Director Candy Tilley provided a detailed explanation for each item included in the proposed budget amendment. Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve State Public School Fund – Amendment #7 as presented.

Financial Report

Mrs. Tilley presented the Financial Report for February 2018. Board members did not have any questions regarding the report.

Revisions to Policy 9120 Bidding for Construction Work

In regard to revisions to Policy 9120 Bidding for Construction Work, Mrs. Tilley noted that when the policy was approved, the amounts were left blank. Therefore, Mrs. Tilley recommended that expenditures in excess of **\$90,000** for construction or repairs must be reviewed by the board attorney and approved in advance by the board. In addition, she recommended that the superintendent or designee be authorized to enter into construction or repair contracts involving amounts up to **\$90,000**. These recommended amounts align with Policy 6420 Contracts with the Board. This was a first reading only. Action will be taken at the April meeting.

2017-2018 Summer School Information

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Norris Parker presented documents regarding the plans for Summer School for 2017-2018. Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Summer School plans for 2017-2018 as presented.

Reports / Updates

HB 13 / HB 90 Class Size Update

Dr. Parker stated that currently in Kindergarten, there are 111 students (class size of 14); 1st Grade, 107 students (class size of 18); 2nd Grade, 125 students (class size of 10); and 3rd Grade, 135 students (class size of 8). There are eight Kindergarten teachers; twelve 2nd Grade teachers, and sixteen 3rd Grade teachers. HB 90 has extended the requirement for the reduction of class sizes over a four-year period. The class size of 20 has been extended to the 2018-2019 school year. In the 2019-2020 school year, it will decrease to 19. In 2020-2021, it will decrease to 18. Then in 2021-2022, the class sizes will be Kindergarten – 18; 1st Grade – 16; 2nd Grade – 17; and 3rd Grade 17.

Athletic Complex Update

Director of Maintenance Jim Davison stated there was a very successful, well-attended groundbreaking ceremony for the athletic complex on Saturday, March 16th. Bid requests have been submitted with a successful turnout for contractors, but an unsuccessful submission of bids. There was only one completed bid received for the athletic complex and one completed bid for the lighting project. Since the project has gone back out for bid on the athletic complex, all information is considered classified, but could be discussed with the Board in closed session. The invitation for bids has been submitted to a nationally advertised website and to three newspapers in the local area. There has been good feedback from contractors who are interested in attending a pre-bid meeting which will be held on Wednesday, March 28th at 1:00 p.m. at the Central Office. The architect remains comfortable with the timeline, especially since the property is extremely wet right now.

Mr. Davison also presented a lottery application in the amount of \$125,229.00 to be used to purchase and install an LED lighting system for the new Charles H. Ward football field at the Nixon Athletic Complex.

The application for the rain water waste collection permit was submitted last week. A review and final approval is expected by mid-April, followed by the beginning of construction.

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Dr. Anne White, the board voted unanimously to approve the lottery application for \$125,229.00 to purchase and install LED lighting system for the new Charles H. Ward football field at the Nixon Athletic Complex. The application will be submitted to the County Commissioners for consideration at their next regular meeting.

Mr. Cheeseman introduced Mrs. Judie Hoffler, a member of the Athletic Complex Design Committee, who retired from *Sports Illustrated* as a design editor. Recently, Mrs. Hoffler spoke with Mr. Cheeseman regarding a proposal related to the athletic complex. Mr. Cheeseman explained that the proposal was not to be considered for action at this meeting, but that it is an idea that he supports 100%.

Mrs. Hoffler spoke about the late Ms. Shirley Wiggins who worked diligently for the betterment of everyone in the community, especially our children. Ms. Hoffler acknowledged the field being named the Charles H. Ward Field for the monetary donation by Mr. Ward and his family, as well as the complex being named the Nixon Athletic Complex for the donation of land by Dr. William Nixon. Mrs. Hoffler stated that Ms. Wiggins was an advocate for the children in our community. One of Ms. Wiggins' passions was to have a track for our children for which she worked tirelessly and diligently. Mrs. Hoffler stated she recently became aware of the fact that our children still run on the sidewalk to practice for track. Unfortunately, Ms. Wiggins passed away before a track could come to fruition. In honor of her memory, Mrs. Hoffler proposed that Perquimans County name the track the Shirley Wiggins Track, which would help bring the community together. She stated it would enlighten our children to the fact that something of such significance and importance to the county as the track would be named for a person of color. Those that support this cause realize that this cannot be done without money, so they plan to assist through fundraisers and donations. Ms. Hoffler stated this would not only encourage children of color, but also children of all races and bring them together and create a mutual respect for one another. Mrs. Hoffler stated it will help children realize that black people have fought and are still fighting for equality and goodwill among all races. Mrs. Hoffler added that Ms. Wiggins served 20 years in the Navy and retired as a captain. After retirement, she continued to serve her country with her goodwill toward all mankind, especially our children.

Bus Driver Perfect Attendance

Transportation Director Jeff Miller highlighted the perfect attendance for January and February. In January, there were 22 drivers with perfect attendance and in February, there were 15. There were seven drivers with perfect attendance for the year: Perquimans Central School – Mary Williams and Erica Holley; Hertford Grammar School – Lillie White and Angela Hedgepeth; Perquimans County Middle School – Faye Riddick; Perquimans County High School – Janice Butts; and EC Department – Diana Moore.

Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the annual Bus Rodeo is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2018 and invited them to attend the event.

Updates on Dyslexia

EC Specialist Mrs. Carole Sykes stated she recently attended the Spring Network meeting in Greensboro not only as the Northeast Regional Coach for Literacy, but also as a dyslexia delegate. Ms. Sykes provided information in an infographic that she prepared and distributed to each board member. The House and the Senate voted to approve the definition of dyslexia that came from the International Dyslexia Association definition which was defined in 2010. Dyslexia falls under the category of a specific learning disability. With the rollout of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support effective July 1, 2020, districts will no longer be able to qualify students as having a specific learning disability under a discrepancy method. Mrs. Sykes explained what dyslexia is, what the signs of dyslexia are, and how our district is addressing dyslexia.

Student Discipline Data

Assistant Superintendent Mr. James Bunch presented the student discipline data for the month of March. When asked about the reason for the increased number of discipline incidents, Mr. Bunch stated the previous years' data indicates that suspensions do go up during the month of March.

Superintendent's Report School Safety Forum

On Tuesday, March 20, 2018, Perquimans County Schools hosted a School Safety Forum. Mr. Cheeseman congratulated Board Member Arlene Yates for initiating this idea. On the panel were Town Councilman Quentin Jackson, a representative from the Governor's Office, Sheriff White, and police officers from Winfall and Hertford. Mr. Cheeseman stated the forum was well attended. He acknowledged Director of Communications Lisa Lane who organized the event on behalf of our district and thanked Mrs. Cynthia Perry and Mr. James Bunch who assisted with lighting and other needs.

School Safety Plans / Letters from Governor Cooper and Public Safety Secretary Hooks on School Safety

Recently, a team from Perquimans went to Gates County to hear a presentation from the former superintendent of Sandy Hook Elementary School who presented a very thoughtful critique or "lessons learned" on the events and aftermath of the incident at Sandy Hook. The event was hosted by the NERESA with ten or eleven districts from the northeast in attendance.

The district will be reviewing school safety plans as recommended by Governor Cooper. In conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and EMS, the district is also planning an armed intruder activity which is scheduled for June 12, 2018 at Perquimans County Middle School.

\$200 for every K-3 Reading Teacher

Mr. Jason Griffin was recently in a photo with State Superintendent Mark Johnson where Mr. Johnson announced the \$200 for every K-3 reading teacher. Mr. Griffin stated he was very excited that all K-3 teachers are receiving the money. He has communicated with Finance Officer Candy Tilley about how the money can be used by our teachers. Mr. Cheeseman stated this will amount to approximately \$5,300 for our school district.

Initial Meeting with County Commissioners

The Board of Education had a preliminary meeting with the County Commissioners on Monday, March 19, 2018 and presented an initial proposal of \$831,000 for capital outlay. The Board will meet with the Commissioners again on April 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Office. At the end of April, the Board of Education will consider the district's proposed budget for presentation to the County Commissioners in May.

Other

Mr. Cheeseman and Mr. Miller received an email from Ms. Betty Jo Shephard of Senator Burr's office who attended last month's meeting. Ms. Shephard commended Mr. Miller for his presentation and the time and effort that were put into the study. In her email, Ms. Shephard stated she would be expecting to ride the New Hope / Woodville route sometime soon. Ms. Shephard also congratulated Vice-Chair Dr. Anne White for her leadership at the meeting.

Dr. White congratulated Mrs. Yates and those who were involved with the Public Safety Forum. She recommended that our students "have a seat at the table." They bring much to offer, perhaps to serve as ex officio members on the Board.

Board Chair's Comments

In regard to the budget, Mrs. Spaugh, Mr. Cheeseman and Mrs. Tilley have been meeting once per quarter with the Commissioner Chair and County Manager to communicate regarding our budget needs as well as to understand the County's needs. The meeting on March 19th was a combination of that to bring everyone together in an informal discussion.

Announcements

Mrs. Spaugh reminded board members to contact Mary Kay to schedule a tour of schools with the Superintendent.

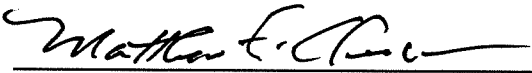
- Joint Work Session with County Commissioners: Monday, April 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., Central Office
- Regular Board of Education Meeting: Monday, April 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Central Office

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Amy G. Spaugh, Board Chair



Matthew F. Cheeseman, Superintendent