

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – September 23, 2019

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools, Hertford, North Carolina. Board members Dr. Anne White, Amy Spaugh, Russell Lassiter, Matt Peeler, Leary Winslow, and Arlene Yates were present.

Board Chair Dr. Anne White called the meeting to order. Matt Peeler led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Amy Spaugh said a prayer.

Approval of Agenda

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

Special Recognitions

Superintendent Tanya Turner recognized the following:

EC Team of the Year

Chief Academic Officer of Student Services Kanika Griffin introduced the Perquimans County High School EC Staff and congratulated them on being named the EC Team of the Year for 2019-2020. The team consisted of Anisha Spellman, Annette Whidbee, Logan Moseley, Jan Tripp, Andreka Wrighton, Aaron Burke, and Siana Elliott.

Grant Recipient

Perquimans Central School Teacher Stacey Pierce was recognized for being awarded the Farm Bureau Grant – Inspiring Students to be Ag Smart! (\$500) and Dominion Power Environmental Grant – Full Steam Ahead! (\$2000).

PQ Proud Employee of the Month

Dean of Students at the Accelerated Learning Center Tammy Miller-White was recognized as the Certified Employee of the Month for September.

Robert Banks, custodian at Hertford Grammar School, was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Month for September.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and second by Matt Peeler, the Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2019 regular session as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Peeler, the Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the student transfer request report for September 23, 2019, as presented by Superintendent Tanya Turner.

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report and addendum for September 23, 2019, as presented by Superintendent Tanya Turner.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Unfinished Business

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Leary Winslow, the Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the board policy revisions for Policy Code 4400 Attendance including the removal of the word "not" on page 3 of the policy.

New Business

Lottery Application for HVAC DDC Control Updates Phase I

Following questions and discussion regarding the lottery funding request, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Matt Peeler, the Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the request for lottery funds in the amount of \$105,000 to be used for HVAC DDC Control Updates Phase I as presented by Director of Maintenance Jim Davison. This amount represents approximately half of the costs for the controls for Perquimans County High School, Perquimans Central School and the Central Office. The other half of the money will come from Capital Outlay Funds. The Board asked that this request be clearly articulated to the Commissioners as to why it is needed and what will happen if the district does not get it.

Revisions to 2019-2020 School Calendar

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board of Education voted unanimously to approve revisions to the 2019-2020 school calendar as presented by Superintendent Tanya Turner. Two optional workdays were added to the end of the school year, June 11th and 12th, for the days missed due to Hurricane Dorian. Following this action, the Board discussed having a policy to support implementation of Virtual Learning Days, the first of which will be held on November 1st. There was also discussion around school calendar flexibility, particularly about testing before Christmas Break.

Reports / Updates

School Performance Grade Updates

Chief Academic Officer of Curriculum and Instruction Melissa Fields presented the 2018-2019 school accountability results which were approved by the State Board of Education on September 4, 2019.

Hertford Grammar School (HGS) received a School Report Card Grade of C with a School Performance Score of 60. HGS did not meet growth with an Overall Growth Index of -4.49. HGS met growth in Reading with a -0.89. HGS did not meet growth in Math with a -6.77.

Perquimans County Middle School (PCMS) received a School Report Card Grade of C with a School Performance Score of 62. PCMS met growth with an Overall Growth Index of 0.06. PCMS met growth in Reading with a -0.88. PCMS met growth in Math with a 1.05.

For HGS and PCMS, Mrs. Fields displayed EOG Reading, Math, and Science scores data for 2018-2019 compared to North Carolina and the Northeast. She also shared reflections on things that happened during the school year and what the schools are doing moving forward.

Perquimans County High School (PCHS) received a School Report Card Grade of C with a School Performance Score of 66. PCHS met growth with an Overall Growth Index of -1.42. Mrs. Fields displayed English II EOC results, Biology EOC results, Math 1 and 3 results, ACT data, and Four-Year Graduation Rate data compared to North Carolina and the Northeast. She also shared reflections on things that happened during the school year and what the school is doing moving forward.

CTE Animal Science Lab and Fire Tower Training Lab

Director of CTE/IMC Jill Cohen presented updates regarding the CTE program. The Town of Hertford ordinances have to be changed in order to have animals on our campus for the Animal Science Lab. Mr. Davison told Mrs. Cohen that CTE can have the former EMS radio tower building which is located on the PCHS campus near the softball field. The CTE teachers think the building will work for chickens, a goat, a lamb, a sheep and a rabbit for their Animal Science students, some of which have had minimal interaction with animals other than cats and dogs. This is not a capital expense as FFA will fundraise for their needs. Background protocols have begun for things that could be positive and negative.

Mrs. Cohen stated that Fire Technology Instructor Michael Cartwright has had a contractor on campus to inspect the former press box for items that will have to be corrected before using it as a fire training tower. At the request of the Athletic Director, the Pirate Country sign will remain on the building. CTE had to wait to move forward on this project until the new football field opened across the street.

Budget Updates

Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard stated his report would be brief since the State still has not passed a budget. He received notification that the State would begin allocating allotments based on last year's allotments so that districts could start entering in some of their allotments. The State retirement rate has been set at 19.7%, up from 18.86% last year. Health insurance has been set at \$6,306, up from \$6,104 last year. Mr. Blanchard stated he hopes that any increases in budget caused by raises or step increases that the State may pass with an approved budget will be covered with allotment adjustment increases so that it will not cause an excessive increase in what the district would have to supplement with funding.

Mr. Blanchard also shared the expected budget for Capital Outlay based on what the district has received so far. The County has already given the district \$200,000 to begin the school year. Sales tax, which could amount to ±\$250,000 for the year (average of the past few years), will be a source of revenue each month for the district. There is an appropriated fund balance remaining from last year of about \$12,000, with total revenue of about \$472,000. After expenses/open purchase orders have been paid, there will be \$193,000 remaining of the \$472,000. If the Commissioners approve the lottery application and the district pitches in the \$105,000 for the DDC controls, there will be approximately \$88,000 remaining.

Say Something Anonymous Report System (SSARS)

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented information about SSARS, a school safety program that teaches students, educators, and administrators how (1) to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others and (2) to anonymously report this information through the SS-ARS app, website, or 24/7 Crisis Center Hotline.

Perquimans County Schools Safety Initiative Grant

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented information about the Perquimans County Schools Safety Initiative Grant, which will provide funding in the amount of \$49,070 for walk through metal detectors, glass safety film, VHF repeater at PCHS, safety consultant, and other miscellaneous items.

Student Discipline Data August 2019

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the student discipline data for August 2019. There was only one suspension in the district for the month of August. At the October meeting,

the discipline data for the month of September will be reported. The data will be presented in this format each month, therefore providing a true monthly picture of the data. Mr. Bunch reported that Teen Court data will be available on the report as well.

Superintendent's Report

- The Perquimans County School district is one of 81 to be recognized as a National Board accomplished district. This is based on the fact that at least 20% of the district's teachers are National Board certified. This recognition will appear on the National Board website on September 26th. Our district will also receive a plaque to hang in the Board of Education office in honor of this distinction.
- Melissa Fields has been asked to be one of the featured speakers at the North Carolina ASCD Whole Child Conference in Durham in October. Due in part to Mrs. Pelletier, Mrs. Field's topic will be on the implementation and lessons learned as a principal about the free breakfast program at Perquimans Central School.
- Laura Moreland was selected as the Perquimans County Schools Principal of the Year by school and district administrators. She will be recognized at the October board meeting.
- Ms. Cynthia Perry organized a visit from Miss North Carolina to Perquimans County Schools today. Miss North Carolina visited the middle school and high school and spoke to all the young ladies at each school. Her main message was to be their unique self, to be proud of who they are, and not try to fit in.
- In regard to the new athletic complex, Ms. Turner stated that people are very excited about it and it brings the community together on Friday nights. At the inaugural game, there were 740 paid attendees, which does not include the employees who got in free and the almost 70 special guests who attended the game. At this week's football game, there were 532 paid attendees, not counting the employees who got in free.

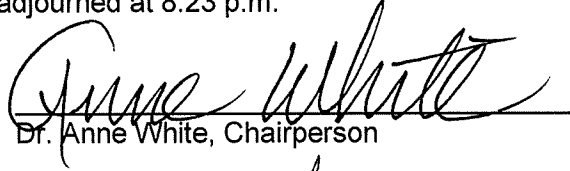
Board Chair's Comments

- Dr. White asked board members to save the date for the North Carolina School Boards Association Annual Conference which will be held November 17-19, 2019 in Greensboro, NC.
- In regard to a letter from Senator Phil Berger concerning the North Carolina budget, Dr. White asked board members to take a closer look at the NCSBA legislative update. Senator Berger was encouraging board members to contact Governor Cooper about approving a budget. In looking at Board Policy 2220, Dr. White reminded board members that they cannot act singularly, but as a result of a decision of the board as a whole. Since our board is bipartisan, representing both Democrats and Republicans, Dr. White suggested that the Board not get involved in this matter.
- Dr. White asked if anything could be done about the observation deck in the protected land area just past the high school. Right now, this is a grassy, overgrown area that could pose a safety hazard for students.
- Dr. White mentioned the protected area in front of the football field at the athletic complex. She said this may be an issue to be addressed as a potential hazard.
- Dr. White also asked about closing the gates at the football field as the temptation is there to drive out on the field.
- Russell Lassiter thanked the staff for the call outs regarding the recent lockdowns. Getting the word out to parents put them at ease knowing that the situation was being handled responsibly.

Announcement

The next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held Monday, October 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., at the Central Office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


Dr. Anne White, Chairperson


Tanya Turner, Superintendent