

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – December 12, 2011

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools. Board members Arlene Yates, Amy Spaugh, Susan Cox, Ralph Hollowell, Walter Leigh and Wallace Nelson were in attendance.

Board Chair Arlene Yates called the meeting to order. Ralph Hollowell led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Wallace Nelson opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Special Recognition

Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings recognized the first place winners in the 2011 Superintendent's Christmas Card Contest and presented each with a framed copy of his/her winning entry. The 2011 winners included:

Perquimans Central School

Picture – Colby Brown, 2nd grade

Verse – Leslie German, 1st grade

Hertford Grammar School

Picture – Kaylynn Bancroft, 5th grade

Verse – Braeden Craddock, 5th grade

Perquimans County Middle School

Picture – Kaleb Diaz, 8th grade

Verse – Rustie Loper, 7th grade

Perquimans County High School

Picture – Carlee Stewart, 10th grade

Verse – Matt Chappell, 11th grade

Digital Card – Lorenzo Camacho, 11th grade

Superintendent Stallings recognized the 2011 National Board Certified Teachers and presented each with a special gift for earning this prestigious certification. Teachers recognized included Holly Weeks, Perquimans Central School; Amy Parker (renewal), Hertford Grammar School; and Peggy Griffin (renewal), Perquimans County High School. Each teacher recognized family, friends and coworkers in the audience and thanked the board for the opportunity to pursue National Board Certification. Board members expressed their appreciation to each teacher for their willingness to put forth the effort to earn this certification. The Board also expressed its thanks to Brenda Dail and Marcia Dickman for assisting the teachers in this process.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and seconded by Walter Leigh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on November 28, 2011 as presented.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Walter Leigh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Student Transfer Requests Report for December 12, 2011 as presented.

Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted to approve the Personnel Summary Report for December 12, 2011 as presented.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public
None

Old Business
None

New Business

Tamara Berman Ishee, the Region I Lead for the Curriculum and Instruction Division at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the implementation of the new North Carolina Standard Course of Study—the Common Core State Standards and the North Carolina Essential Standards. Her presentation covered the administrative responsibilities for effective implementation, the importance of alignment, what the Common Core and Essential Standards look like, rationale and tools for implementation, and challenges and support for the new course of study. Board members voiced concerns about securing teacher buy-in and what is being done to prepare teachers now and next year as it is being implemented. Ms. Ishee explained that there have been several trainings to date and that there will be more training in the summer and next year. She stated that new student assessments are being developed now and as a result, the Board should expect a lag in test scores. A meeting of the State Superintendent, administrators and public information officers will be held in March regarding these changes. When asked about the timeline for implementation, Ms. Ishee noted that the new curriculum will begin in August and the new assessments for students will begin next school year as well. In regard to accountability at the high school, Dr. Stallings noted that high schools with graduation projects receive more points than those that do not. He stated that he hoped that the State Board of Education will recognize that what is in place at our high school is similar to the graduation project, but actually more rigorous without all the hardships that the project had before. Ms. Ishee indicated that the high school should build on what it has in place now and keep it going.

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Beginning Teacher Support Plan for 2011-2012 as presented by Directors Brenda Dail and Sandy Meads. Mrs. Dail and Mrs. Meads explained that a self-assessment was done first, then a peer review was conducted by administrators from Edenton-Chowan Schools and Camden County Schools. The score on the peer review was actually higher than the score on the self-assessment. A Title II audit will be conducted on December 13, 2011.

In regard to the proposed budget amendments on the agenda, Dr. Stallings explained that when the third and fourth quarter utility reports were presented to the Board, it was noted that a \$96,000 savings in energy consumption would be recognized and from this savings, several maintenance projects could be funded. Checks were written in June for some of these projects which had not yet been completed. As a result, the auditors advised the finance department to take the revenue out of the appropriate fiscal year, transferring last year's money into this year's budget in order to rectify this audit exception. Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve Amendment #11 for the Local Fund / Special Revenue Fund and Amendment #12 for the Capital Outlay Fund as presented. Dr. Stallings added that Perquimans County Schools is looking into joining with the County to conduct energy audits of our buildings and the county buildings. Representatives from the county and the school system met today with a representative from LINC Services to discuss funding for possible energy savings projects.

Upon motion by Ralph Hollowell and seconded by Walter Leigh, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution in support of the restoration of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program as presented.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Stallings presented the list of bus drivers with perfect attendance for November 2011. He noted that there were 18 bus drivers with perfect attendance for the month of November and 11 with perfect attendance for the year to date.

Dr. Stallings noted that a special joint work session with the County Commissioners regarding Energy Efficiency Performance-Based Contracts has been scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Courthouse Annex.

In regard to a question from the Board Chair at last month's meeting, Dr. Stallings distributed handouts regarding the Army JROTC. The handout contained information on the program responsibilities for the school and the Army. Dr. Stallings stated that with the military downsizing and the economy the way it is, his fellow superintendents voiced concerns about starting a new program at this time. Chair Yates asked the Superintendent to get more details regarding the program, in particular space requirements, etc. Mr. Nelson noted that with the laying off of teachers, coupled with not knowing where the money for the program is coming from, this may not be a good time to begin a program.

Board Chair's Comments

Chair Yates informed board members that information on the Board of Education's travel budget will be sent to each board member in their weekly update.

Chair Yates also shared copies of an application for a school board license plate available to school board members through the NCDMV.

Chair Yates mentioned that books were distributed to all students at Perquimans Central School and Hertford Grammar School as a result of a grant that she and Mayor Yates applied for from the I Have a Dream Foundation. She is looking into applying for a grant for books and possibly ipads for middle and high school students.

Announcements

- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, January 23, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Board of Education Building

Susan Cox thanked principals for having students participate in the Christmas parade and for encouraging community involvement and education outside of the four walls of the school building.

Wallace Nelson asked principals for ideas to promote a positive transition to the change in curriculum and method of instruction. Ralph Hollowell noted that principals and teachers have to contend with a lot for what they are being paid.

Dr. Stallings noted that he appreciated the Board submitting a waiver for school days for next school year. In response to the letter and waiver that were submitted, State Board of Education Chairman Dr. Bill Harrison sent a letter to Dr. Stallings noting that he shares similar feelings about the calendar. Dr. Stallings

stated that legislators were supposed to look at the calendar issue again in November, but did not. They are supposed to consider it again in May.

Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously at 8:41 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(1) regarding student matters and North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(6) regarding personnel matters.

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Ralph Hollowell, the Board voted unanimously at 9:50 p.m. to return to open session. No action was taken after returning to open session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Arlene Yates, Board Chairperson

Dr. Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent