

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – February 27, 2012

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools. Board members in attendance included Amy Spaugh, Susan Cox, Ralph Hollowell, Walter Leigh and Wallace Nelson. Arlene Yates was absent.

Until the Vice-Chair arrived, Board Member Walter Leigh presided over the meeting. Rev. Leigh called the meeting to order. Susan Cox led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Wallace Nelson opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Special Recognitions

Rebecca Martin, Alternative Education Counselor, Teen Court Coordinator and Work Force Development Coordinator, was recognized as Perquimans County Schools' Employee of the Month for February 2012. Mrs. Martin is credited with reducing the district's dropout rate by counseling at-risk students and their families and encouraging students to stay in school. On behalf of the Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings presented Mrs. Martin with a plaque and a monetary gift in recognition of her outstanding work with students in the district.

Michele Swinney, 7th Grade Teacher Science Teacher at Perquimans County Middle School, was recognized for being named the North Carolina Middle School Association Region I Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Swinney has been an educator with Perquimans County Schools for eleven years. She is passionate about her teaching as shown in the love of the subject that she teaches which, in turn, rubs off on her students. Mrs. Swinney was presented with a gift by Superintendent Stallings for this prestigious honor.

Brenda Lassiter, Public Information Officer for Perquimans County Schools, was recognized for earning two Blue Ribbon Awards from the North Carolina School Public Relations Association for 2011-2012. Her award winning entries in the areas of photography and special purpose publications were displayed at the meeting. In addition to her duties as Public Information Officer, Mrs. Lassiter serves as secretary to the Ministers' Council for Education, secretary to the Perquimans County Schools Foundation, Inc., and as a board member on the Perquimans County Planning Board and Perquimans County High School Athletic Complex Fundraising Committee. Dr. Stallings presented Mrs. Lassiter with a gift for her award-winning marketing tools.

Board members Susan Cox, Ralph Hollowell, Walter Leigh, Wallace Nelson, Amy Spaugh and Arlene Yates were recognized for training credits earned through the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) Academy for School Boardsmanship. They earned not only the 12 credits required by North Carolina General Statute, but exceeded that number by earning at least 30 credits during the academy year, which earned them recognition at the annual NCSBA state conference in November 2011.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Walter Leigh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 regular meeting, the February 6, 2012 special meetings and the February 15, 2012 special meeting as presented.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Student Transfer Requests Report for February 27, 2012 as presented.

Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for February 27, 2012 as presented.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Director of Technology Victor Eure presented information on the Career & College Promise initiative which affords North Carolina high school age students the opportunity to begin their two- or four-year college work while they are in high school allowing them to get a head start on their workplace and college preparation. The program is free to all students who maintain a "B" average and meet other eligibility requirements. Mr. Eure explained the three pathways—college transfer, technical career and innovative high schools—and their eligibility requirements as outlined in a brochure designed by Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter.

Mr. Eure presented the Perquimans County Schools Technology Plan for 2012-2014. He spoke about "The Cloud," a part of the Race to the Top initiative where school districts lease services from the Web such as e-mail, filtering and firewalls. It is estimated that the school district will save about \$10,000 a year by utilizing services through The Cloud. In order to take advantage of these services, students in grades K-12 will need more access to computing devices such as in the transition to on-line testing at the high school. Mr. Eure fielded questions from board members about the Middle Mile, wireless accessibility for students at home, and the timeline for implementation of these technology initiatives. When asked what the Board can do to help move these initiatives forward, Mr. Eure suggested communicating with County Commissioners and becoming part of the planning process. When asked about privacy issues with Gmail, Mr. Eure explained that our district is no more exposed than before, having carved out our own niche with Google.

Upon motion by Walter Leigh and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Perquimans County Schools Technology Plan for 2012-2014 as presented.

Principals Chanté Lassiter-Perquimans County High School, Norris Parker-Perquimans County Middle School, Linda White-Hertford Grammar School and Melissa Fields-Perquimans Central School presented their schools' Safe Schools Application for 2011-2012. Their presentations followed a supplied format and included information on the Safety Committee members, measurable goals and objectives, future safety requests, prevention and intervention, school policies and initiatives, Student Code of Conduct, photos of drills and special safety events, communication tools, safety training and documentation for the Critical Incident Response Kit.

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented information on the Drivers' Education Budget for 2011-2012. He noted that the initial allotment provided for serving 140 students. To date, only 50 students have actually taken the course and less have taken behind-the-wheel training. Mr. Bunch will continue to monitor the drivers' education budget and advise the Board accordingly. The next drivers' education classes are scheduled in April and July.

The Board conducted a first reading of the proposed school calendar for 2012-2013 as presented Dr. Stallings. Dr. Stallings noted that the current proposed calendar consists of 185 student days as required by legislation and that the start/end dates remain the same, no earlier than August 25th and no later than June 10th, respectively. Dr. Stallings proposed that the calendar be presented for action at the March board meeting, along with a disclaimer that states that if a school calendar waiver is granted or the General Assembly revises legislation regarding the calendar law, that school administration will be allowed to resubmit a calendar for 2012-2013 that reflects these changes.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Stallings presented the list of bus drivers with perfect attendance for January 2012. He noted that there were 21 bus drivers with perfect attendance for the month of January and 8 with perfect attendance for the year to date. Dr. Stallings added that it is a constant struggle for the Transportation Department to secure substitutes, especially when drivers are ill or when there is a school delay, since many of our drivers have second jobs.

The Superintendent reported that Governor Perdue has approved more money for the Pre-K Program; however, our district will not receive additional funds since the slots initially allotted are not being used due to lack of classroom space. The question which presents itself is this—will our district continue to serve Pre-K students at the same levels or will the district acquire more space to accommodate additional students? Dr. Stallings noted that there is proposed legislation to take Pre-K out of public schools and turn it over to private providers. If legislators vote in favor of this on March 1st, Pre-K will no longer be in public schools.

Dr. Stallings presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the renaming of the baseball field at Perquimans County High School, which is one part of the overall plan for the new athletic complex at Perquimans County High School. His presentation included a history of the field, state champions in athletics, Hall of Fame recognitions, and information regarding the proposed athletic complex as well as the members of the fundraising committee and funding for the project. The current baseball field will be named the Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter Park at the Perquimans County Veterans Memorial Field during a special ceremony at the last home baseball game on May 7th when Perquimans plays Edenton. Dr. Stallings noted that he wanted the Board to see this presentation since he will be sharing it at an upcoming Rotary Club meeting.

Board member Ralph Hollowell commended Hertford Grammar School Principal Linda White, Instructional Specialist Lisa Byrum and the Hertford Grammar School staff for the Parents for Proficiency event that was held recently on Saturday at the school. Two more such events are scheduled for parents in preparation for End of Grade tests.

Board Chair's Comments

None

Announcements

- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Thursday, March 29, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Board of Education Building
- Budget Work Session, Thursday, April 5, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Board of Education Building

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Arlene Yates, Board Chairperson

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent