

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – July 23, 2018

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 23, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members Dr. Anne White, Amy Spaugh, Russell Lassiter, Matt Peeler and Arlene Yates were present. Leary Winslow was absent.

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

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented, including the addendums.

Good News

Perquimans County Schools 2017-2018 Retirements – Transportation Department

Transportation Director Jeff Miller recognized Yvonne Lane, School Nutrition Assistant/Bus Monitor, and Debbie Jean Whedbee, Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver, on their retirement as members of the transportation team.

School Nutrition North Carolina President

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman recognized School Nutrition Director Shirley Pelletier for completing her tenure as the 2017-2018 School Nutrition Association North Carolina President.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2018 regular session and the July 2, 2018 special session as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding student transfer requests for 2018-2019 as presented.

Public Hear / Requests from the Public

There were no requests for public comment.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for consideration.

New Business

Beginning Teacher Support Program

In response to a request from the Board of Education, Superintendent Cheeseman announced that Cynthia Perry, Director of Innovation & Policy, would meet with beginning teachers at their worksites on a monthly basis to ensure they are receiving the support that they need as beginning teachers.

Cynthia Perry, Director of Innovation & Policy, presented revised Policy Code: 4400 Attendance for a first reading. Action will be taken at the August meeting. The recommended revisions to the policy will take a district-level approach to processing student absences and following-up with families. Also, there will be a focus on educating parents on attendance and its important ramifications.

Policy Updates

Mrs. Perry also presented Policy Updates: Spring 2018 for a first reading. Action will be taken at the August meeting.

Reports / Updates

Athletic Complex Update

Director of Maintenance Jim Davison presented an update on the athletic complex. He provided a report on the billing with Sawyer's Land Developing which reflects a \$5,300 credit which will be held to the end of the contract in case of a change order. He also reported on invoices for lighting, water/sewer, fencing, grand stand system, concrete slab for grand stand and design fees.

Mr. Davison noted that the north end has been seeded and closed to traffic. The bleacher system is going in and the press box is on site. The foundation for the concession stand has been poured and the construction materials are due on site this week. The sediment retention basin has been set and a collection wall will be installed. The goal posts and bench systems for the sidelines have arrived. Documents have been submitted to locate the water and sewer lines which are located under the roadway. He also provided an updated timeline for water/sewer, on-site flow test, installation of sprinkler system and sod, electrical and fencing.

In response to a question about the August 17th target date, Mr. Cheeseman noted that October 12th is a more realistic target date as there are three away football games between September 7th and October 12th. By October 12th, it will allow the students to play on the field three times and have Senior Night and Homecoming. In addition, the sod should be solidified by that time. The two buildings being built by Eure & Sons Construction should also be complete by that time.

Mr. Cheeseman stated he will be meeting with Pepsi to secure a \$40,000 donation and with Lifetouch to secure the scoreboard donation. Macon Turf Farms has confirmed their sod donation as well. Mr. Davison invited board members to contact him to tour the construction site.

Policy Watch

Cynthia Perry updated the Board with some legal changes that came out of the legislature at the end of the short session and how those changes apply to schools.

HB 986 SL 21832 – The Department of Public Instruction shall report to the joint legislative education oversight committee by March 30th each year on the compliance of each LEA unit regarding student memorization of multiplication tables and being taught cursive writing. Each district will report on its efforts to do that.

The same bill requires local boards of education to offer advanced courses in mathematics in grades 3 and higher when practical. Students who score a Level 5 on an end of year math test must be placed in advanced math classes the following year. The only way to opt out and be removed from the advanced math class is with a signed written consent form from the parent.

SL 21837 encourages local boards of education to adopt student attendance recognition programs which tie into our desire to have a strong parent education program regarding attendance. September is attendance month.

SL 21872 makes it a Class H felony to communicate a threat of mass violence on school or religious property. It also provides a conditional discharge of persons convicted for those offenses when the offense is committed under the age of 20, providing that they would be required to be placed under supervised probation for at least one year and complete a minimum of 30 hours of community service, obtain mental health evaluation and comply with any other recommendations that come as a result of the mental health evaluation. That done, they can call for an expunction of the records of the discharge and dismissal obtained.

SL 21817 – In November, the voters of North Carolina will respond to the question of whether or not to amend the state's constitution to reduce the maximum allowable income rates on both personal and corporate income from 10% to 7%.

Perfect Attendance Report

Director of Transportation Jeff Miller provided the Driver Perfect Attendance Report for the last quarter: March – 18, April – 13, and May 15. With the end of the school year on June 8th, there were three drivers with perfect attendance for the year: Lillie White – Hertford Grammar School; Faye Riddick – Perquimans County Middle School; and Janice Butts – Perquimans County High School, who completed her eleventh year of perfect attendance.

Superintendent's Report

2018-2019 Budget

At the meeting on August 20th, the proposed budget resolution will be presented to the Board for its consideration. With the County Commissioners increasing local expenditures by \$125,000, it will allow the district to provide a projected 3.25% supplement increase for our teachers and a 2% increase for classified personnel. Although the Board asked the County Commissioners for \$210,000 to increase the teacher supplement to 4% and the classified staff from 70% fair market value to 80%, employees will see some type of increase. Along with reductions in state and federal, the district is at a \$585,000 deficit. Mr. Cheeseman and Chief Finance Officer Candy Tilley have reduced that number to \$84,625 as of now. By the end of August, that number should be zeroed out. This causes the district to shift personnel, close out specific job title positions, and redistribute some of those job duties across our district with the hope of not losing any personnel.

Personnel

After approval of the Personnel Summary Report, the district will need to hire one teacher position.

Administrative Leadership Retreat

The Administrative Leadership Retreat has been moved from August 1-2, 2018 to August 7-8, 2018 to ensure that all four principals can attend, including teammates who are coming in to support the activity. Attendance will be optional for assistant principals and deans since the date has been changed.

Board Chair's Comments

Last week, Mr. Peeler, Mrs. Spaugh and Dr. White had the opportunity to attend a two-day Core Board Training, which was formerly called School Board 101. The training has been renamed and expanded for newly-elected and re-elected board members. There will be an additional half-day training at the NCSBA conference in November and one additional session to complete the training. Dr. White stated the NCSBA reiterated that the goal of having a board is to promote student achievement and to support the staff in doing its work. She asked Mrs. Spaugh and Mr. Peeler to share some of the key points of the training.

Mrs. Spaugh provided information and a handout about the responsibilities of the Superintendent and the responsibilities of the Board. She said the Board determines the vision, the direction for the school system, but does not implement it. The Board sets board policies, but the Superintendent and his team implement the policies. The Superintendent and his staff conduct the daily business of the school system. All employees report directly to the Superintendent; board members should refrain from direct dealings with employees. Board members work directly with the Superintendent. Complaints and communications should be reported directly to the Superintendent. Board members promote the school system and advocate for funding and resources.

Mr. Peeler provided a Power Point presentation regarding ethics. Every school board must have a code of ethics or resolution that meets the following specifications: the need to obey all applicable laws regarding official actions taken as a board member; the need to uphold the integrity and independence of the board member's office; the need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board member's official duties; the need to faithfully perform the duties of office; the need to conduct the affairs of the governing board in an open and public manner, including complying with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public record. Mr. Peeler also spoke about the roles/duties of the Board and the Superintendent.

Dr. White noted that the Board's goal this year is to treat everyone with kindness, dignity and respect. She thanked everyone in attendance and recognized Bishop Landon Mason. On behalf of the Board, she welcomed the new Hertford Grammar School Principal Mr. John Lassiter. She also recognized two team members who are working on their doctorate degrees, Mrs. Kanika Griffin and Mr. Oliver Holley. In addition, Dr. White recognized Amy Spaugh, the former board chair, for her work with the Board and presented her with a beautiful potted plant. Also recognized were Mr. Johnny Manning, new guidance counselor at PCHS, and Mr. Joel Brown, new assistant principal at PCMS.

Announcements

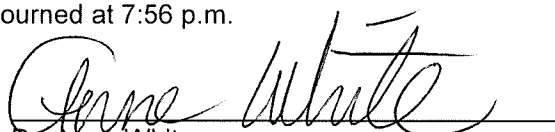
- Convocation – Monday, August 20, 2018
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, August 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Central Office
- Open House – Wednesday, August 22, 2018 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at each school

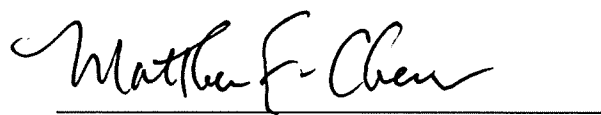
Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously at 7:10 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously at 7:55 p.m. to return to open session.

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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.


Dr. Anne White


Matthew F. Cheeseman