

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – October 22, 2018

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 22, 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, Leary Winslow and Arlene Yates were present.

Board Chair Dr. Anne White called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented, including the addendums.

Good News

Grade "A" Rating on Quarterly Custodial Inspection

<u>Perquimans Central</u>	<u>Hertford Grammar</u>	<u>Perquimans Middle</u>	<u>Perquimans High</u>
Ronald Wilson	Roberts Banks	Amos Fletcher	Quinton Brickhouse
Melvin Jackson	Willie Downing	Anita Mercer	Elmer Rumble
Mary Williams	Elizabeth Tavares	Elbert Sawyer, Jr.	Joyce Hunter
Sandra Bizzell			Bernadette Ferebee

National Principals Month

Melissa Fields – Perquimans Central School
John Lassiter – Hertford Grammar School
Laura Moreland – Perquimans County Middle School
Wayne Price – Perquimans County High School

Dr. White led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Matt Peeler said a prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2018 regular session as presented.

Consent Agenda

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

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendations contained in the Personnel Summary Report for October 22, 2018 as presented, including the addendum.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

2018-2019 NC Star School Improvement Plans

Principal Melissa Fields, Dean of Students Ginny Ambrose, Lead Teacher Dani White and Kindergarten Teacher Megan Clayton presented the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan for

Perquimans Central School. Principal John Lassiter presented the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan for Hertford Grammar School. Following a brief discussion, the board took the following action. Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the NC Star School Improvement Plans for Perquimans Central School and Hertford Grammar School for 2018-2019 as presented.

Finance

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the State Public School Fund – Amendment #2 and Federal Grants Fund – Amendment #2 as presented by Chief Finance Officer Larissa York.

Reports / Updates

Highlights from National Learning Disabilities and Dyslexia Awareness Month

Director of Exceptional Education Carole Sykes shared that October is National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month and Dyslexia Awareness Month. Out of the EC population in Perquimans County Schools, there are 303 students that are categorized as having a learning disability, with 123 having a specific learning disability. Mrs. Sykes serves as a dyslexia delegate through the Department of Public Instruction. In this role, Mrs. Sykes helps to shed light on the definition of dyslexia as adopted through House Bill 149. She distributed a fact sheet and a topic brief regarding myths and facts associated with dyslexia.

Based upon action taken by the Board on the Personnel Summary Report, Superintendent Cheeseman introduced Chief Academic Officer Kanika Griffin, Director of Exceptional Education Carole Sykes, and Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Norris Parker.

Class Size Update

Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Norris Parker provided an update on class sizes. The student totals were updated with an adjustment of one to two students per grade. At the top of the report, the class sizes generated by the Student Activity Report in Power School did not change. At the bottom of the report, the information showed the actual number of students per class divided by the number of teachers.

Athletic Complex Update

Director of Maintenance James Davison noted the water and sewer are complete; water meter for sprinkler system has been installed; in-wall plumbing is complete in restroom/concession building; plywood is going up inside the building; FRP is going up in the restroom portion of the restroom/concession building; transformer pad has been poured; contractors are lined up to set the transformer; main power hook-up contractor will be on site on Thursday; field prep started today; final clearing and grading started today; south entrance will go in over the next few days; and irrigation installation will start on Wednesday. Items still to be addressed include sod installation; scoreboards; field goal posts; sideline benches, bleacher system from football field to visitor side on the new field; entertainment center from press box to the new field; fencing around the football field; practice field prep; main entrance gates and fencing along the road.

In regard to financing due to the change in vendors for the irrigation system, Mr. Cheeseman explained that he and Mr. Winslow had discussions with John Spruill of Sawyer's Land Development to allow the school system out of irrigation portion of the contract. Mr. Cheeseman stated there is no fiscal difference, noting that the district would not have to pay a greater amount of money at this time. Mr. Cheeseman thanked Mr. Winslow who is working closely with Lyle Brown on the irrigation portion of the project. Mr. Winslow stated he believes it is important to move forward in getting the sod down now. He said there is some risk in installing the sod now, but he is nearby and will take extra care of it so that the district can move forward with the installation of the fencing.

Student Discipline Data

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch pointed out a few items related to student discipline for the month of October. Comparing the October data for the last three years, high school suspension rates have decreased dramatically as evidenced by PBIS implementation and MTSS implementation. He noted there were three reportable offenses to report since the last board meeting. There have been 15 suspensions at the high school related to students who are vaping, or using electronic cigarettes. Our policy indicates that the devices are prohibited on school property regardless if they have nicotine or if they do not have nicotine. Mr. Price is sending communications to parents and staff about tobacco and the use of e-cigarettes and the health hazards associated with their use. A member of the local health department will accompany him as he addresses this issue with classes on Wednesday and Thursday. Sgt. Murray has provided professional development to teachers on what these items look like, noting that some vapes look like flash drives and have flavors such as cherry, grape, etc. When asked about educating parents about this, Mr. Price stated that an education station would be set up for parents at the upcoming CAPS night at PCHS. Mr. Bunch fielded questions from board members on the consequences for possessing and using vapes on campus.

Superintendent's Report Charter School Update

Mr. Cheeseman provided an update on the proposed Elaine Riddick Charter School. He brought this to the attention of the Perquimans Central School staff and the Hertford Grammar School last week. He plans to meet with Perquimans Middle and Perquimans High soon so that employees will understand what is going on and what the impacts might be. The school district will develop and submit an impact letter to the Office of Charter Schools which is due at close of business tomorrow. A copy of the letter will be provided to board members when it is finished. The letter asks how the charter school will impact personnel, school finance, and operations. Mr. Cheeseman had a conversation with one of the members who signed the application. The individual stated it was a business opportunity as well as an opportunity to do something for the African American children in the Town of Hertford and Perquimans County.

The charter school is seeking 120 students in Kindergarten through third grade in year one. Although Elizabeth City-Pasquotank students are mentioned in the body of the application, the numbers of students refer only to students in Perquimans. The charter school is seeking 40 African American Kindergarten students of poverty, who are underserved, and disadvantaged; however, the district does not have 40 African American students in Kindergarten. Being unsure where the charter school will obtain these students, Mr. Cheeseman has informed Edenton-Chowan Schools, Gates County Schools and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Schools of the proposed charter school. According to the application, the school would be implemented in 2020; however, the directors are anticipating a 2019 start date.

State funding would amount to about \$7,500 per student and federal funding about \$2,500 per student. This amount is not a cash flow to the school district, but is translated into months of employment and positions. Our leadership team is putting together a marketing opportunity to tell our story and to help our employees understand the impacts. The Board and Superintendent discussed the implications and the possible effects on our school district. Mr. Cheeseman stated that County Commissioners could play a big role in this, too, as the charter school looks to rent, lease or buy a facility in this community. Mr. Cheeseman stated that he will introduce this information to the Joint Education Steering Committee in the next week or two. He also noted that one name on the charter school application is that of a member of the Hertford Town Council. Mr. Winslow added that the person is also a member of the Perquimans County Schools Foundation. The Board had a discussion regarding a possible conflict of interest of that person sitting on the Foundation board as well as on the charter school board.

School Calendar Update

According to current legislation, Mr. Cheeseman announced there will be no changes made to the school calendar at this time. He noted that the district focuses on instructional hours, 1,025 hours per school year, and that the district is currently in good standing. October 26th remains an early release day and October 29th remains a required work day. He reminded board members that each of the last two or three years in early January, the district has lost days of school due to snow and/or ice. If that is the case this year, the district will have to look at how it will impact instructional hours. If an optional workday is called, it is because the State of North Carolina says that district employees must have 215 days of employment.

NERESA Conference

Mr. Cheeseman announced that the NERESA Fall Leadership Conference will be held on November 1st and 2nd and will be attended by some of our district and school-based administrators. In addition, Chief Academic Officer Kanika Griffin and Director of Exceptional Education Carole Sykes will present at the conference on behalf of Perquimans County Schools. Dr. White asked that the conference agenda be shared with board members in the event they would like to attend to earn CEUs.

Board Chair's Comments

Board Member Arlene Yates presented highlights from the North Carolina Caucus of Black School Board Members Annual Conference that she attended in Raleigh on October 4-6, 2018. Mrs. Yates shared a copy of a handout from the conference and shared information about teacher effectiveness, charter schools, and legislative lobbying for schools.

Board Chair Dr. Anne White mentioned that Meals on Wheels is in need of drivers. If interested, please contact Dr. White for more information.

Dr. White congratulated new leaders Dr. Norris Parker, Chief Administrative Officer; Kanika Griffin, Chief Academic Officer; and Carole Sykes, Director of Exceptional Children.

Announcements

- NCSBA Annual Conference – November 12-14, 2018, Sheraton Four Seasons Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, November 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Central Office
- NSBA National Conference – March 30-April 1, 2018, Philadelphia, PA

Closed Session

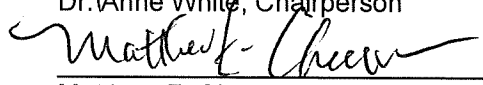
Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session. No action was taken after returning to open session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



Dr. Anne White, Chairperson



Matthew F. Cheeseman