

**Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – August 23, 2021**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Central Office. Audio access was available to the public by dialing a telephone number and entering a meeting ID and passcode.

Board Chair Dr. Anne White called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Arlene Yates led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Russell Lassiter said a prayer.

Board members present: Chair Dr. Anne White (in person), Vice Chair Russell Lassiter (in person), Matt Peeler (in person), Amy Spaugh (in person), Leary Winslow (in person), and Arlene Yates (in person).

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021 regular meeting and the August 2, 2021 special meeting as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the student transfer requests for 2021-2022 as presented by Superintendent Turner.

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel recommendations in the Personnel Summary Report and addendum for August 23, 2021 as presented by Superintendent Turner.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

Mr. Darius Horton, a 2005 graduate of Perquimans County High School, a nine-year Elizabeth City council member, and owner of Horton Funeral Home since 2015, expressed his concerns to the Board about the district's mask requirements. As the parent of a Pre-K student in Perquimans County Schools starting later this month, Mr. Horton expressed his concerns about the Board's recent decision regarding mask mandates and asked the Board to consider returning to a full mask mandate. He also asked the Board to consider the recent letter from Governor Roy Cooper which asks school boards to consider going back to a full mask mandate.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Presentation - Impact of Potential Universal Pre-K in Perquimans County Schools

Chief Academic Officer for Curriculum and Instruction Melissa Fields presented a Power Point presentation on the impact of potential universal Pre-K in Perquimans County Schools as requested by Board Member Arlene Yates. Perquimans County Schools currently has two NC Pre-K classrooms with 18 students each for a total of 36 students, with 9 students on a wait list. Mrs. Fields presented information on eligibility factors for NC Pre-K; curriculum, assessment, and

professional development; budget; other child care/Pre-K options; momentum for Universal Pre-K; potential benefits of universal Pre-K; potential barriers to Universal Pre-K; and alternatives to Universal Pre-K. According to My Future NC, to meet state goals, Perquimans County needs 17 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in the NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 51%). Mrs. Fields entertained questions and comments from board members about this topic. This item was for information only.

Presentation – Where's the Bus? GPS Platform / Parent App

Transportation Director Phillip Simmons presented a Power Point presentation on Where's the Bus?, a GPS platform / parent app. With this app, parents will know when their bus will arrive at their bus stop, eliminating the need to call Transportation. Updated every 15 seconds, Where's the Bus displays the real-time minutes and miles the bus is from the household's bus stop. Any member of the bus-riding household can access this information from any Internet connected device. It will help parents to know when to have their child out at the stop or if the bus is running late. Mr. Simmons showed a picture of what parents see on the Where's the Bus app on their smart phone. This platform will increase the safety of our buses as drivers won't have to be constantly contacted by the school system about the status of a child's stop. It should save time for the Transportation Department as the system shows in real time the amount of time it takes for the bus route versus information from TIMS data. It will also help to locate a bus in the event of an accident and the driver is incapacitated. In addition to locating buses during their routes, Transportation staff can also use the platform to locate buses during the day for service and inspection. Information sheets will be made available to parents on how to login to the system. A keypad has also been installed which will help track the driver's time so that timesheets will not be necessary. Mr. Simmons is installing the hardware on the buses himself and hopes to have installation complete on all buses in a few weeks. Bus drivers have been informed that this has been installed for the bus driver's protection. This item was for information only.

Recommendation for Video Surveillance Equipment

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the bid tabulation information for video surveillance equipment for Perquimans County Middle School. Plans are to update all video systems in our schools in the next couple of years. Noting the need for this equipment as a safety issue, Mr. Bunch stated that 27 cameras would be installed strategically making them accessible to any area in the school via a smart phone app. Dr. Turner added, having recently conducted an active shooter training, law enforcement would be able to know where an intruder is in the building. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to enter into an agreement with WYN Technologies, Inc. for video surveillance equipment in the amount of \$25,933.52 as presented.

Memorandum of Agreement for Fire Training Tower

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a memorandum of agreement to make available a training tower located on the property of Perquimans County High School to the fire departments within Perquimans County as presented by Career Technical Education Director Jill Cohen, who was accompanied by PCHS Fire Tech Academy Instructor Michael Cartwright. Mr. Cartwright noted that 23 of the 24 modules to become a certified firefighter through the State Fire Marshal's Office are allowed to be taught in our school system. Mr. Cartwright fielded questions about the program from board members.

Finance

Fee Schedule

Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fee schedule for the 2021-2022 school year as required by Board Policy 4600 Student

Fees as presented by Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard. Board policy and DPI require that the fee schedule be posted on the district website by October 15th. As fees change or are added, Mr. Blanchard will present the revised fee schedule to the Board for approval.

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard presented the monthly financial report which included each fund, year-to-date spent, outstanding POs, escrow, continuing budget amount, and year-to-date percentage spent. Mr. Blanchard said the State still does not have a budget, but could within the next two to three weeks according to DPI. If so, Mr. Blanchard hopes to have an initial budget to present to the Board for approval. Until then, the continuing budget approved by the Board will be used. The benchmark for this point in the year is 17%. When the report was run, it was at 10%. Another report was run after the payroll was posted, bringing the benchmark up to 15%. In regard to Capital Outlay, \$297,246.38.00 has been spent/encumbered as of August 18, 2021. Mr. Blanchard noted the PNC CD in Capital Outlay, which is around \$26,000, was cashed out and presented to the Foundation for the baseball field. Mr. Winslow and Mr. Lassiter noted that money in the CD was donated in memory of Jimmy Hunter and was to be used specifically at the baseball field to commemorate Mr. Hunter.

Resolution for Purchase of Sports Uniforms

Prior to any discussion or action, Board Member Leary Winslow recused himself from this agenda item.

When asked about this item being a possible conflict of interest, Dr. Turner noted that the matter was reviewed by the board attorney who actually composed the resolution. She referred to the resolution and the General Statutes to explain why it was possible for the Board to conduct business with Mr. Winslow. She said there was a similar situation about ten years ago when Susan Cox, who owns the trophy shop, was a member of the Board. This same procedure had to be done at that time so the school system could purchase from the trophy shop. It was noted that the resolution would allow the school system to do business with Mr. Winslow, not to enter an exclusive contract with him.

Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution to purchase uniforms for the school's sports teams for The Launch Pad Training Facility, LLC, a sporting goods supplier in Perquimans County owned by Board Member Leary Winslow. Following the vote, Mr. Winslow explained how he came about having the dealership known as The Launch Pad Training Facility.

Reports / Updates

Chairwoman Dr. Anne White stated at the last regular board meeting on July 26th, Dr. Turner presented information to the Board on the health protocols in the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit. The Board voted 3-3 on the options that were presented. Because of that vote, the Board met on August 2nd and approved the mitigation plan. On August 12th, the Superintendent and Board Chair received a letter from Governor Roy Cooper strongly urging school boards that had made face coverings optional to reconsider. Mr. Horton came to the Board to speak in favor of face masks. Rather than having another discussion on this, Dr. White asked board members if anyone had changed their opinion on the 3-3 vote. Board members were polled, but none had changed their opinion since the previous vote. When asked about the possibility of masking and the authority given to the Superintendent, if any, in the mitigation plan, Dr. Turner said it was not specifically written out in the plan. When asked about her response in the event of a large number of quarantines or high community spread, Dr. Turner explained the process for positive cases, isolations, and quarantines, in collaboration with ARHS, and the Board's involvement if this were

to happen. Mrs. Spaugh stated her concern was about the quarantines and the effect they would have on our ability to keep classrooms open. Dr. Turner stated if there is a problem having enough staff to keep schools open, the State would have to be contacted to give us permission to go remote because districts don't have permission to go remote this year. There was discussion about isolation and quarantine protocols for students, staff, and athletics. Dr. Turner praised our school nurses and their diligence, along with ARHS.

Dr. White thanked board members for addressing the letter from the Governor and for their willingness to discuss it. After taking an individual roll call vote earlier in the meeting resulting in a 3-3 vote, she noted the current mitigation standards will continue as written. After discussion about what to do in the event of an outbreak or spread, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner to make decisions on masks per school or districtwide as situations warrant.

Superintendent's Report

The following are highlights from Dr. Turner's report:

- The first day of school went well.
- Personnel Update for Perquimans County Schools
 - Current vacancies: English Teacher – PCHS; HVAC Technician – Maintenance; Teacher Assistant – HGS; School Nutrition Assistants; School Nurse; Marketing Teacher – PCHS; District Social Worker; EC Teacher – HGS; Front Desk Receptionist/Child Nutrition Assistant
 - Year-long postings: Substitute Teachers, School Nutrition Substitute, Bus Drivers
 - Athletics: Volleyball Coach – PCMS, Softball Coach – PCMS, Cheerleading Coach - PCMS
- A survey of statewide vacancies completed by 72 school districts showed the following number of vacancies – K-5: 560; 6-8: 369; 9-12: 406.5; Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologists: 112; Classified: 1,637; Bus Drivers: 707.
- Enrollment Summary

Enrollment Summary

School	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Diff in 2020-2021
PCS	386	393	418	400	403	+3
HGS	437	415	372	332	366	+34
PCMS	343	381	415	417	416	-1
PCHS	468	465	480	465	521	+56
Total	1634	1654	1665	1614	1706	+92

2017-2020 Based on a mid-September date
(First time over 1,700 since 2015 (1715))

- Coming Soon! 2020-2021 ELA Testing Data and State and Regional Data Comparisons

Board Chair's Comments

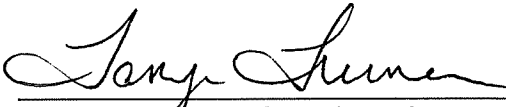
Dr. White commended the teachers and staff for an outstanding opening of school.

Announcements

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.


Dr. Anne White, Chairperson


Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent