

**Perquimans County Board of Education  
Regular Session – February 28, 2022**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 28, 2022 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.

Chairwoman Dr. Anne White called the meeting to order. Arlene Yates led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and had prayer.

Board members present: Chairwoman Dr. Anne White (in person), Vice Chair Russell Lassiter (in person), Matt Peeler (in person), Amy Spough (in person), Leary Winslow (remote by phone), and Arlene Yates (in person). Board Attorney John Leidy was also in attendance.

**Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion by Amy Spough and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**Special Recognitions**

Mr. Tennell C. Wright of the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 293, along with his wife, presented certificates and gift cards to the winners of the 2021-2022 essay contest. In addition, first place winners will receive a flag that has been flown over the nation's capital when they are available.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Nathaniel Williamson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Local Winner

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Lilly Winslow – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Local Winner, Taylor Honza – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Local Winner, Anthony Winslow – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Local Winner

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Justin Richardson – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Local Winner; Best Overall

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Malik Bossert-Haverland – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Local Winner

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: DJ Levesque – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Local Winner, Emily Bundy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Local Winner

Dr. Turner introduced Swim Coach Victoria West, who recognized the 2021-2022 Perquimans County High School Swim Team. All twelve swimmers qualified for the regional swim meet and five went on to the state meet. The swim team consisted of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Alayna Damron, Catherine Howell, Hailey Bass, Jay Roberts, Mariah Clark, Mike May, Anthony Colucci; 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Destini Scott; 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Giana Colucci, Joliegh Connor; and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: DJ Levesque, Ian Ford. Coach West presented certificates to students who qualified for the state meet: Joliegh Connor, Catherine Howell, Alayna Damron, Haley Bass, and Mariah Clark. Joliegh was also recognized as the Conference Swimmer of the Year for Women's Swimming.

Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner introduced the new assistant principal at Perquimans County Middle School, Ms. Makesha Spivey. Ms. Spivey said she was thankful for the opportunity to serve the students, staff and community in Perquimans and looked forward to working with everyone.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Amy Spough, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the January 24, 2022 regular meeting and the February 15, 2022 special-called meeting as presented.

### Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the student transfer requests for 2022-2023 as presented by Dr. Turner.

Amy Spaugh made a motion and Matt Peeler seconded the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding personnel items as presented. Prior to the vote, Arlene Yates requested to have a discussion about personnel in closed session. Mrs. Spaugh withdrew her motion and Mr. Peeler withdrew his second to the motion. Action would be taken on the Personnel Summary Report following the closed session.

### Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

### Unfinished Business

None

### New Business

#### Strategic Plan Update – Strategic Priority #3

Chief Academic Officer Melissa Fields provided an update on Strategic Priority 3: Provide students equitable access to a challenging curriculum and engaging instruction. Several pages of data were presented for Action Steps 3.1 to 3.4 of Priority 3. During the presentation, board members engaged in discussion and asked the staff questions. Updates on the other strategic priorities will be presented at future board meetings.

#### 2021-2022 Summer Program Plan

Mrs. Fields presented the Summer Program Plan for 2021-2022. The purpose of the Summer School Program is for EOG/EOC testing, credit recovery, repeating a class for credit, improving functional skills, and access to academic enrichment opportunities for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be eight days of instruction from June 14<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup> for four hours each day. HGS and PCMS will test on June 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> and PCHS will test on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2021-2022 Summer Program Plan as presented.

#### 2022-2023 School Calendar

Mrs. Fields presented the school calendar for 2022-2023. She said this was a very difficult calendar for the team to create due to scheduling required training, the exam schedule, and legislative mandates. She highlighted the required and optional work days, the beginning and ending of first and second semesters, early release days, holidays, and annual leave days. The calendar was presented for a first reading only. Action will be taken at the March meeting.

#### Face Covering Policy

Superintendent Turner provided an updated map of the school districts in North Carolina that require masks and those that are mask optional. As of February 25<sup>th</sup>, 98 school districts have mask optional policies, 15 have pending effective dates, and 17 have mask mandates. She provided an update on the COVID count in Perquimans County Schools, noting that the latest chart shows one week of masks required and one week of masks optional. The mask optional week had zero positive cases and the mask required week had two student positives and one staff positive. Next month she will report a full month of mask optional data.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced Friday that effective immediately, masks are no longer required on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs. The CDC announced that it is providing this update "to align with updated guidance that no longer recommends universal indoor mask-wearing in K-12 schools and early education settings in areas with low or medium COVID-19 Community Level."

Senate Bill 654 that was signed into law on Monday, August 30, 2021, requires school boards to vote each month on their pandemic-related mask or face covering policy. Dr. Turner presented her recommendation to make the wearing of masks optional but recommended for all students, staff, and visitors/spectators of Perquimans County Schools while inside school facilities and optional while on school buses due to changes in the CDC regulations. After discussion, the following action was taken. Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to make the wearing of masks optional but recommended for all students, staff, and visitors/spectators of Perquimans County Schools while inside school facilities and optional while on school buses due to changes in the CDC regulations. The Board of Education will continue to vote monthly on the mask requirement as required by law.

#### Budget Amendments

Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard presented budget amendments for the Board's consideration, explaining in detail the reason for each amendment. Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve State (Fund 1) Budget Amendment #3, Local (Fund 2) Budget Amendment #2, Federal (Fund 3) Budget Amendment #4, Child Nutrition (Fund 5) Budget Amendment #1, and Local (Fund 8) Budget Amendment #4 as presented.

#### Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard presented the financial report that was run on February 23, 2022, which included payroll. The benchmark for funds spent was 67%, with the actual percent of funds spent being 57%. He also illustrated the budget summary sorted by 2-digit Purpose Code. In Capital Outlay, \$102,215.53 remains unallocated for unexpected repairs.

#### Supplemental Funds for Teacher Compensation

In Section 7A.12 of the Appropriation Act of 2021 (NC SL 2021-180), the North Carolina General Assembly created a recurring appropriation to provide funding for LEAs and charter schools to provide salary supplements to teachers and school administrators in their units. Local Boards of Education are responsible for determining the distribution of the supplements within the confines of the legislation. Mr. Blanchard outlined the requirements that must be adhered to when administering the funding according to the statute. Legislation requires that boards of education determine the distribution of funds, including whether an individual qualifying employee receives a supplement and the amount of the supplement provided. Mr. Blanchard outlined the administrative process for determining the individuals to receive the supplements and the amount of the individual supplements as outlined in the plan provided to the Board. At this time, 133 eligible teachers have been identified in Perquimans County Schools. Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve Perquimans County Schools to utilize state funding (PRC 071) for "Supplemental Funds for Teacher Compensation" as outlined in the plan presented.

#### Date for Budget Work Session

After consulting their calendars, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to schedule a budget work session on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. in the boardroom at the Central Office.

### Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund 2021-2022 Grant Application

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF) 2021-2022 Grant Application that is available to school districts. There is \$395 million available for FY 2021-2022. The grant award maximums are up to \$30 million for an elementary school, up to \$40 million for a middle school, and up to \$50 million for a high school. Grant funds must only be used for construction of new school buildings and additions, repairs, and renovations. The application must have the signature of the chair of the County Commissioners and the Board of Education. Our request will be for \$40 million for the possibility of building a school with grades 3-8. Mr. Bunch and Dr. Turner entertained questions from the Board. Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to submit the NBPSCF Grant to NCDPI as presented. Dr. Turner and Mr. Bunch will contact County Manager Frank Heath to request this item to be on the agenda for the County Commissioners meeting on March 8, 2022.

### Reports / Updates

#### Student Discipline Data

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the student discipline data for January 2022. There is still only one reportable offense to report at this time for this school year. There are eight more suspensions as of this date compared to last school year. Each of the schools are doing a good job addressing behaviors. There were no suspensions to report for Perquimans Central School. In January, there were four out-of-school suspensions for Hertford Grammar, four for Perquimans Middle, and five for Perquimans High.

#### Transportation Update

Transportation Director Terry Sawyer said they have looked into some combined routes and have tried several; however, the ride time is very long. They will continue to maneuver students from one bus to another to cut down on ride times. Some of the combined routes that they tried are almost three hours long because of the number of students on the bus. They have also looked into virtual CDLs to help get more bus drivers. He and Mrs. Williams will attend a meeting about this next month. Mr. Sawyer fielded questions and comments from board members.

### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Turner shared the following information in her report:

- Enrollment is up 28 students compared to the 2020-2021 school year.
- CTE Director Jill Cohen shared pictures and provided an update on work-based learning for PCHS students. Spring 2022 internships included Food Service, EMS, Theatre, SPCA, Early Childhood, Welding, Graphic Arts, and the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Cohen noted that an interest inventory will be the first step for the Class of 2026. She also shared photos that showed unique professional development for PCMS CTE teachers who are learning to solder.
- Mrs. Cohen stated that articulated credit for Fall 2021 from high school to college totaled 360 college credits. Courses included in this agreement include Entrepreneurship I, Health Science I, Multimedia Web Page Design, and Horticulture I.
- A study was conducted by the NCDPI Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration in collaboration with the SAS EVAAS team as a result of state legislation passed last year. According to the study, students made less progress during the pandemic than they did in previous years. Preliminary results of the study showed negative effects for students across all subjects and grades, as well as better outcomes for students who returned to the classroom for face-to-face learning rather than purely remote students. The full report will be shared with the State Board of Education during its

meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The findings of the study will be used to understand learning recovery and acceleration programs and interventions across the state.

- **Pandemic Highlights in PQ**
  - PCS, HGS, PCMS exceeded growth; PCHS met growth.
  - 100% of all teachers K-8 met or exceeded growth.
  - 94.5% of all tested EOG and EOC subjects met or exceeded growth.
  - HGS exceeded the state average in proficiency in 6 out of 7 tested areas.
  - HGS exceeded the regional average in all 7 areas.
  - PCMS exceeded the state average in 5 out of 7 tested areas (not including Math I).
  - PCMS exceeded the regional average in all 7 areas (not including Math I).
  - PCHS exceeded the regional average in 3 out of 4 EOC areas.
  - Overall, Grades 3-8 exceeded the state average in the percentage of students scoring at career and college ready as well as grade level proficiency.
  - Out of 117 districts, PQ ranked 98<sup>th</sup> in the percent of negative impact. Only one other regional school was lower.

#### Board Chair's Comments

Dr. White thanked everyone in the schools and the Central Office leadership team for all that they do.

#### Announcements

- Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, March 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. @ Central Office
- Mr. Peeler stated that he would not be running for re-election to the School Board.

#### Closed Session

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to enter closed session pursuant to General Statute § 143-318.11 (a)(6) regarding personnel matters.

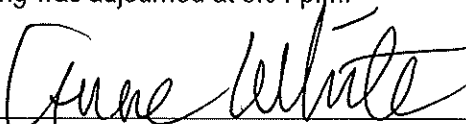
#### Return to Open Session

Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

After returning to open session, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted 5 to 1, with Mrs. Yates opposing, to approve the Personnel Summary Report for February 28, 2022, as presented.

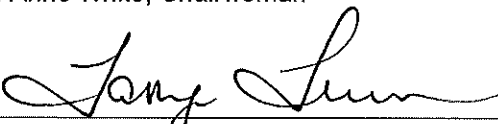
#### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



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Dr. Anne White, Chairwoman



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Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent