

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – November 22, 2021

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 22, 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.

Chairwoman Dr. Anne White called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting including Reggie Ponder, reporter; Danielle Smith, district social worker; Randy Awrey, head football coach; and several school bus drivers. Amy Spough led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and read a quote in honor of Thanksgiving.

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 (in person), and Arlene Yates (in person).

Approval of Agenda

Arlene Yates made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Matt Peeler seconded the motion. Before the vote, Leary Winslow questioned why the Board did not have prayer and if prayer was not going to be included on the agenda. Ms. Spough responded that she chose to read a quote rather than to have prayer. Mr. Winslow noted that prayer was not listed on the agenda which the Board about to approve. Dr. White noted that prayer has not been listed on the agenda. Mr. Winslow stated he was not okay with it and therefore raised the issue. Dr. White stated that she liked the way that Mr. Lassiter led the Pledge and had prayer. When Mrs. Spough was asked to do the Pledge, she chose to do a quote instead of prayer. Dr. White asked Mr. Winslow to lead the Pledge next month and have prayer as he sees fit. She said this was not an attempt to remove prayer, but to recognize that the community is growing and changing with different people from different religious backgrounds. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Special Recognition

Perquimans County High School Senior Colby Brown was recognized as a recipient of the 2021 Carolina Panthers Community Captain Award. This award is given to ten outstanding student athletes from North Carolina and South Carolina each year who excel in their sport, in the classroom, and in their community. The winners earn a \$500 grant to benefit their high school athletic departments. Colby and the other nine recipients were honored at the Panthers home game on November 7th on the field at halftime. Head Football Coach Randy Awrey and PCHS Principal Mickey Drew commended Colby on his athletic ability and integrity as an athlete, a student, and a person.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the October 25, 2021 regular meeting and the November 9, 2021 special-called meeting as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Amy Spough, the Board voted unanimously to approve the student transfer request for 2021-2022 as presented.

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel recommendations in the Personnel Summary Report as presented by Superintendent Turner.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

There were no requests from the public.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Judicial Attendance Council

District Social Worker Danielle Smith introduced herself and provided an overview of the Judicial Attendance Council (JAC). The JAC meetings are arranged at the school level, as well as the district level, to discuss attendance and to devise a plan to help our students increase overall attendance. At the school level, the counselors and principals, along with the student and family, come together to figure out what is going on and how the school can help to increase attendance. If unsuccessful at the school level, then it is referred to Ms. Smith to conduct a district meeting. The district team consists of Ms. Smith, Dr. Kanika Griffin, Dr. Tanya Turner, Mr. James Bunch, Judge Harris, Sheriff White, DSS Director Chaney, and the school counselor and principal. For students under the age of 16, these meetings are conducted at the courthouse. If the child's attendance does not improve after this meeting, the district will proceed with pressing charges. For students over the age of 16, these meetings are conducted in the boardroom at the Central Office. By law, students are not required to attend school over the age of 16, but the team meets with the student and family to discuss how to increase overall attendance. For the month of October, there was a total of 15 JAC districtwide referrals. Of those 15, the district had to proceed with charges for two at the middle school and two at the high school. For the month of November, there have been 16 referrals for JAC.

School Calendar Revisions

Chief Academic Officer Melissa Fields presented additional school calendar changes for the 2021-2022 school year. Since the last changes were presented to the Board, the district learned that January 24th was now on the "dates to avoid" list from LETRS for the legislatively mandated Science of Reading training. Therefore, the following changes were requested:

- Monday, January 24th, a teacher workday to return to a student day
- Monday, January 31st, a student day to become a required workday for teachers to complete Unit One training for LETRS

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted to approve the requested revisions to the 2021-2022 school calendar as presented by Mrs. Fields.

Face Covering Policy

Superintendent Turner provided an update on the COVID count in Perquimans County Schools including updated information from Albemarle Regional Health Services on active cases and trends. She reminded the Board of final semester testing dates and how attendance for testing might be affected without the mask requirement.

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 continue the mask mandate. After discussion, the following action was taken. Upon motion by Arlene

Yates and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted 5 to 1, with Mr. Peeler opposing, to require the wearing of masks for all students, staff, and visitors/spectators of Perquimans County Schools while inside school facilities in order to limit the number of quarantines and spread within the district. This requirement will expire at the end of each month dependent on the Board's decision at each monthly meeting when metrics for the school system are analyzed.

Budget Amendments

Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard presented a proposal regarding two Certificates of Deposit currently held at PNC Bank. One CD (Account #11020712153) in the amount of \$10,003.07 was designated as "Bus Fund CD." The second CD (Account #11020713384) in the amount of \$69,583.01 had no designation. The bank suggested that the CDs be cashed and deposited into our local account since the interest rate on governmental CDs is .01% at this time. Mr. Blanchard explained that the money in these CDs is already a part of the fund balance. The only effect that cashing in these two CDs would have on our financial statements would be reclassifying the amount from the CD into our local bank account on the Balance Sheet. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to cash the CDs mentioned above, deposit the proceeds to our local checking account and reclass \$10,003.07 in the checking account as "Restricted Cash – Bus Fund."

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard said there were no budget amendments to present at this meeting due to the changes that will occur with the State passing a budget last week. He presented the financial report that was run on November 16, 2021. The benchmark for funds spent was 42%, with the actual percent of funds spent being 34%. The report did not include payroll or expenditures paid after that date which would bring the percentage up to 39-40% which is about where it should be for this time of year. He also illustrated the budget summary sorted by 2-digit Purpose Code. In Capital Outlay, there is \$103,750.23 that remains unallocated for unexpected repairs.

Bus Driver Salary Proposal

After receiving feedback from the Board at a special-called meeting on November 9, 2021 and now that the State has adopted a budget, Chief Human Resources Officer Michelle Maddox presented a proposal for bus driver salaries. Her presentation included an estimate for FY 2021-2022 per State, an estimate for FY 2021-2022 per State plus \$1, and an estimate for FY 2021-2022 per State plus \$2 which brings it to a 35-step scale. She noted that this is an estimate since State salary minimums and maximums have not been received yet. She also illustrated the cost difference from the current pay scale to the State FY 2021-2022 minimum \$13.00 (\$38,197.69), the State FY 2021-2022 plus \$1.00 (\$60,607.19) and the State FY 2021-2022 plus \$2.00 (\$82,708.11). In addition, she presented possible incentives including \$25 per week for perfect attendance (total cost \$28,096.65) and year-end bonus based on the number of years employed with Perquimans County Schools (total cost \$7,481.68). This sheet did not show the \$1,200.00 COVID supplement that will be paid in two installments, \$600 in December and \$600 in June. Dr. White mentioned concerns from bus drivers about having to pay for their license renewal and for their yearly physical and asked if these items could possibly be paid for the bus drivers. Following discussion, Leary Winslow made a motion to approve a \$2.00 increase above the adopted State Salary Schedule for FY 2021-2022 and the incentives. In addition, the district would pay for annual physicals in full, license renewals in full, and initial license certification in full. Arlene Yates seconded the motion. Mr. Peeler made a motion to table this until final figures are obtained to know the amount that would be spent. After additional comments, the Board voted and the original motion was approved unanimously.

Fall 2021 Legislative and Other Policy Updates

The Board had a first reading of policies included in the Fall 2021 Legislative and Other Policy Updates as provided by attorneys from the North Carolina School Boards Association. Action will be taken on these proposed policy revisions at the December meeting.

Reports / Updates

Student Discipline Data

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the student discipline data for October 2021. There were no reportable offenses in the district. Perquimans Central Schools had no suspensions at this time last year and none to date this year. Hertford Grammar School had one suspension through October of last year compared to 11 this year, but there are more students on campus. Perquimans High School had zero suspensions at this time last year, but has 15 suspensions to date this year. Perquimans Middle School currently has 26 suspensions versus zero at this time last year.

In regard to remote learners and how they play into the suspension rates, Mr. Bunch provided the following report. He noted that the number of remote learners did not stay the same throughout the year. At Central School, it was not applicable as they did not have any suspensions. Hertford Grammar had 110 students that were remote learners. Out of the 11 suspensions at Hertford Grammar so far this year, six of those were remote learners last year. Perquimans Middle had approximately 100 remote learners last year. Out of the 26 suspensions to date this year, five students were remote learners last year. At Perquimans High, there were approximately 171 remote learners last year. Of the 15 suspensions to date this year, four of those suspensions were remote learners last year. This does not include Seniors from last year as they would not be applicable this year.

Superintendent's Report

Enrollment Summary

School	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Diff in 2020-2021
PCB	386	393	418	400	410	+10
HGS	437	415	372	332	357	+25
PCMS	343	381	415	417	400	-17
PCHS	468	465	460	465	501	+36
Total	1634	1654	1665	1614	1668	+54

Athletics Update

- The Pirates played Tarboro in the third round of the State 1A football playoffs on Friday night. The last time Perquimans made it to the third round of the state playoffs was 20 years ago in 2001-2002.
- Last year there were two swimmers, but one got hurt. This year there are 14 swimmers, seven boys and seven girls, with a highly qualified swim coach. Parents are getting their kids to practice and a bus is used for meets. The first meet last Wednesday was a practice meet. On Friday at the first real meet, the team finished last, but scored in both boys and girls. Dual meets can be a game of numbers. Our team is small compared to First Flight's team that has 40 swimmers.

- PCHS Senior Tanner Thach officially signed with UNCW last week. Tanner plans to major in communications and then pursue seminary school.
- Melissa Fields, Naomi Mallory, Tracy Gregory, Kristine Garvey and Dr. Turner will be participating in the inaugural AIM 2021 Conference—Accelerate, Invigorate, Motivate—at the Raleigh Convention Center next week. State Superintendent Truitt asked Mrs. Fields and Dr. Turner to present our district's work with the strategic plan and its alignment with Operation Polaris. Our teachers will be collaborating with regional teams and Mrs. Garvey will present standard-based grading with other Teachers of the Year. A group of ten FFA Aquaculture students will showcase Aquaculture: Diving into an Adventure. They will showcase DIY aquaculture tanks, explain dissecting kits and their DIY fishing poles and lures.
- Last week, the NC Teacher of the Year and Regional Teacher of the Year visited Hertford Grammar School to tour the school, visit PLCs, and speak with school administrators about the work being done at HGS. Crystal Seymour joined the tour as our current Perquimans Teacher of the Year.

Board Chair's Comments

Dr. Anne White and Mrs. Arlene Yates attended the 2021 NCSBA Annual Conference on November 11-12, 2021, in Greensboro. During the conference, Dr. White took the oath of office for being selected a member of the NCSBA Board of Directors. She said it was quite an honor to be nominated and selected to this board.

Mrs. Yates announced that the Perquimans County Board of Education was presented the Silver Bell Award for training excellence and commitment during the 2018-2019 NCSBA Academy Year of the NCSBA Academy of School Boardsmanship. Mrs. Yates shared information regarding a session she attended about marketing your school system and networking with other counties. She noted that Perquimans High School received honorable mention for its submission in the student video contest. In addition, Mrs. Yates congratulated Dr. Anne for being elected to her first term on the NCSBA Board of Directors. She distributed a handout from the delegate assembly which included the legislative priorities for this year.

Dr. White provided information on sessions she attended about concussion compliance and board member relations. In addition, she reminded the Board about opportunities for board training, student involvement in contests, the County Commission award, the individual board member leadership award, as well as Superintendent of the Year award.

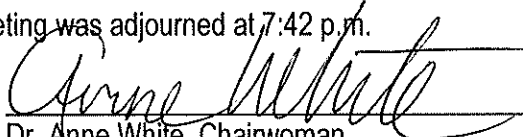
Following Dr. White's comments, Amy Spough announced that after serving three terms on the Board of Education, she is not going to file to run for office this year.

Announcement

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. @ Central Office

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



 Dr. Anne White, Chairwoman



 Mr. James R. Bunch, Assistant Superintendent