

Perquimans County Board of Education  
Regular Session – October 25, 2021

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 25, 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.

Vice Chair Russell Lassiter called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and said a prayer.

Board members present: Chairwoman Dr. Anne White (remote), 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**

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

**Special Recognitions**

Principals were recognized for National Principals Month and presented with certificates: Mr. Mickey Drew – Perquimans County High School; Mrs. Laura Moreland – Perquimans County Middle School (certificate accepted by Assistant Principal Julie Roberts); Mr. John Lassiter – Hertford Grammar School; and Mrs. Tracy Gregory – Perquimans Central School.

Mrs. Tracy Gregory was recognized as the 2021-2022 Principal of the Year for Perquimans County Schools and presented with a plaque. Board members congratulated Mrs. Gregory and thanked all of the principals for the work they do every day for our students, staff and community.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the September 27, 2021 regular meeting and the October 5, 2021 board workshop as presented.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Leary Winslow 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**

**School Improvement Plans**

Administrators from each school presented highlights of their school's improvement plan and entertained questions from board members. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the School Improvement Plans for 2021-2022 as presented.

### School Calendar Revisions

Chief Academic Officer Melissa Fields presented proposed school calendar changes for the 2021-2022 school year. In light of legislatively mandated professional development, changes to the calendar were requested to allow teachers to complete the required and very time-consuming training. The additional workdays would also alleviate some of the additional stress and workload that has resulted from teaching through the continued pandemic. The first legislated mandate comes from Session Law 2020-7 which requires K-12 school units to adopt and implement a school-based mental health plan that includes a mental health training program and a suicide risk referral protocol. The second legislated mandate comes from Session Law 2021-8 which modifies the implementation of the North Carolina Read to Achieve to include the requirement for teachers in the NC Pre-K program and kindergarten through fifth grade to participate in a training program aligned with the science of reading.

The original Perquimans County Schools 2021-2022 School Calendar had 182 student days for a minimum of 1082 instructional hours. The State requires school systems to provide at least 1025 hours. The requested changes would result in 177 student days and a minimum of 1056 hours which is still 31 hours more than required by the State. The requested changes were as follows:

1. Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, currently a student day, to become an optional workday
2. Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, currently a student day, to become a required workday
3. Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, currently a student day, to become a required workday
4. Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, currently an early release day, to become a required workday
5. Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, currently a required workday, to become an optional workday
6. Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, currently a student day, to become an optional workday

All classified staff will have the opportunity to work on the required and/or optional workdays if they choose to work so they will not lose any pay. An alternate assignment will be provided as needed.

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

### Face Covering Policy

Superintendent Turner provided updated information regarding the number of COVID cases in Perquimans County Schools comparing September to October figures, which were down slightly. She also shared the numbers for employee and student cases for this time last year compared to this year. Employee cases are about the same, but student cases are up significantly. Included in her PowerPoint were slides from ARHS noting the number of active cases for the region (for Perquimans there were 31), and the new case trend which showed a downward trend. A survey by Dr. Turner illustrated that staff at Perquimans Central, Hertford Grammar, and Perquimans Middle wanted the district to continue the mask requirement. Results from Perquimans High showed a slight majority preferred that masks not be required.

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 comments from board members, 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 three budget amendments for the Board's consideration, describing in detail the reasons each one was needed. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve State (Fund 1) – Budget Amendment #1, Federal (Fund 3) – Budget Amendment #1, and Local (Fund 8) – Budget Amendment #1 as presented by Mr. Blanchard.

### Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard presented the financial report that was run on October 19, 2021. The report did not include payroll or expenditures paid after that date. The benchmark for funds spent was 33%, with the actual percent of funds spent being 26%. 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.

### COVID Supplement Proposal

In regards to a COVID supplement for this school year, Dr. Turner conducted a survey about distribution of the supplement. Of employees who participated in the survey, approximately 19.9% chose to have 100% of the supplement paid in June. Approximately 80.1% chose to have 50% paid in December and 50% paid in June. When asked about a supplement for next school year, Mr. Bunch noted that supplements are not in the plan for a third year. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously that all full-time employees receive a \$1200 COVID supplement, all part-time employees receive a \$600 COVID supplement, and substitutes who worked at least 10 days between August and December and 10 days between January and June for a total of 20 days in the 2021-2022 school year receive a \$300 COVID supplement to be paid from ESSER II Funds with 50% paid in December and 50% paid in June.

### Facilities

#### Perquimans High School Baseball Grandstand Project

Maintenance Director Jamie Johnson stated that two quotes were received for the grandstand project with the lowest of the quotes from Southern Bleacher Company at \$199,340 for bleachers and installation. Russell Lassiter noted that \$80,000+ in donations has been received to date. The press box will be named in memory of Bobby Carter and Pete Hunter, former long-time baseball coaches for Perquimans High School. Upon motion by Anne White and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve Southern Bleacher Company for the Perquimans High School baseball grandstand project pending review of the contract by the board attorney per board policy.

### Carpet Replacement

Mr. Johnson presented two quotes for carpet replacement for all schools. ESSER II Funds, in the amount of \$90,000, have been earmarked for this purpose. Ellis Carpet & Tile submitted a bid for \$88,874.00 and Northeast Flooring submitted a bid for \$97,756.00. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve Ellis Carpet & Tile for carpet replacement for all schools pending review of the contract by the board attorney per board policy.

### Reports / Updates

#### Capital Outlay Projects

Mr. Johnson provided the following update on Capital Outlay and ESSER II and III funds projects:

## CAPITAL OUTLAY PRIORITIZED NEEDS 2021-2022

| Site        | Project                               | Comments  | Estimated Cost   | Actual Cost       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|
| PCS         | Paving around back loop               | PO, on list for work to be completed before Christmas | \$24,000         | \$25,266.00       |
| HGS         | Repave service entrance to kitchen    | PO, on list for work to be completed before Christmas | \$15,000         | \$13,180.00       |
| HGS         | Enlarge and pave parking lot          | PO, on list   | \$25,000         | \$24,960.00       |
| PCMS        | Renovate science lab                  |   | \$25,000         |                   |
| PCMS & PCHS | Upgrade camera system                 | PCMS Complete   | \$60,000         | PCMS- \$27,468.20 |
| All Schools | Upgrade kitchen equipment             | Ongoing   | \$60,000         |                   |
| PCS         | Re-paint epoxy floor in kitchen       |   | \$5,000          |                   |
| Maint.      | 2 Lawn mowers                         | Waiting on delivery                                   | \$15,000 (for 1) | \$29,776.31       |
| PCS & HGS   | Furniture allotment                   | Ongoing   | \$20,000         |                   |
| PCHS        | John Deere Gator for Athletic Trainer | Waiting on delivery                                   |                  | \$8,253.23        |

## ESSER 2 & 3 PROJECTS 2021-2024

| Site        | Project  | Fund    | Budget/Cost  |
|-------------|--|---------|--------------|
| All Schools | Carpet removal (Quotes)  | ESSER 2 | \$90,000     |
| HGS         | Asbestos abatement (Consultant hired)                                      | ESSER 2 | \$110,000    |
| PCMS & HGS  | DDC phase 2 (PO, Work In Progress)   | ESSER 2 | \$280,000    |
| All Schools | Replace custodial equipment (Complete)                                     | ESSER 2 | \$168,832.97 |
| Maint       | Shop roof and insulation (Quotes)  | ESSER 3 | \$20,000     |
| PCHS        | Celling in kitchen (PO, Work will have to be completed when school is out) | ESSER 3 | \$50,000     |
| PCMS        | Exit doors   | ESSER 3 | \$50,000     |
| All Schools | HVAC (On going)  | ESSER 3 | \$982,000    |
| All Schools | Touchless equipment (30 bottle fillers ordered, soap dispensers)           | ESSER 3 | \$54,000     |

In regard to the proposed Perquimans High School track, an RFQ will be submitted for an architect/engineer for the project.

Mr. Johnson entertained questions from the Board regarding the presentation.

### Student Discipline Data

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the student discipline data for September 2021. There were no reportable offenses in the district. There were seven out-of-school suspensions for Hertford Grammar School, 18 for Perquimans Middle School, and seven for Perquimans High School.

### Announcements

- Special-called Board of Education Meeting – Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. @ Central Office for Classified Salary Student and Audit Presentation
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, November 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. @ Central Office

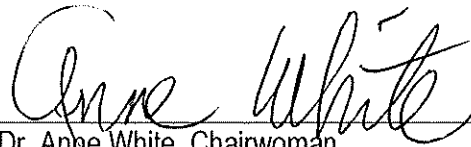
### Closed Session

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously at 8:00 p.m. to enter closed session after a five minutes break pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes to consider closed session minutes and G.S. 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; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

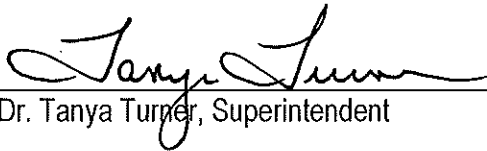
Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Dr. Anne White, Chairwoman



Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent