

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – September 27, 2021

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 27, 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 Anne White called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Russell Lassiter led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Amy Spaugh said a prayer.

Board members present: Chairwoman 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 Amy Spaugh and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with addendums as presented.

Special Recognition

Kristine Garvey, the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year for Perquimans County Schools, was recognized for being named the William Byrum Honored Educator Scholar for 2021-2022 by the Development Foundation of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT). The William Byrum Honored Educator Scholarship pays tribute to Mr. Byrum and his devotion to Perquimans County Schools. With a career that spanned over 40 years, Mr. Byrum served as a classroom teacher, high school principal, central office administrator and as a member of the Perquimans County Board of Education. Fittingly, the William Byrum Scholarship is awarded annually to the Perquimans County Schools Teacher of the Year.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the August 23, 2021 regular meeting and the August 31, 2021 emergency meeting as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the student transfer requests for 2021-2022, including the addendum, as presented by Superintendent Turner.

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

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

There were no requests from the public.

Board Chair Dr. Anne White stated during the last meeting, she called on a parent in the audience who raised her hand to ask a question. Dr. White apologized to the parents listening to the meeting by phone who did not have the opportunity to ask questions. She stated the Board of Education welcomes comments from parents and the community and that it was not the intent of the Board to overlook anyone. She stated there is board policy that governs comments from the public. Dr. White stated the Board will no longer allow questions and comments from citizens or staff in the audience during a meeting. Anyone who wishes to

make comments to the Board should sign up prior to the meeting to speak during the public comment portion of the agenda. Those who sign up to speak will have three minutes to address the Board. If the individual cannot provide their comments within the three minutes, additional information can be provided in writing or an appointment can be made to speak with the Superintendent or the appropriate staff member. The Board will not respond to public comment during the meeting. To allow time to research the topic, a response by phone or in writing will be made within a week. When asked by Mr. Peeler about allowing public comment during a meeting, Dr. Turner noted that according to policy, public comment is only allowed at regular meetings, not at special-called or emergency meetings, unless there is a formal vote by the Board to allow for public comment at those meetings. Mr. Peeler asked about the Board's response to public comment made in open session. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to note in the minutes that a response from the Board Chair or the Superintendent was sent to the person who spoke during public comment.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

COVID Protocols

Ashley Stoop, MPH, Director of Policy, Planning & Preparedness for Albemarle Regional Health Services, presented a comprehensive presentation on COVID protocols, including case count breakdown and trends, regional vaccine status, COVID variant updates, public health guidance and key mitigation strategies. Mrs. Stoop fielded various questions from board members during her presentation.

Face Covering Policy

Superintendent Turner presented information regarding the masking requirement for Perquimans County Schools. A map of North Carolina showed mask mandates as of September 17, 2021. One hundred nine North Carolina school districts, representing 86% of students, are requiring masks. Six districts, representing 5% of students, are making masks optional. Dr. Turner illustrated the number of student and staff positives and quarantines prior to and after the mask mandate in Perquimans County Schools. No quarantines have occurred since exiting the window of the no mask mandate. Amy Spaugh asked for clarification regarding the reported number of quarantines. Dr. Turner noted that she only tracks quarantines that occur as a result of exposure at school. She also showed the numbers of employee and student cases this year compared to last year. During the first few weeks of schools, there were already more student positive cases than the entire last school year.

Senate Bill 654, which was signed into law on August 30, 2021, requires school boards to vote each month on their pandemic-related mask or face covering policy. It also allows schools to shift to remote-only learning if needed because of COVID-19 transmission concerns, provided they notify the state within 72 hours of making that change.

Based on the data presented, Dr. Turner recommended to the Board 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.

Dr. Turner entertained questions from board members.

Leary Winslow noted that he would like to see masks off of kids as soon as possible, but felt this was not the right time to do it. Matt Peeler asked about a protocol for students to take off their masks while seated but to wear them while moving within the building. Dr. Turner noted that some classes can maintain the three feet social distancing and many others cannot due to the number of students in the classroom. She said teachers have enough responsibility without having to manage when students should have masks on and when they could take them off. She said teachers do allow mask breaks for students. Russell Lassiter stated he agreed with Mr. Winslow but disagreed with asking teachers to manage when students wear masks. Mr. Peeler also mentioned the possibility of students having to quarantine due to being unmasked during lunch. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Russell Lassiter, 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.

\$100K Challenge Baseball Grandstand Project

Perquimans County Schools Foundation Executive Director Brenda Lassiter presented a brochure to board members with information about a \$100,000 fundraising campaign that is currently underway for capacity seating for families and community residents at the Jim "Catfish" Hunter baseball field at Perquimans County High School. Fundraising unofficially began with a commitment of matching funds totaling \$100,000 from Dr. William "Billy" Nixon and Mr. and Mrs. Leary Winslow, in addition to an existing baseball fund, contingent upon the community's success in raising \$100,000. The idea was launched at a recent community celebration for the 2021 NCHSAA 1A State Championship Baseball Team. If the amount of money needed is raised, the project will be turned over to the Board of Education for necessary permitting through county, state, DPI, or other necessary entities. The Foundation is a 501c3 organization, the appropriate avenue to receive money from donors for the project. Mrs. Lassiter thanked Mr. Winslow for the time and resources that he donates to the school system. This was echoed by Dr. White on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Lassiter reported that \$32,125 has been collected to date with another month to go to fundraise. If adequate funds are raised, the time frame is to complete the project prior to the first home game on February 19, 2022. If the money needed is not raised, it will have to be returned to the donors before the end of the year, or the project may have to be scaled down based on funds received. After discussion and questions, it was the consensus of the Board that Mrs. Lassiter present information about the project to the County Commissioners for awareness.

2020-2021 Perquimans County Schools Data Comparison

Melissa Fields, Chief Academic Officer of Curriculum and Instruction, presented information to the Board on the 2020-2021 test scores for 2020-2021. She began with an overall report overview:

2018-2019	State of North Carolina	Perquimans County Schools	Herford Grammar School	Perquimans County Middle School	Perquimans County High School
College Career Ready (Levels 4 & 5)	44.5%	41.7%	44.8%	41.2%	34.8%
Grade Level Proficient (Levels 3, 4, & 5)	55.8%	51.8%	60.4%	55.8%	44.4%

2020-2021	State of North Carolina	Perquimans County Schools	Herford Grammar School	Perquimans County Middle School	Perquimans County High School
College Career Ready (Levels 4 & 5)	29.6%	30.7%	36.6%	30.6%	20.4%
Grade Level Proficient (Levels 3, 4, & 5)	45.4%	46.1%	51.5%	47.2%	34.4%

She shared information about the impact of pandemic learning noting that Perquimans County Schools saw a 9.7 point drop from the 2018-2019 scores to the 2020-2021 scores which was a -17% change. Out of 117 districts, Perquimans County ranked 98th for the percent of negative impact. Schools with the highest negative impact were districts in the northeast region that were remote for most of the year.

Mrs. Fields provided reading, math, and science EOG data analyses which compared Perquimans scores for 2018-2019 vs. 2020-2021 and North Carolina scores for 2018-2019 vs. 2020-2021. She illustrated per grade how Perquimans compared to the districts in the northeast for 2020-2021. She also provided high school EOC data analyses which compared Perquimans High School Math 1, Math 3, Biology and English II EOC scores for 2018-2019 vs. 2020-2021 and North Carolina EOC scores in those areas for 2018-2019 vs. 2020-2021. She showed per subject area how Perquimans compared to the districts in the northeast for 2020-2021. A comparison of Perquimans High School other indicators included ACT, WorkKeys and Graduation for 2018-2019 vs. 2020-2021 as well as compared to North Carolina and to districts in the northeast for 2020-2021. Mrs. Fields entertained questions during and after her presentation.

AIG Plan Revision

Mrs. Fields presented proposed revisions to the AIG Plan for Standard 2, Practice I to include the following: Students may be provided alternate delivery methods and schedules to allow the time and flexibility needed to pursue their interests. In addition to those listed, other proposed opportunities would include cultural arts experiences and athletic competitions. This would be added to differentiated education plans if the DEP team recommended it based upon the specific interests of the student. After providing examples, Mrs. Fields explained this is being included in the AIG plan to have it codified in the plan. Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Amy Spaugh, the Board voted unanimously to adopt revisions to the AIG Plan as presented by Mrs. Fields.

Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan 2021-2022

Chief Human Resources Officer Michelle Maddox presented the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan for 2021-2022 noting there were no changes to the plan from last year. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan for 2021-2022 as presented by Ms. Maddox.

2021-2022 Final Budget Resolution

Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard presented the final budget resolution for 2021-2022. The State has not passed a budget, but has given districts projected allotments. The budget resolution for the year was prepared based on those assumptions. When the State passes a budget, adjustments can be made during the year with budget amendments. With this information, budgets can be pulled from the system with an actual budget and year-to-date spent to help directors gage how they are doing. Based upon the information from the County for the local budget, \$175,776.26 will have to be used from fund balance leaving approximately \$550,000 in fund balance. This is the level the County said it would like for the district to maintain. The federal budget is based on what has been currently approved, approximately \$5 million. There are still several federal budgets that have not been approved to import into the system, around \$2 million. The amount of federal dollars is due to the ESSER funding. Capital Outlay is based on the county appropriation. One hundred thirty-seven thousand dollars of fund balance has been appropriated, the amount left over from last year, for projects this year. Child Nutrition is based on the prior year. Other specific revenue funds, Fund 8, includes grants and similar funds. Other grants will be added this November. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the final budget resolution for 2021-2022 as presented by Mr. Blanchard.

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard presented the financial report which was based on the budget as approved in the resolution. The benchmark for funds spent was 25%, with the actual percent of funds spent being 19% as of September 20, 2021, which was prior to payroll being posted. He also illustrated the budget summary sorted by 2-digit Purpose Code. The two line items in red have been sent to DPI for approval so that they can be posted. Based on the proposed budget for Capital Outlay, \$661,000, is based on the assumption of revenues coming in. After projects have been entered and the money allocated, there is \$103,750.23 unallocated for unexpected repairs.

Reports / Updates

Student Discipline Data

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the student discipline data for August 2021. There were no reportable offenses in the district and only one out-of-school suspension at Perquimans Middle School.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner provided the following report:

- Enrollment Summary

School	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Diff 2020-2021
PCS	386	393	418	400	405	+5
HGS	437	415	372	332	357	+25
PCMS	343	381	415	417	402	-15
PCHS	468	465	460	465	508	+43
Total	1634	1654	1665	1614	1672	+58

- Immunization Update – In an executive order, the Governor extended the deadline to October 8th to present documentation to the school that students have an appointment for their health assessment or immunization. Students have until October 30th to get the health assessment or immunization. If they don't get it by October 30th, they have 30 additional days. Students needing immunizations and/or health assessments: PCS – 13; HGS – 3; PCMS – 37; PCHS – 28.
- COVID Testing Update
 - All the nurses have been trained.
 - Testing begins this Thursday.
 - Parents must complete a consent form.
 - Parents will be notified by phone before COVID testing is administered.
 - Negative test with symptoms still requires a PCR test.
- Work Session – It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a work session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Office for presentation/discussion of a classified salary study prepared by Chief Human Resources Office Michelle Maddox and presentation of the financial audit by Donna Winborne. It was also the consensus of the Board to participate with the leadership team in a legal presentation by the board attorney on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, from 9:00 – 12:00. Topics will include transgenders, religion, freedom of speech, among others. Board members will send specific questions to the Superintendent prior to the presentation for the attorney to include in the presentation. A Zoom link will be sent to board members to participate in the legal presentation on October 5th.

- School Improvement Plans – It was the consensus of the Board to hear all School Improvement Plans at the October board meeting. Board members will receive the School Improvement Plans ahead of time to review them prior to the board meeting. Principals will share highlights of the plans at the meeting.

Board Chair's Comments

Dr. Anne White announced the NCSBA Annual Conference on November 11-13, 2021 in Greensboro and asked if any board members were interested in attending. The district has received a request from NCSBA for voting delegates at the Delegate Assembly. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Russell Lassiter, Dr. White and Arlene Yates were elected as voting delegates for the NCSBA Annual Conference contingent upon attending the conference.

Dr. White announced that the NCSBA is seeking nominations for vacancies on the NCSBA Board of Directors from this region. Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to nominate Dr. Anne White as a nominee to be considered for the NCSBA Board of Directors.

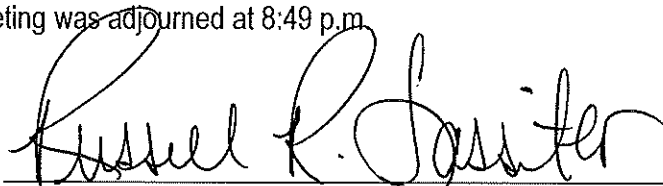
Dr. White also shared that she received a letter from the NCSBA President about becoming an active member of the NC School Boards Action Center. The cost for becoming a member is \$2,000.00. The benefits of the NCSBAC are to provide a larger advocacy team, support on local issues, video campaigns, marketing/social media, and updated bill tracking service. The Board took no action on this item.

Announcements

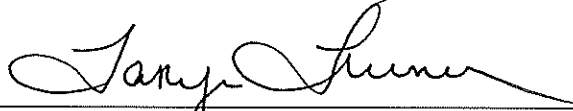
Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. @ Central Office

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.



Mr. Russell Lassiter, Vice Chair



Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent