## Perquimans County Board of Education Special Session – April 17, 2023

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in special session on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom at the Central Office for a joint budget work session with the Perquimans County Commissioners. Audio access was also available to the public by dialing a telephone number and entering a meeting ID and passcode.

Board Chairman Russell Lassiter called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commission Chair Wallace Nelson called the Commissioners' meeting to order. Mr. Lassiter led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and said a prayer.

Board of Education members present: Board Chairman Russell Lassiter, Kristy Corprew, Dr. Anne White, and Matt Winslow. Board of Education members absent: Leary Winslow and Arlene Yates. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner, Assistant Superintendent James Bunch, Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard, Director of Maintenance Jamie Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Shawn Wilson and Administrative Assistant Mary Kay Peele.

County Commissioners present: Chairman Wallace Nelson, Vice Chairman Charles Woodard, Timothy Corprew, Joseph Hoffler, Kyle Jones, and James Ward. Also present were County Manager Frank Heath, Clerk to the Board Mary Hunnicutt, and Finance Officer Tracy Mathews.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

## **New Business**

Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to meet each year to discuss budget needs. She expressed her appreciation for the Commissioners' support and willingness to work together to ensure students' needs are met. She said the district is blessed to have a positive working relationship with county and town officials.

Dr. Turner began the presentation with positive highlights from this school year including convocation, student and school performance results, out-of-district student requests, teacher working conditions survey results, teacher turnover before, during, and after COVID, extracurricular activities, the arts program, special recognitions and visits, and the \$36.9 million Needs Based Public School Capital Fund Grant.

Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard presented the current FY 2022-2023 Capital Outlay funding sources and expenditures, ESSER funds, Athletic Facility Grant, and Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund. Director of Maintenance Jamie Johnson entertained questions and comments regarding these items and showed photos of some of the projects completed with these funds including the PCMS and PCHS gym floors, PCS playground, PCS kitchen floor, shop roof/insulation replacement, carpet replacement, and PCHS auditorium windows replacement.

Mr. Blanchard presented the FY 2023-2024 total Capital Outlay sources of revenue which totaled \$669,644. The district's request for Capital Outlay funds will remain at \$235,000 as ESSER Funds have been and will be used for several capital projects. Mr. Johnson entertained questions and comments regarding these items and showed photos of items listed in the request to illustrate some of the capital needs such as the transportation shop floor, PCHS/Athletic Complex crosswalk, maintenance trucks, fire truck shelter, pressure washer, custodial storage, PCHS and PCS restrooms.

Before presenting the Current Expense request for 2023-2024, Mr. Blanchard provided historical information on ADM, local revenue, and fund balance. He elaborated on expenditures that might impact the local budget including charter

school funding, increases in employee benefits, state salaries, and utilities, and the possible decrease or elimination of Low Wealth funding, SRO Grant funding, and Nurses Grant funding. The total Current Expense request for 2023-2024 totaled \$3,854,905, an increase of \$754,905 from the 2022-2023 county appropriation. Mr. Blanchard noted the possibility of additional funding needed in the amount of \$88,000 pending further information on the SRO grant funding.

Following the presentation, the boards entertained questions and comments regarding HB219, the Charter School Omnibus bill, and the maintenance/renovations of the PCHS auditorium.

Chairman Lassiter stated that it was the Board and Dr. Turner's intention to be transparent with the Commissioners. He expressed the Board's appreciation of the funding it has received in the past, knowing that the county has other departments to consider. He also noted that he hoped the presentation showed that the money has been spent well and that the Board has been fiscally responsible. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Woodard expressed their appreciation to the Board and staff for all they are doing to educate the children. Mr. Nelson spoke about the recent trip to Raleigh to speak to legislators on behalf of the school system, the county and the town. Dr. White expressed her appreciation to Mr. Bunch and the team for the grant funds secured for the district. Mr. Nelson also said he was proud of the teacher turnover information. Dr. Turner introduced Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Shawn Wilson and thanked her for the amazing job she is doing for the school district.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:48 p.m.

Mr. Russell Lassiter, Chairman

Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent