

**Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – August 22, 2022**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Central Office. Audio access was also available to the public by dialing a telephone number and entering a meeting ID and passcode.

Chairman 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 had prayer.

Board members present: Chairman Russell Lassiter (in person), Vice Chair Arlene Yates (in person), Kristy Corprew (in person), Dr. Anne White (in person), Leary Winslow (in person), and Matt Winslow (in person).

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Lassiter said it had been brought to his attention that there might be items to be addressed in closed session. He asked for a motion to amend the agenda to remove the Personnel Summary Report from the consent agenda and make it its own action item. Upon motion by Kristy Corprew and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to remove the Personnel Summary Report from the consent agenda and make it its own action item. Mr. Lassiter asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add a closed session to discuss the Personnel Summary Report. Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Dr. Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to include a closed session to discuss the Personnel Summary Report. Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Kristy Corprew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the remainder of the agenda with the changes that the Board just approved.

Special Recognition

None

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the July 25, 2022 regular meeting as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the student transfer requests for 2022-2023 as presented by Dr. Turner. Leary Winslow asked if student transfer requests need to be monitored due to the teacher shortage. Dr. Turner noted that the district monitors closely the K-3 acceptance requests due to class size, as well as EC acceptance requests due to class size. She said each time the district receives a request for a student to attend that has attended in the past, the principals are contacted to see if the student is in good standing. If the principal states the student is in good standing, the student is allowed to continue to attend. For any new requests, the district looks at the numbers before the student is accepted. Leary Winslow asked if it were possible to deny an out-of-district special ed student, but to accept a 7th grade student. Dr. Turner said that was possible. She said the board attorney was contacted for the proper language to use in the case of an out-of-district EC student.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Finance

Fee Schedule

Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard presented the proposed fee schedule for the 2022-2023 school year which included one change, a \$20 activity fee, from Mrs. Moreland, principal of Perquimans County Middle School. When asked about the need for the \$20 activity fee, Mr. Blanchard stated that Mrs. Moreland's request said the fee was for field trips, PBIS activities, field day, and collaboration activities. Dr. White asked about charging students for field trips which are related to the curriculum. Dr. Turner said if a trip is linked to something educational, the fee would be paid for students who could not afford to pay. Dr. Turner stated that the schools do not receive funds for field trips anymore. Dr. White also asked about fees being aligned, particularly dances. The middle school charges \$10.00 for dances and the high school charges \$5.00 for dances. Dr. Turner stated that the fee schedule has to be brought to the board each year for action. After more discussion, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Kristy Corprew and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted 5 to 1, with Dr. White opposing, to approve the fee schedule for the 2022-2023 school year as required by Board Policy 4600 Student Fees, with the exception of the addition of a \$20 student activity fee submitted by Principal Laura Moreland. Mrs. Moreland's request will be considered at the next meeting when board members can ask Mrs. Moreland questions about the additional fee.

Capital Outlay Update

Mr. Blanchard presented an update on Capital Outlay as of August 17, 2022. He highlighted revenue and projects (expenses) for 2022-2023, which included current budget, Y-T-D spent/encumbered, and budget remaining for each project. Mr. Blanchard stated the budget will be adjusted throughout the year as projects are completed, depending on the cost (more or less). Maintenance Director Jamie Johnson was present to answer any questions the Board had about Capital Outlay projects. Mr. Blanchard stated next month he would present the budget resolution for all the funds, including the Capital Outlay funds. When Leary Winslow asked about the lottery fund balance, Mr. Blanchard stated the last time he checked there was about \$140,000, but he would check again and let the Board know. Leary Winslow stated he asked because the Board might have to consider using some of these funds to complete the track project.

Revisions to Policy 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services

School Nutrition Director Kimberly Cullipher stated that after the July board meeting, DPI informed them that the state would cover the reduced co-pays for students as long as there was money in the budget. That means free and reduced students would eat for free as long as there is money in the budget. However, this would leave a bulk of students who may not qualify whose parents may be in a financial situation or face hardships in light of the current economy. After not having to pay for meals for two years, it may be a hardship for families with multiple children to pay. Because of this, Ms. Cullipher approached Dr. Turner and Mr. Blanchard about a possible waiver on the no charge policy for this school year. Dr. Turner contacted the board attorney about having the meal charge waiver for the 2022-2023 school year. Ms. Cullipher said she doesn't want to see a child not able to eat because they don't have money. At the same time, she said accruing charge balances is a huge issue.

Ms. Cullipher presented the following proposed revisions to Policy Code: 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services.

The following provisions will be effective for the 2022-2023 school year only:

Students who are required to pay for meals are expected to provide payment in a timely manner. However, the Board recognizes that in light of current economic circumstances and the expiration of the Universal Free Meals waiver, families and students may experience an additional burden in paying for school meals. In order to relieve some of these daily burdens on families and ensure that all students will be able to have a healthy meal each school day, for the 2022-2023 school year, students who are unable to pay for a meal on a particular day, the student may charge a reimbursable meal so long as it does not create a negative account balance that exceeds the value of three (3) days of meals (breakfast and lunch) based on current student meal prices. To safeguard the dignity and confidentiality of students in the serving line, reasonable efforts must be used whenever possible to avoid calling attention to a student's inability to pay.

The child nutrition staff and principal shall work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating and shall make every effort to collect all funds due to the child nutrition program on a regular basis and before the end of the school term. Notices of low or negative balances in a child's meal account will be sent to parents and the principal at regular intervals during the school year. If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the child nutrition staff shall inform the principal, who shall determine the next course of action, which may include notifying the department of social services of suspected child neglect and/or taking legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges. Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of each school year. Negative balances on student accounts will be carried forward to the following school year. However, the superintendent shall ensure that federal child nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the CNP is reimbursed for bad debt resulting from uncollected student meal charges prior to September 30 each year.

This policy and any applicable procedures regarding meal charges must be communicated to school administrators, school food service professionals, parents and students. Parents will receive a written copy of the meal charges policy and any applicable procedures at the start of each school year and at any time their child transfers into a new school during the school year.

The following provisions will become effective with the 2023-2024 school year:

Leary Winslow gave a brief history on the reason for implementing the no charge policy. Ms. Cullipher added that another reason for asking for the waiver is that the state is requesting districts to report student charges for this year. They have created a budget line on the FC1A form to show the actual student balances. Ms. Cullipher stated she can't accurately report the information if a no charge policy in place. Ms. Cullipher entertained questions and comments from the Board.

Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to grant temporary approval of revisions to Policy 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services as presented. The Board asked Ms. Cullipher to report charges monthly so that the Board would be aware of the dollar amount of outstanding charges. Dr. Turner mentioned she received a resolution from Moore County Schools that was sent to North Carolina state-elected officials, locally-elected state representatives and state legislative leaders urging support and funding for Child Nutrition and the School Meals Program. Dr. Turner said the resolution could be updated with Perquimans County's data and presented for the Board's consideration at the next meeting or she could send it to the Board in the weekly update for review. It was the consensus of the Board to review the resolution in the weekly update, and, if there were no concerns, move ahead with signing it.

Federal Grants

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented detailed information on the following Federal Program Grants for 2022-2023: Title IA - \$725,274; Title IIA - \$163,478; Title IVA - \$94,988; Rural Low-Income Schools (RLIS) \$113,149; ESSER II - \$587,938; and ESSER III - \$3,436,764, for total funds requested, \$5,121,591. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to

approve Federal Grants, Title IA, Title IIA, Title IVA, RLIS, ESSER II and ESSER III, as presented by Mr. Bunch.

Reports / Updates

None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Turner shared the following information:

- Current vacancies in Perquimans County compared to other NC districts
 - Perquimans County Schools: PCHS – Art, PCMS – Media Coordinator, PCMS – EC Adaptive, ELA – 6th Grade, PCHS – Health Science, PCMS/PCHS – Math
 - NC Districts: No vacancies or 1 vacancy – 8 districts, 2-10 vacancies – 29 districts, 11-20 vacancies – 23 districts, 21-50 vacancies – 21 districts, 51 or more vacancies – 17 districts
- Enrollment – PCS 387/36 PreK; HGS 394; PCMS 371; PCHS 518; Total 1,670 as of August 22, 2022
- COVID Update
 - If a student or teacher tests positive, the CDC recommends the person isolate for five days (if he or she has been fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving) and wear a mask for another five days.
 - The CDC no longer recommends quarantining students who were exposed to a positive COVID-19 case.
 - The CDC no longer recommends tests for screening – meaning routinely testing students and staff who do not have symptoms or known exposures.
 - Universal masking is not recommended anymore unless the community has a high-level risk.
- Upcoming Dates
 - Thursday, August 25th: Open House - 4:00-6:00 PCS and HGS; 5:00-7:00 PCMS and PCHS
 - Monday, August 29th: First day of School for Students
 - Thursday, September 1st: State Board of Education Meeting
 - Monday, September 5th: Labor Day Holiday

Leary Winslow asked about posting the K-12 Payment Center information on social media so that parents can add money to their students' lunch accounts. Board members had a discussion about the cost involved to pay for all students to eat free. School Nutrition Director Kim Cullipher will provide additional information about this next month.

Dr. White thanked board members for completing the NCSBA legislative survey. She will resend the link to any board member who needs to complete the survey.

Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Lassiter said he attended Convocation this morning. He said things were going well while he was there and there was lots of enthusiasm.

Mrs. Yates said the district should be mindful of our bus drivers. Pasquotank is paying a \$2,000 sign-on bonus. She asked what our district can do to keep our bus drivers and Child Nutrition workers.

Announcement

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. @ Central Office

Closed Session

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 7:20 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to General Statute 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.

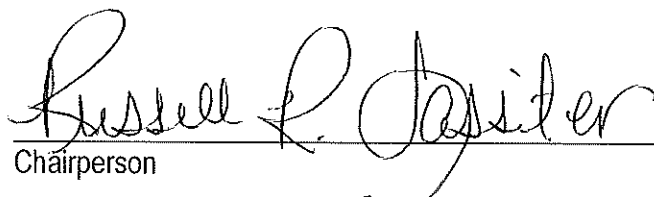
Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 7:43 p.m. to return to open session.

Personnel Summary Report

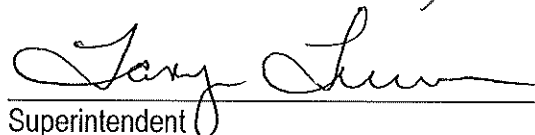
Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted 4 to 2, with Leary Winslow and Matt Winslow opposing, to approve the Personnel Summary Report for August 22, 2022 as presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Chairperson



Superintendent