

**Perquimans County Board of Education  
Regular Session – February 27, 2023**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 27, 2023 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.

Chairman Russell Lassiter called the meeting to order and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Matt Winslow 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**

Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented, including the addendum to the Personnel Summary Report.

**Special Recognitions**

- NCHSAA State Swim Meet Participants
  - Hailey Bass, 10th grade                      Catherine Howell, 10th grade
  - Joliegh Connor, 12th grade              Caroline Russell, 9th grade
  - Alayna Damron, 10th grade              Victoria West, Swim Coach
  
- CTE Teacher of the Year
  - Linae Jacox – STEM Teacher, Perquimans County Middle School
  
- National Board Certification
  - Rachel Benge – 3rd Grade Teacher, Hertford Grammar School (new certification)
  - Lynette Baker – Science Teacher, Perquimans County High School (maintenance of certification)
  - Laura Duncan – 2nd Grade Teacher, Perquimans Central School (maintenance of certification)
  - Dee Winslow – EC Teacher, Perquimans County Middle School (maintenance of certification)
  
- NCASCD Distinguished Educator Award
  - Trisha Brickhouse – Assistant Principal, Hertford Grammar School

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the January 23, 2023 regular session and the February 6, 2023 special-called session as presented.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda which included revisions to Policy 7241 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators as presented.

## Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

## Unfinished Business

None

## New Business

### Presentation: Second Chance Program

Sergeant David Murray described the framework for the Second Chance Program, a voluntary program for students who are struggling with behavior. He explained that with signed documentation from the parent, the student would be picked up by the Sheriff's Office, taken into custody, transported to the Sheriff's Office, processed (with their parent) before a judicial official, placed in a holding cell for a few hours, and transported home by the Deputy Sheriff. In conclusion, the student would write a reflection piece on the experience which would go to the parent, the judge, the law enforcement officer, and the principal of the school. This does not go on a student's record; it provides another chance for juveniles in our county. The Honorable Judge J. C. Cole, who was approached to assist with the program, thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear in support of the program. He thanked the Board, the teachers, and the staff for the important job they do in this county. He said it is important for every child to grow up with an opportunity to be successful and make a contribution in this life. He reiterated that the structure of the program is strictly voluntary. He said the county is fortunate to have a Sheriff's Department that will take on this type of initiative.

### Presentation: Strategic Plan Updates

Chief Academic Officer for Curriculum and Instruction Melissa Fields provided detailed data on Strategic Plan Priority 4. The focus of Strategic Priority 4 is to recruit, retain and support effective and diverse teachers and school leaders. Action steps focused on decreasing teacher turnover rate, providing mentoring support for new teachers, teachers receiving feedback on instruction, educators attending recruitment fairs at HBCUs, students attending COA or a university for teacher education, and principals/assistant principals participating in professional development provided by the district. Mrs. Fields answered board members' questions regarding the presentation. She will present an update on Strategic Priority 2 at the March meeting.

### 2022-2023 Summer Program Plan

Mrs. Fields explained the purpose of the summer school program: EOG/EOC testing, credit recovery, repeating a class for credit, improving functional skills, and access to academic enrichment opportunities. The program will include students in grade levels three through twelve. It will have assessments in reading, math, science, NC Math I, biology, and English II. There will be eight instructional days starting June 14<sup>th</sup>, for four hours a day for a total of thirty-two instructional hours. Testing will be done on June 23, 2023. Upon motion by Kristy Corprew and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2022-2023 Summer Program Plan as presented.

### 2023-2024 School Calendar

Mrs. Fields presented the proposed school calendar for 2023-2024, noting that this was a very difficult calendar to create. She went through each month, highlighting optional work days, required work days, holidays, annual leave days, and early release days. Board Member Kristy Corprew, who represented the Board on the Calendar Committee, said it was a complicated calendar. There was compromise from both the elementary and grammar schools as well as the middle and high schools. This was a first reading only. Action will be taken at the March meeting.

### Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars

Superintendent Turner presented a resolution supporting local control of school calendars. She said calendar legislation has received more traction than it has in the past. Legislators need to know why school districts need local control of the calendar. The current calendar forces districts to have unbalanced semesters and is not aligned with the community college schedule and band/sports schedules. Work days are scheduled for the mandated LETRS training on the dates the state schedules the training and also at the end of the semester for teachers to finalize grades and have parent conferences. Upon motion by Dr. White and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting local control of school calendars as presented.

### Utilizing Area Schools for Polling Places / Teacher Work Day on Election Dates

Chairman Lassiter commented on the requests made by the Board of Elections at the last meeting. He said the Calendar Committee had worked hard to put together a complicated calendar. Having to include the requests from the Board of Elections would make that process even more stressful. Using the schools as a polling place would create additional traffic on the school campuses. Chairman Lassiter suggested that a response letter be drafted declining the requests made by the Board of Elections. Leary Winslow said the Board tries to work with other departments when requested; however, the calendar is tight with no flexibility. The schools could not accommodate the elections during the day which would create additional traffic as well as concerns with having sex offenders on the campuses. Upon motion by Dr. White and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously, with regret, not to honor the requests made by the Board of Elections for the 2023-2024 academic year due to the lack of local calendar flexibility from the state and the extensive work done by the Calendar Committee.

### Proposed Policy 4203/5023/7273 Therapy Dogs in Schools

After hearing a presentation from Perquimans Central School teacher Holly Jordan in December and approving a trial period for having therapy dogs in schools, the Board asked that a policy be developed. In response to that request, Dr. Turner presented Policy 4203/5023/7273 Therapy Dogs in Schools. This was a first reading only. Action will be taken at the March meeting. Dr. Turner said that having the therapy dog on campus was going very well and an additional day has been added to the dog's schedule. She said students are opening up and reading to the dog. This is also being used as a reward system by the school counselor and teachers. During their visit to our district recently, the Office of Early Learning (OEL) representatives took a picture of our students with the dog and included the photo in their newsletter.

### Finance

#### Budget Amendment

Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard presented a budget amendment for the Board's consideration, explaining that the amendment was for booking the budget for the new school building. He said that he will be meeting soon with County Finance Officer Tracy Mathews regarding procedures for this funding as money will be drawn down as needed through the county. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Dr. Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to approve Capital Outlay (Fund 4) Budget Amendment #3 as presented by Mr. Blanchard.

#### Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard presented the Expense-Budget Analysis (YTD) for February 2023. The benchmark was 67%, with 23% actually spent YTD. The reason for the decrease in the percentage actually spent was due to the addition of the funding for the new school. The report was run on February 17, 2023, and did not include the February payroll or expenditures paid after that date. Mr. Blanchard also presented the budget summary

and board report as of February 17, 2023, sorted by 2-digit purpose code for State, Federal, Child Nutrition Funds, Local, Capital Outlay, and Other Sources of Revenue. He shared revenue and expenses for Capital Outlay and the proposed budget, YTD spent/encumbered, and budget remaining for each expense listed. The balance in Capital Outlay for general repairs remained at \$198,956.85. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund Lottery Fund was \$529,141.88. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund School Building Repair & Renovation Fund (PSBRRF) was \$464,045.26. The Public School Building Capital Fund Needs Based Lottery Fund, the funding source for the new school, remained at \$15,571,369.00.

## **Reports / Updates**

### **Student Discipline Data**

Mr. Bunch reminded the Board that information provided in the monthly reports is for the previous month. The information in this report is for the month of January. In regard to reportable acts, Mr. Bunch said that the number was up at this point in the year compared to last year, with six reportable offenses this year and two last year. Historically, he said that there is usually an upward trend in student discipline in February and March. Principals are working with staff to implement programs to support student self-esteem, social emotional learning, etc. The Board asked that student participation in the Second Chance Program be included in this report as well.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Turner shared the following information:

- Vacancies: Art: PCHS, Math: PCHS (1), Custodian: PCHS/PCMS/PCS, Assistant PCMS Baseball Coach, School Nutrition Assistant, Bus Drivers; Filled: ELL Tutor
- Enrollment: PCS – 403/36 PreK, HGS – 401, PCMS – 377, PCHS – 522/496, Total – 1,702  
Note: ADM remained the same since last month; gained 43 students since last year; PCHS had 25 mid-year graduates
- Child Nutrition Update
  - Approved applications as of February 17, 2023: PCS 60.32%, HGS 57.92%, PCMS 52.49%; PCHS 44.39%
  - February Balances: PCS \$272.73, HGS \$589.75, PCMS \$171.64, PCHS \$289.85
  - Angel Account: Received another donation of just over \$1,000 for unpaid balances
  - Received a Farm to School Program Grant in the amount of \$7,029 from NCDA
- Work Session with the County Commissioners – Tentatively April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at CO
- Highlights
  - Lady Pirates Basketball Team: Conference and Tournament Champions – Final 16
  - Coach Aaron Burke – Conference Coach of the Year
  - Lailana Harris – Conference Player of the Year
  - Winter Guard – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at West Johnston High School
  - Office of Early Learning Visit – Science of Reading in Perquimans County
- Upcoming Dates
  - March – National Athletic Trainer Month and Music in Our Schools Month
  - March 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> – Superintendent Executive Leadership Program, Greensboro
  - March 2<sup>nd</sup> – National Read Across America Day

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – PCHS Band Concert at 6:00 p.m.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – “March Forth” Vendor Fair at PQ Recreation Center 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (proceeds support the PQ Band)
- Week of March 6<sup>th</sup> – Board Retreat: Budget Work Session at 4:30 p.m.
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Required Teacher Work Day
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**Board Chair’s Comments**

Chairman Russell Lassiter thanked the Board and the administration for their support.

**Announcements**

- Board of Education Budget Retreat – Monday, March 6, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at Central Office
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, March 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office
- Tentative Joint Budget Work Session with County Commissioners – Monday, April 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office

**Closed Session**

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 7:36 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11(a)(1) to consider closed session minutes and student transfer requests, and G.S. 143.318.11(a)(6) for personnel matters.

**Return to Open Session**


Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 8:03 p.m. to return to open session.

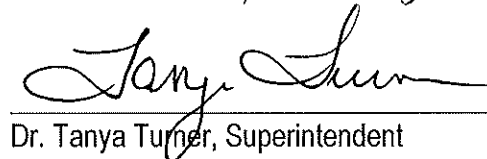
**Personnel Summary Report**

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent’s recommendations regarding personnel items, including the addendum, as presented.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Russell Lassiter, Chairman

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent

