

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – March 27, 2023

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 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 Matt Winslow and second by Kristy Corprew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended with the deletion of Special Recognitions.

Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner introduced Melissa Swain, the new director of Career Technology Education, and provided information on her education and experience.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the February 27, 2023 regular session and the March 6, 2023 budget work session as presented.

Consent Agenda

None

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Presentation: Therapy Dogs

First Grade Teacher Holly Jordan provided a presentation on the importance of therapy dogs in schools. She spoke about the benefits of therapy dogs in schools, the effects of therapy dog implementation at Perquimans Central School, and how a therapy dog has impacted student behaviors and academics. Using various charts, photos, videos, and comments from staff and parents, she illustrated the impact that the therapy dog has already had on students at the school. Her requests and future plans included greater flexibility with attendance at school for special events and visitors, to purchase an off leash insurance policy, and story time with Cooper over the summer. Dr. Turner noted that the proposed policy states that the therapy dog wears a collar or harness and a leash while at school.

Policy 4203/5023/7273 Therapy Dogs in School

Upon motion by Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Policy 4203/5023/7273 Therapy Dogs in School as presented. Dr. Turner will review with the Board Attorney about the off leash insurance mentioned during Mr. Jordan's presentation.

Revisions to Policy 7510 Leave

Dr. Turner presented proposed revisions to Policy 7510 Leave for a first reading. Action will be taken at the April meeting.

2023-2024 School Calendar

Dr. Turner presented the proposed 2023-2024 school calendar for the Board's consideration. Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2023-2024 school calendar as presented.

Resolution Opposing House Bill 219

Dr. Turner presented a resolution opposing House Bill 219, "Charter School Omnibus" bill, which was recently adopted by Iredell-Statesville Schools. Upon motion by Anne White and seconded by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution opposing House Bill 219 as presented.

Finance

Budget Amendments

Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard presented budget amendments for the Board's consideration, explaining in detail the reason for each amendment. Upon motion by Kristy Corprew and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve State (Fund 1) Budget Amendment #3, Local (Fund 2) Budget Amendment #2, Federal (Fund 3) Budget Amendment #3, Capital Outlay (Fund 4) Budget Amendment #4, Child Nutrition (Fund 5) Budget Amendment #1, and Local (Fund 8) Budget Amendment #2 as presented by Mr. Blanchard.

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard presented the Expense-Budget Analysis (YTD) for March 2023. The benchmark was 75%, with 26% 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 March 20, 2023, and did not include the March payroll or expenditures paid after that date. Chairman Lassiter asked Mr. Blanchard to provide the YTD percentage without the new school as part of the budget. 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 was \$190,929.74. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund Lottery Fund was \$565,681.91. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund School Building Repair & Renovation Fund (PSBRRF) was \$589,932.10. The Public School Building Capital Fund Needs Based Lottery Fund, the funding source for the new school, was \$20,819,089.00.

Quote for Construction of New Track

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch provided an update on the track. The funding source for the track is the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) in the amount of \$1,080,000.00. Mr. Bunch described how the ESSER III Funds would be used to support the allowable use area and the impact measures. The funds were approved by NCDPI American Rescue Plan Act ESSER III Administrator on June 4, 2021, June 16, 2022, and December 7, 2022. The \$1,080,000 track cost estimate was based on a 2018 Nixon Complex master plan cost estimate provided by CHA. On September 23, 2022, the cost estimate from CHA was \$1,346,989 for an 8-lane track and soccer field. The bid received on January 20, 2023 for an 8-lane track and soccer field was \$1,995,800. The bid received on March 9, 2023 for a 6-lane track and no soccer field was \$1,213,949, a difference of \$132,949.00 in the amount needed for a 6-lane track and no soccer field. In looking to the future, Chairman Lassiter and Leary Winslow expressed they would like to see an 8-lane track built rather than a 6-lane track. Leary Winslow said he spent several hours on the phone

seeking ways to save money on the project. He proposed a figure of \$1,280,000 to build the track. There is \$500,000 in lottery funds. The district could save \$75,000 by cutting the amount of rock in half. Dr. Turner said that A. R. Chesson is bound by what the architect gives them. In addition, it has to be built like the grant was written. Leary Winslow said that costs could also be saved on laser grading, asphalt and rubber. Director of Maintenance Jamie Johnson stated that he is going with the architect's recommendations due to liability. Changes have to go through CHA. Chairman Lassiter asked that these changes be communicated to the architect. Upon motion by Anne White and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve a quote from A. R. Chesson to construct an 8-lane track in an amount not to exceed \$1,280,000. The Board asked Mr. Bunch to look up the percentage for architect fees.

Reports / Updates

Student Discipline Data

Mr. Bunch said there are eight reportable offenses for this year—two for possession of a weapon at the middle school, two for possession of a weapon at the high school and four for possession of a control substance at the high school. Perquimans Central School has had one suspension this year. For February, Hertford Grammar had five suspensions, Perquimans Middle had eighteen, and Perquimans High had six.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Turner shared the following information:

- Congratulations to the PQ Hunter Safety Teams
- Congratulations to the students that participated in the ECSU Regional Math Competition
- Vacancies: Speech-Language Pathologist, Assistant Principal (High School), Custodian, Art Teacher (High School), Fine Arts Teacher (Middle School), School Psychologist, Math Teacher (High School), Exceptional Children's Teacher, Bus Drivers
- Recruitment: ECSU – February 9th, Virtual with NC A&T – February 16th, ECU – March 15th, Regional Job Fair – March 31st at MACU, Advertisement in Diversity in Education (runs 60 days for a math teacher), NC Central University Resume Book
- Enrollment: PCS – 405/36 PreK, HGS – 403, PCMS – 378, PCHS – 519, Total – 1,705
Note: ADM increased by 3 since last month; gained 46 students since last year; PCHS had 26 mid-year graduates; 62 Kindergarten students registered thus far/expect 17 more PreK; May 5th next registration day
- Child Nutrition
 - Child Nutrition Charges: January - \$827.24; February - \$1,323.97; March - \$1,280.16
 - PQ SN Fundraiser Rib Throwdown – June 3, 2023; entry fees will be used to pay off outstanding school meal debt
- Dr. Turner shared photos from school site visits on March 14th and 20th – Ahoskie Elementary, Chicod School, Hope Middle, Jones k-12, Lakeforest Elementary, Northeast, Penderlea, and Surf City
- Work Session with the County Commissioners – Tentatively April 17th at 6:30 p.m. at CO
- Upcoming Dates
 - April 3 – PCS Foundation Scholarship Awards 6 p.m. at PCHS
 - April 4th - HGS Spring Concert & Art Show (3rd grade) 6 p.m.
 - April 7th – Good Friday Holiday
 - April 10th – 14th – Spring Break
 - April 17th – Joint Budget Work Session with County Commissioners 6:30 p.m. at Central Office
 - April 22nd – PCHS Prom at Albemarle Plantation
 - April 24th – Board of Education Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Board Chair's Comments

Chairman Russell Lassiter reminded board members about the Foundation Scholarship Awards Ceremony on April 3rd and the upcoming Water Turtles swim lessons for Kindergarten students at the YMCA.

Announcements

- Tentative Joint Budget Work Session with County Commissioners – Monday, April 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office
- In light of recent school violence in the country, Arlene Yates said the district doesn't need to let its guard down. She asked about the measures in place to control violence. Dr. Turner mentioned the following safety measures in the district:
 - Students should feel safe enough to tell an adult if something is not right.
 - The district has applied for another grant for metal detectors which may help with vapes.
 - The new intermediate school will be built with safety in mind.
 - The district has a new PunchAlert program, a panic button program by cell phone. After the initial six-month subscription, PunchAlert will be replaced by a program provided by the State, RAVE Panic Alert.
 - Special training has been provided for receptionists for visitors to the schools. If there is someone they can't identify, the SRO would have to let the visitor in the building.
- Dr. White spoke about the shooting in Tennessee. She also mentioned a new virus where hand washing and surface cleaning is recommended.
- Chairman Lassiter commented that the most important suggestion is for every school to have an SRO.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously at 8:29 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11(a)(1) and (6) to consider closed session minutes, student transfer requests, and personnel matters.

Return to Open Session

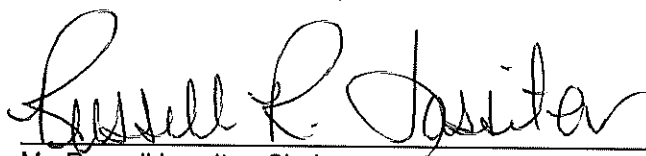
Upon motion by Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously at 8:32 p.m. to return to open session.

Personnel Summary Report

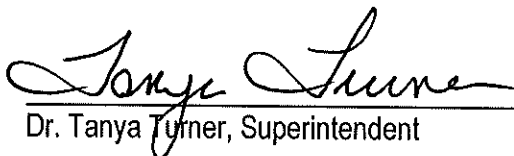
Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding personnel items as presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Mr. Russell Lassiter, Chairman



Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent