

**Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – December 18, 2023**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 18, 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.

Board Chair Russell Lassiter called the meeting to order. He led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and had prayer.

Board members present: Board Chair Russell Lassiter (in person), 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 Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the addendum as presented.

Special Recognitions

2023 Superintendent Christmas Card Contest

Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner recognized the following students for earning 1st place for their drawing or verse in the 2023 Superintendent Christmas Card Contest. Each student received a framed copy of their school's card.

Perquimans Central School

Collins Eure, 2nd Grade - 1st Place Drawing
Royal Archer, 2nd Grade - 1st Place Verse

Hertford Grammar School

Lilly Lane, 5th Grade - 1st Place Drawing
Violet Pollock, 5th Grade - 1st Place Verse

Perquimans County Middle School

Krystal Tiemann, 6th Grade - 1st Place Drawing
Lila West, 6th Grade - 1st Place Verse

Perquimans County High School

Elizabeth Damron, 10th Grade - 1st Place Drawing
Kendra Graham, 11th Grade - 1st Place Verse

2023 Lady Pirates Varsity Volleyball Team

Dr. Turner recognized the 2023 Lady Pirates Varsity Volleyball Team:

Daven Brabble
Harlee Hunter
Ellie Ward
Indya Long
Lilly Winslow

Kristie Thach, Head Coach

Morgan Baccus
Mary Woodard
Madelyn Stallings
Catherine Howell
Morgan Byrum

Marleigh Cooper
Ashlynn Ward
Laci Bateman
Lexi Williamson
Kaydee Hunter

Maci Denson, Assistant Coach

The Lady Pirates Varsity Volleyball Team was the undefeated conference champs—their 8th straight championship. They were the East Regional Runner Up with an overall record of 26-4. Individual team members were recognized for the following:

- Mary Woodard – All-Conference Selection
- Morgan Byrum – All-Conference Selection
- Ashlynn Ward – 1st Team Best and Brightest Award Winner
- Morgan Baccus- 1st Team Best and Brightest Award Winner
- Ellie Ward – All-Conference Selection, 1st Team Best and Brightest Award Winner
- Lilly Winslow – All-Conference Selection, All-Region Selection, All-State Selection
- Marleigh Cooper – All-Conference Selection, 2nd Team Best and Brightest Award Winner, All-Region Selection, All-State Selection

- Daven Brabble – Villain Brawl All-Tournament Team, Conference Player of the Year, 1st Team Best and Brightest Award Winner, All-Region Selection, All-State Selection, NCVBCA 1A Player of the Year, 2023-2024 High School Heisman Award Winner for PCHS
- Coach Kristie Thach – Conference Coach of the Year, Reached 300 wins in August, 1A NCVBCA Coach of the Year

Dr. White stepped out of the meeting for a moment, but returned in time to the vote on the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the November 20, 2023 regular session as presented.

Consent Agenda

None

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard presented the Expense-Budget Analysis (YTD) for December 2023. The benchmark was 50%, with 43% actually spent YTD (excluding new school construction). The report was run on December 11, 2023, and did not include the December payroll or expenditures paid after that date. He also showed the budget summary sorted by 2-digit purpose code with the same information. In the Capital Outlay budget, there was \$90,644.20 remaining in the general repairs line item. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund Lottery Fund was \$629,940.22, the same as last month. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund School Building Repair & Renovation Fund (PSBRRF) was \$822,234.89, the same as last month. The Public School Building Capital Fund Needs Based Lottery Fund, the funding source for the new school, was \$36,865,099.18, the same as last month. There were no questions from board members on any of the information presented.

Strategic Plan Update

Chief Academic Officer for Curriculum and Instruction Melissa Fields provided an update on action steps 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 3.3, and 3.4 of the Strategic Plan.

Action Step 1.3 states that by 2024, there will be a 10% increase in the number of 3rd grade students scoring at or above a 600 Lexile Level at the BOG. This goal was not met; however, the 3rd grade students are making progress based on their MOY assessments.

Action Step 1.5 states that by 2024, students' composite score on the ACT will meet or exceed the state average. This goal was not met.

Action Step 1.6 states to exceed the state average for the 4 year graduation cohort overall and by subgroup annually. The district met this goal in every subgroup and overall as well. There is concern about the 2024 graduation rate. Students were in their freshman year during the remote year and many students lost engagement. In addition, there were 16 dropouts in that cohort group. Of those 16 dropouts, 15 of them

transferred into the county after they started school. During data conferences, there have been discussions about processes to strengthen the transition for transfer students.

Action Step 1.7 states that by 2024, to exceed the state average of CTE Concentrators to graduate high school having attained a recognized postsecondary credential. This data has not been released and will be shared at a later date.

Action Step 3.3 states that by 2024, increase the diversity of students participating in advanced learning opportunities by 10 percent. The charts for the first two years fall headcount showed less than one percent of the African American population as gifted. When the plan was revised, changes were made in the way students were identified in an effort to have a more equitable identification process. In the 2023-2024 headcount, the number of diverse students who have been identified as gifted has increased. The number of white students who participate has increased as well.

In the same goal, but measuring other opportunities in addition to the headcount, Perquimans Central School increased the diversity of students participating in nurture groups. At Hertford Grammar School, the number of students that participated in Battle of the Books groups did not increase this year. In the Accelerated Classes at Perquimans Middle School, there are fewer students participating in Accelerated Classes overall. At Perquimans High School, about half of the students participate in AP and Honors. Last year, the number of classes a student participated in was counted. This year, the actual number of students participating was counted. There was an increased number of diverse participation in COA CCP at Perquimans High School. The data did not show a diverse population participating in Beta Club in the three schools that offer Beta Club.

Action Step 3.4 states classes, electives and extracurricular activities that reflect students' interests and backgrounds will be offered at each school. There was a list of offerings for Perquimans County Middle School and Perquimans County High School for the past four years. These offerings are posted on the website in alignment with the Parents' Bill of Rights.

Future updates to the Board include: January – Strategic Priority 2 and March – Strategic Priority 4.

Update on New Intermediate School

John Birath of the Building Management Advocacy Group provided the following update on the new intermediate school.

- The survey is wrapping up so that the engineers can begin their work on the site design for the project.
- The wetland delineation work is complete. The next step is jurisdictional approval which will take some time, but will not get in the way of the project.
- The Environmental Phase I report is complete. No findings were determined.
- The Geotechnical report indicates that the site is constructable. There is good soil so traditional construction will work there.
- The selection of the engineer to perform the Traffic Impact Analysis is in the final process.
- Hopefully, the closing for the acquisition of the property should be completed in the next month.

When asked, Mr. Birath said groundbreaking should begin in about six months or so. The project should be complete in April of 2026 and ready for students and staff in August of 2026 for the 2026-2027 school year. Information about the project will be available on the website in the near future.

Revised Board Policy 4400 Attendance

Superintendent Turner presented revisions to Policy 4400 Attendance, in particular Item B. Tardiness and Early Departures. Prior to her becoming Superintendent in Perquimans County, there was an issue with a lot of tardies occurring. The Board revised the policy to read that an accumulation of three tardies or early departures would equal an absence. According to our attorney, that is not allowable because parents can face judicial consequences for attendance. Our attorney advised that the policy be revised in accordance with the General Statutes. The language regarding the three tardies or early departures was removed and replaced with the language in red in the proposed revisions to the policy. There was much discussion around tardies, early departures, and attendance, particularly how tardies would be addressed. PCHS has found that in-school suspension is an effective way to address tardies. Dr. Turner found that afterschool detention helped to prevent tardies when she was a middle school principal. Dr. Turner stated that she requested policies from districts across the state to see how they address tardies. These policies were discussed at a recent principals' meeting in order to prepare revisions to the policy. The district is doing an excellent job with attendance. Judge Harris, the principal, superintendent, social worker, guidance counselor, law enforcement, and others meet with parents and students (under 16 years of age) at the courthouse several times a month to address attendance issues. Often times tardies are discussed during these meetings as well. This is an issue that districts are dealing with across the state. The proposed policy revisions were presented for a first reading only. The Board will prepare to discuss this further and take action at the January meeting.

2023-2024 Discipline & Reportable Offense Information

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented a comparison of information on discipline and reportable offenses by school for the first half of the year for the academic years of 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. The information showed an increase in the number of suspensions for the first half of the year of 2023-2024 for Perquimans Central School, Perquimans Middle School and Perquimans High School, while Hertford Grammar School showed a decrease in the number of suspensions. During this three-year period, the top violation of the code of conduct at Perquimans Central School was physical aggression followed by defiance. At Hertford Grammar, the top violation was hitting or aggressive behavior, and this year, defiance. At Perquimans Middle, the top violation was class disruptions followed by disrespect. At Perquimans High, the top violation for all three years was tardiness. Perquimans Central School had one reportable offense in 2021-2022 and none in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Perquimans Middle School had no reportable offenses in 2021-2022, two in 2022-2023 and one in 2023-2024. Perquimans High School had no reportable offenses in 2021-2022, five in 2022-2023, and three in 2023-2024. Hertford Grammar School had no reportable offenses. (There was a correction in the reportable offenses shown on the chart for Hertford Grammar for 2023-2024 so there were no offenses to report.) Mr. Bunch entertained comments from board members regarding the presentation. A similar presentation will be made at the end of the school year.

Superintendent's Report

None

Board Chair's Comments

Chairman Lassiter relinquished the floor to Vice Chairwoman Arlene Yates. Mrs. Yates said there are exceptional staff in our school system. Staff assisted students in two different families who had needs. Mrs. Yates called Chairman Lassiter who contacted Brenda Lassiter, director of the Foundation. Mrs. Lassiter contacted Mrs. Parker, the school social worker, and Mrs. Hinton, the homeless liaison, who immediately got to work making contacts to assist the families with their needs.

Announcements

- Systemwide Early Release – Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.
- Optional Work Day – January 2, 2024; Required Work Day – January 3, 2024

- Students return to school – Thursday, January 4, 2023
- Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, January 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- Dr. White welcomed Kesha Williams, a reporter for *The Daily Advance*.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 6:58 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11(a)(1) and (6) to consider closed session minutes and personnel matters.

Return to Open Session

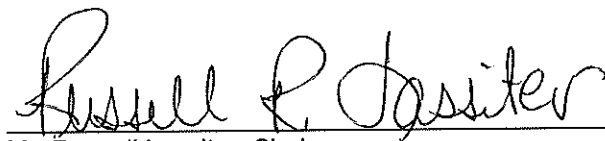
Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 7:06 p.m. to return to open session.

Personnel Summary Report

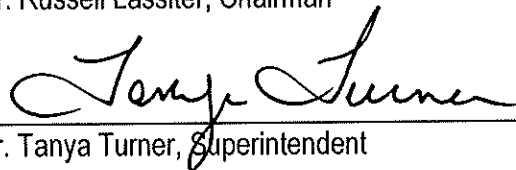
Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding personnel items as presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.



Mr. Russell Lassiter, Chairman



Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent

