

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – February 26, 2024

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 2024, 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), 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 Kristy Corprew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Special Recognitions

On behalf of the Board, Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner recognized the following:

NCBA Eastern All-District Middle School Symphonic Band

Brianna Mulch and Landon Damron were recognized for auditioning and making the North Carolina Bandmasters Association Eastern All-District Middle School Symphonic Band. Brianna and Landon auditioned in Greenville along with middle school band students from all over the eastern district. By winning a spot in the ensemble, they got to participate in a clinic followed by a performance in Wright Auditorium at East Carolina University on Saturday, February 3, 2024.

DAR Essay Contest Winner

Colton Dickson (not present) was named the regional winner for the 6th Grade Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest. Next Colton's work will be judged at the district and state level.

State Swim Championship

Catherine Howell was recognized for her outstanding performance in the NCHSAA Swim Championship on February 9, 2024. She placed in the top 15 in both of her events, 200 Freestyle and 100 Breaststroke, while also swimming her personal best! Swim Coach Vicky West provided comments.....

NCSBA Award of Excellence

Board Member Dr. Anne White was recognized recently at the North Carolina School Boards Association Annual Conference in Greensboro for earning an Award of Excellence through the North Carolina School Boards Association Academy for School Boardsmanship. To earn this recognition, board members must earn a minimum of 30 hours of training each academy year which runs from July 1 through June 30.

Mr. Lassiter informed those attending for the special recognitions that they could be excused or stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Dr. Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the January 22, 2024 regular session as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Fall 2023 Policy Updates as presented.

1310/4002	Parental Involvement
3610	Counseling Program
4040/7310	Staff-Student Relations
4110	Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission
4240/7312	Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
4342	Student Searches
4720	Surveys of Students
5210	Distribution and Display of Non-School Material
6220	Operation of School Nutrition Services
6401/9100	Ethics and the Purchasing Function
6430	Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
7100	Recruitment and Selection of Personnel
7130	Licensure
7510	Leave
7520	Family and Medical Leave
7730	Employee Conflict of Interest
8325	Daily Deposits
9125	Participation by Minority Businesses

Policies with only minor changes to wording, legal references, and/or cross references

4130	Discretionary Admission
4150	School Assignment
4334/5035/7345	Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)
6230	School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards
7232	Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace
7820	Personnel Files

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

None

Unfinished Business

2023-2024 Summer Program Plan

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2023-2024 Summer Program Plan as presented by Trisha Brickhouse, Chief Academic Officer for Curriculum and Instruction.

2024-2025 School Calendar

Leary Winslow commented, when there is flexibility, in the future he would like the school year to start mid-week and not have a full week the first week of school. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Kristy Corprew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented by Trisha Brickhouse, Chief Academic Officer for Curriculum and Instruction.

New Business

Finance

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard presented the Expense-Budget Analysis (YTD) for February 2024. The benchmark was 67%, with 57% actually spent YTD (excluding new school construction). The report was run on February 19, 2024, and did not include the February 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 \$47,019.17 remaining in the general repairs line item. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund Lottery Fund was \$669,043.02. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund (PSBRRF) was \$971,106.29. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund Needs Based Lottery Fund, Project Allocation, the funding source for the new school, was \$36,445,780.16.

Chromebook Refresh

Chief Technology Officer April Benton presented information about devices considered for the Chromebook refresh through Trafera which included the Lenovo 100E G3 and the Lenovo 100E G4. The Lenovo 100E G3 updates until 2031 and is Generation 3. Lenovo 100E G4 updates until 2033 and is Generation 4. Both devices have webcam privacy, 10 hour battery, drop resistant (2 feet) bumpers, spill resistant (12 oz or less) and anti-pry keyboard. This would be a 4-year lease with an interest rate of 3.12%. The warranty would include accidental damage, hardware fail, spare parts (onsite, repaired by a technician and PCHS students), free shipping for repairs (beyond what our staff can repair), June repairs will be handled in NC, quicker turn around, 3-year battery warranty (limit 1 replacement), and power adapter incident. Things not covered under warranty are lost devices and chargers, intentional damage, bug infestation, and batteries in the 4th year. There is a 2% loss, around 39-40 Chromebooks, that the district doesn't have to pay for if they are lost over the course of the lease.

Option 1 – 1,900 Lenovo 100E G3, \$276.51 – G3, \$32.49 – License, \$164,270.16 (includes additional 39 spare devices)

Option 2 – 1,950 Lenovo 100E G3, \$276.51 – G3, \$32.49 – License, \$168,628.70 (includes additional 39 spare devices)

Option 3 – 1,950 Lenovo 100E G4, \$321.51 – G4, \$32.49 – License, \$193,186.51

Mrs. Benton included a chart with equipment cost, term, annual lease, tax and total annual lease payment for each device. The recommendation for the Chromebook refresh was Option 1. Mrs. Benton entertained questions and comments from the Board. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Dr. Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to enter a 4-year lease to refresh grades K-12 with the option of purchasing or returning devices at the end of the lease and entering into a new lease with an annual payment of \$164,270.16 per year due in July 2024.

Resolution Supporting an Exception to the Parents' Bill of Rights for Suicide Risk Assessments

Dr. Turner presented a resolution supporting an exception to the Parents' Bill of Rights for suicide risk assessments. School districts are required by General Statute to adopt a plan to promote student mental health wellbeing. The plan has to include a suicide risk assessment protocol. The screening process adopted by the State Board of Education requires a risk assessment to determine if the student is at risk of suicide or harming themselves. The school determines the level of risk and notifies the parents. If it is high risk, the student is referred immediately to health professionals. It has always been the district's practice to notify parents and the district will continue to do that. The new Parents' Bill of Rights requires local boards of education to provide parents with anything that is a protected information survey such as this 10 day's prior to the student taking the survey and to obtain the parent's consent prior to the student taking the assessment. This will defeat the purpose because when a child is in danger of hurting themselves, the risk assessment needs to be done immediately. This will prevent the schools from taking immediate action. This resolution requests the General Assembly to adopt an amendment to the Parents' Bill of Rights that permits the risk assessment without the prior consent of the parents. The General Assembly has already provided an amendment to provide emergency medical care if a student were to pass out and need medical attention because their heart has stopped, for example. Upon motion by Vice Chair Arlene Yates and second by Matt

Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting an exception to the Parents' Bill of Rights for suicide risk assessments as presented.

New Legal Requirement for Staff Conflict of Interest Training

Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Shawn Wilson presented information about the new training requirement enacted by the General Assembly, HB314, for any staff involved in the making or administering of contracts for a school system, including board members. Staff members who meet this definition must receive at least two hours of training on conflicts of interest and ethical standards of conduct. Current employees who meet this definition must have the initial training by April 3, 2024, and new employees must complete the training within 90 days of taking the position. After initial training, employees must receive the training once every odd-numbered year. This is being presented now because the district was waiting for guidance from DPI and for associations to provide an approved training. There is an approved training which will be done through Canvas and tracked for completion. As an alternative, the training can be done through a video. Dr. Turner has already completed the training. Dr. Wilson will get this information to the Board tomorrow. This will affect employees who review vendor quotes or meet with vendors and employees who have the authority to make decisions about significant purchases. The training requirement crosses all departments and may include principals since they sign contracts such as for yearbooks, school photographers, and referees for athletic events.

Revised Board Policy 4400 Attendance

Dr. Turner said several revisions were made to the policy so this will be considered a first reading and will be voted on next month.

First paragraph – The General Statute about attendance was added in its entirety so there wouldn't be any questions about the expectations for parents to send their child to school from Kindergarten through graduation.

Section A. Attendance Records - Wording was added to clarify the difference in being present in a K-8 setting (half a day) versus a 9-12 setting (half a period).

Section B. Tardiness and Early Departures – In the first paragraph, the word "daily" was added to emphasize the importance of being on time and staying the entire day each day. Also, if a student needs to arrive late or leave early, a written excuse would be accepted only for the reasons listed in Item C. In the second paragraph, wording was changed from "a student not seated" to "not in their assigned class at the scheduled time class begins." In the third paragraph, the word "earn" was changed to "equal" regarding tardies equal absences. This paragraph was added back because the Board had concerns about removing it. It adds an additional layer of expectations to the students and will get them to JAC quicker. The fourth paragraph was added. It was a communication expectation that the principal or designee will communicate with students and their parents when unexcused tardies and/or unexcused early dismissals negatively impact student growth and achievement and therefore students may be subject to disciplinary action. In the fifth paragraph, Section D was corrected to read Section E.

Section F. Unexcused Absences – In the fourth paragraph, "including accumulated tardies" was added to the sentence to read, "The principal and social worker also shall make a report to the superintendent regarding the student's attendance record, including accumulated tardies..." In the fifth paragraph, a correction was made from Section D to Section E.

Section G. Chronic Absenteeism – Number 2 and Number 4 were removed which were stated earlier in the policy. In Number 1 and Number 3, "will" was changed to "may" which gives principals flexibility. Number 5

(which should be Number 3) was added which reads, "Excessive tardies may be considered in determining promotion/retention if the tardies are interfering with the student's academic achievement."

Leary Winslow asked if the Board had to wait until next month to vote on the changes since the Board reviewed and discussed the revisions extensively at the last meeting and there were only a few additional changes proposed at this meeting that weren't in the revisions last meeting. Board members agreed that there was a lot of discussion about the changes at the last meeting. Mr. Lassiter explained to the principals who were in attendance that the Board gave Dr. Turner homework to do between the last meeting and this meeting which she listened carefully to the Board's comments and discussion and incorporated the Board's concerns in the changes which the principals had input in the changes. Mr. Lassiter stated the Board respects their ability to be the administrator at their school. The Board's attempt to add more rigor to the policy was to help principals enforce tardies and absences to benefit the children. Mr. Lassiter said that if the Board would consider this a second reading due to the extensive discussion at the last meeting, he would entertain a motion to approve the policy as presented although it was listed on the agenda as a first reading. The item was on the agenda and the Board was in agreement that the changes were satisfactory. None of the board members said the changes were not satisfactory. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Kristy Corprew, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the revisions to Policy 4400 Attendance with corrections to Section G. by changing number 3 to 2 and 5 to 3. Mr. Lassiter thanked the principals for being in attendance.

Weapons Detection System

Assistant Superintendent Mr. James Bunch said the district was fortunate to have received a safety grant. Some of the items in the grant description that were approved by DPI was the purchase of a weapons detection system. At the bottom of the tabulation sheet, Mr. Bunch noted that approximately 85% of the award will be distributed during the week starting February 19th, and the remaining 15% will be distributed after the 2024-2025 initial allotments in July 2024. The plan is over the next five months starting in March is to use a five month period to establish the weapons detection systems at each school site. Half of the schools will be done this fiscal year, and in July doing the rest of the schools. The weapons detection system has been properly bid out with an RFP. It was posted on our website and it was sent to at least four companies. The only companies that submitted bids were Point Security, Inc. and Xtract One. Wyn Technologies did call and express interest, but did not submit a bid. One unit is two kiosks that are about six or seven feet high, weighing about 25 pounds each. The kiosks can be used inside or outside. They are wireless with a Bluetooth mechanism and have different sensitivity levels. He provided bid tabulation information for the weapons detection system, a copy of the Request for Proposals, and the estimates submitted by Point Security, Inc. and Xtract One. Point Security, Inc. provided an equipment price of \$145,686.06, miscellaneous total of \$11,935.85 for a total of \$157,621.92 for nine units. Xtract One provided an equipment price of \$234,000, miscellaneous total unknown, and total unknown. Dr. Anne White expressed her appreciation for the funds that Mr. Bunch brings to the district through grants. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to select Point Security as the vendor for the weapons detection system as presented.

Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund for the PCHS Auditorium and Gymnasium Sound Upgrades

Mr. Bunch said that the Superintendent has received concerns about the sound system in the high school auditorium and gymnasium. He thanked Mrs. Benton for getting the quotes for the sound systems. Mr. Bunch recommended that \$8,022.43 be used to upgrade the gymnasium sound system by North Carolina Sound and \$28,825.73 be used to upgrade the high school auditorium sound system. Leary Winslow asked Mr. Bunch if the sound system at the football complex could be included with this to remove the delay before graduation. If approved, Mr. Bunch said it will take the vendor 60 days to get the parts in and an unknown amount of time to complete the jobs. Mrs. Benton said the sound is bouncing off the high school which causes the delay or echo at the Athletic Complex. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Dr. Anne White, the

Board voted unanimously to approve use of Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund for sound upgrades for the Perquimans County High School Auditorium in the amount of \$28,825.73, and the Perquimans County High School Gymnasium in the amount of \$8,022.43 as presented.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Turner provided the following report.

Vacancies

Unfilled – HVAC Mechanic, Electrician, Fire Tech Teacher, Teacher Assistant (PCHS), Media Coordinator (PCHS), 2nd Grade Math, *2 Math Teachers at PCHS, *English Teacher at PCHS (*Plan in place for full face-to-face instruction with HQ teacher)

Filled pending Board approval – Accounts Payable Technician, PCS Teacher Assistant, District Career Development Coordinator

Enrollment

PCS – 410/40 PreK; HGS – 393; PCMS – 375; PCHS – 519 (14 early graduates are not included); Totals 1697/1711 (first number is without 14 graduates and second number is with 14 graduates)

NCHSAA State 1A Playoffs

The Lady Pirates Basketball Team won back-to-back conference championships this year, but lost the conference tournament championship. The state tournament will begin tomorrow night. The Lady Pirates are ranked 2nd and will be playing Oxford Prep at home at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow evening.

Highlights/Announcement/Upcoming Dates

- The PQ Ambassadors program at Perquimans County High School is doing great! There are 27 students in the class. They are now going out Monday through Thursday to Hertford Grammar and Perquimans Central School classrooms to work with students and teachers. Originally, seniors were not going to be placed in the program because of building the capacity of the program with hope to have students that want to be educators by the time they are seniors. Once the district received a grant to give scholarships to seniors who were graduating, some seniors were included this year. Of the four seniors in the class, two of them are interested in becoming educators, Essence and Derek.
- Perquimans County High School Theatre Department will present "The Addams Family" on March 27 & 28 at 7 p.m. in the PCHS Auditorium.
- A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the track and soccer field is scheduled for March 12, 2024 at 5 p.m. Mr. Drew had an idea of having a "Meet the Pirates" for the soccer players and the track athletes.
- NC Pre-K and Kindergarten registration is happening now. Applications must be received by May 15 to be contacted for our June screening. If you know of anyone who needs to register, especially for Kindergarten, please tell them to register. Every year, many parents wait to register just before school starts and it makes it difficult to know how many teachers are needed, especially with the class size limitations from the state.
- List of Important Dates

Board Chair's Comments

None

Announcements

Board of Education Budget Retreat – Monday, March 4, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. at Central Office

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office

Closed Session

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 7:03 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

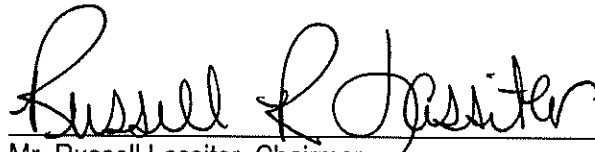
Upon motion by Kristy Corprew and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 7:39 p.m. to return to open session.

Personnel Summary Report

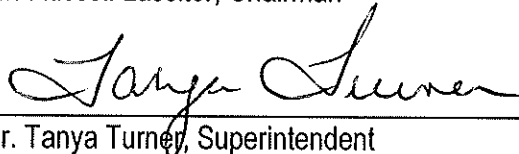
Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding personnel items as presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Mr. Russell Lassiter, Chairman



Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent

