

**THE HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

9525 Hwy 301 South
Halifax, North Carolina 27839

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES
Monday, October 6, 2014**

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, October 6, 2014. The meeting was held at the Central Office Administration Building located on 9525 Hwy 301 South, Halifax, North Carolina 27839.

Present: Ms. Carolyn Hawkins, Chair, Mrs. Debbie Hardy, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Susie L. Evans, Mr. Claude Cooper, Dr. Donna Hunter, Mr. Charles Hedgepeth, and Mrs. Joyce S. Lashley.

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Elese Frederick, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mrs. Tyrana Battle, Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, Representatives from DPI: Ms. Catherine Brooks, Dr. Pascal Mubenga, Mrs. Laura Crumpler, Mr. Jason Weber and Attorney Larry Armstrong.

Ms. Carolyn Hawkins gave words of welcome. Ms. Hawkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Mrs. S. Evans moved to go out of closed into open at 7:10 p.m. Mr. C. Hedgepeth moved in second. Motion carried.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Ms. Hawkins asked that we read the Mission Statement of the Halifax County Board of Education in unison.

Ms. C. Hawkins asked for the approval of the Board Agenda.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that information he requested was not added to the agenda.

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that some of the information he requested has already been addressed. She asked that he put the blame on the chair.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the meeting agenda.

Attorney Armstrong stated that the board chair and the superintendent set the agenda.

Ms. Hawkins apologized for her lack of knowledge. She ask that the board accept what you want to add. She will take the blame.

Mr. C. Cooper asked if the board members submit items to the chair are they automatically put on the agenda.

Ms. Hawkins answered no. They talked about it.

Ms. Hardy stated that if you decided this is our agenda for tonight, this is what it is going to be.

Ms. S. Evans asked if the items should be discussed in closed session.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that we talk about it, but we need to finish them.

Mr. C. Cooper stated that it is personnel.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that we need to put all Halifax County Schools employees on state salary scale. The board is to approve the salaries. That's why the school system is the way it is now. Salaries are too high and we did not approve.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the meeting agenda that was set forth. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. *Oppose* (Hedgepeth) *Agree* (Hardy-Hunter-Cooper-Lashley-Evans)

Mr. Hedgepeth reason for opposing is that the information he requested was not placed on the agenda. By law the board is to see the salaries every year. Policy # 7650 is not being followed. Move the child nutrition workers and the receptionists back to 100 percent employed.

Public Comments:

Mrs. Joyce West from the White Oak Community, had concerns about the White Oak Parent Center. She talked on behalf of the community to reconsider the move of the children to Hollister.

Ms. C. Hawkins asked if any board members had a Conflict of Interest to the matters on the board agenda. Mrs. D. Hardy stated that she had a conflict with the discussion of CADA. All other board members responded that there was no conflict of interest to the matters on the board agenda.

Ms. C. Hawkins asked for the approval of the consent agenda.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the meeting consent agenda as discussed in closed session. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. Motion carried.

Personnel Recommendations as presented in Closed Session:

CERTIFIED: Takesha Hunter, Kylee Wilson, Michelle Campbell, Ronny Osorio, Eric Johnston, Tonya Jones, Octevia Torian, Tameka Robinson.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER: Dr. Larry Blount.

SERVICE AGREEMENTS: Florence Brown, Patsy Mercer, Gladys Walden, Linda Johnson, Willie Mae Davis, Kim Dickens, Latonia Lynch, Sarah Shaw, Ethel Silver, Erika Jones, Lillie Green, Sophie Harrison.

RESIGNATIONS: Pablo Pesantez, Hassan Kingsberry.

RETIREMENTS: Joanne Squire, Beverly Vassor.

ELIGIBLE TO RETURN TO WORK: Teresa Medlin.

TRANSFER (INFORMATION ITEM ONLY): George Esule.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that the minutes of September 8, 2014, did not state the response to her questions asked. Statements are incomplete.

Ms. C. Hawkins stated to send the corrections to her and she will forward them to Ms. Thorne. Ms. Thorne will give us a corrected copy for review.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that the minutes posted on August 4, 2014 were not corrected. He e-mailed Ms. Thorne and she did not correct them. We need to post the minutes that the court stenographer takes.

Dr. Frederick stated that the minutes are not being changed. She is not to type everything that is said. If there are corrections to the minutes, get them to us. We are recording the actions of the Board.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he was not blaming Ms. Thorne, she is recording and the court is recording. We should not have a consent agenda.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that we keep having conversations; only never answers.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that we will work on the minutes.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that we are here to approve the minutes of September 8th that are not accurate. Why approve them?

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the consent agenda with the inserted corrections. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. Motion carried. **Oppose** (Hedgepeth-Lashley) **Agree** (Cooper-Hardy-Hunter-Evans)

Mr. K. Hoggard and Board member Mrs. J. Lashley gave special recognition to the student of the month, Deshawn Smith, an eighth grade student at Enfield Middle School. Mrs. Lashley presented the certificate to the student; he also received a goodie bag.

Mr. K. Hoggard and Board member Dr. D. Hunter gave special recognition to the employee of the month, Mr. James Clark, the Head Custodian of William R. Davie

Middle School. Mr. Fenner introduced Mr. Clark to the board and audience. He stated that Mr. Clark played an important role during Professional Development week. He focused on keeping the building clean and safe. William R Davie is the only school in the district to receive 0 violations from the School Fire Marshal. Dr. D. Hunter presented the certificate and stated that she was proud of him.

Mrs. S. Evans stated that the PreK committee meeting is scheduled for next week.

Mrs. S. Evans gave a progress report on the transition from White Oak Parent Center to Hollister Elementary as per the Long Range Facilities meeting on September 25, 2014 – The plumbing job will have to be bid out; the fire alarm purchase order is done; and continue to look into getting a preferred bidders list. The earliest date for the move is January. Parents will need to be contacted by letter early December. A Yard Sale will take place at Eastman School on October 25th. The Boy Scouts will be present to assist. The finance department is also needed. The committee discussed what would it cost to build a new school at the site of Eastman.

Dr. D. Hunter stated that we need money for anything. What is the plan? Our attendance is dropping. Do we have a plan to present to the County Commissioners?

Dr. E. Frederick stated that we have a long term and a short term plan. The information was sent to the County Manager's office to support the School Bond Referendum.

Mrs. S. Evans stated that the next meeting of the Long Range Facilities committee is scheduled for October 30th at 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. T. Battle gave an update on the Curriculum and Instruction department. She stated to improve community engagement, and a stronger bond with our faith community, the county has partnered with the New Focus Community Mission to provide additional instruction, mentoring, and development in the areas of academic growth and social skills. There will be 30 students participating in the afterschool program. Project T.R.E.A.T.S. ,an afterschool program to be held at the St. Paul Baptist Church in the Family Life Wellness Center, Enfield NC. Ms. Barbara Wilkins and Mr. Bill Riddick will have an afterschool program at Everetts. Enfield Parks and Recreation will also have an after school program.

Mr. Mitchell was present to share the New Focus Community afterschool program. He is looking forward to working with the children of Halifax County.

Dr. P. Mubenga highlighted the Department of Public Instruction Support Team and the work they are doing behind the scene.

Dr. E. Frederick gave an update of the Lottery Projects submitted and approved by the County Commissioners. This package was approved last month.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth had concerns about the bathroom at Pittman.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that we cannot repair the bathroom in the middle of the year. Pittman restrooms will be done.

Mr. T. Alston stated that he is working on the scope of the project. It's about a six-weeks project.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth asked why did he decide to do Dawson and not Pittman?

Mr. Alston stated that the bathrooms at Dawson were in worse shape than Pittman.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he did not bring it to the board for approval. It seems that one contractor get all the bids.

Mr. P. Rountree stated that we received the bids and took the bids to the county commissioners to save time.

Dr. E. Frederick gave an update on the disposition of School Property at Bakers Elementary/McIver Elementary. She shared that a letter was received from the County Commissioners not to exercise its right of first refusal and not to purchase Bakers or McIver Elementary Schools.

Ms. C. Jones gave a budget summary dated October 6, 2014. She stated that she is still working on the budgets. We have not received all of the allotments at this time. She explained the line items that we have received.

Ms. C. Hawkins gave to the board the following policies that will be placed on the table for review for thirty days. If any board member has any questions or concerns, please give her a call.

- # 1200 Governing Principal – Student Success (*updated*)
- # 1320/3560 Title I Parent Involvement (*updated*)
- # 1600 Governing Principle – Professional Development (*updated*)
- # 2121 Board Member Conflict of Interest (*updated*)
- # 2130 Board Member Compensation and Expenses (*updated*)
- # 2321 Closed Sessions (*updated*)
- # 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use (*updated*)
- # 3226/4205 Internet Safety (*updated*)
- # 3227/7322 Web Page Development (*updated*)
- # 3410 Testing and Assessment Program (*updated*)
- # 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability (*updated*)
- # 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements (*updated*)
- # 4250/5075/7316 North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program (*updated*)
- # 4316 Student Dress Code & Uniforms (*updated*)
- # 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety (*updated*)
- # 4345 Student Discipline Records (*updated*)
- # 4351 Short-Term Suspensions (*updated*)
- # 6225 Free and Reduced Price Food Services (*updated*)
- # 6340 Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts (*updated*)
- # 6524 Network Security (*updated*)
- # 7100 Recruitment and Selection of Personnel (*updated*)
- # 7130 Licensure (*updated*)

- # 7335 Employee Use of Social Media (*updated*)
- # 7410 Teacher Contracts (*updated*)
- # 7425 School Administrator Contracts (*updated*)
- # 7540 Voluntary Shared Leave (*updated*)
- # 7811 Plans for Growth and Improvement of Licensed Employees (*updated*)
- # 7820 Personnel Files (*updated*)
- # 7821 Petition for Removal of Personnel Records (*updated*)
- # 7900 Resignation (*updated*)
- # 7920 Professional Personnel Reduction in Force (*updated*)
- # 7930 Professional Employees: Demotion and Dismissal (*updated*)
- # 7950 Non-Career Status Teachers: Nonrenewal (*updated*)
- # 9220 Security of Facilities (*updated*)

Dr. E. Frederick asked for approval for an overnight field trip for Southeast Halifax High School seniors. This trip will take place on April 8 thru April 10, 2015, to Colonial Williamsburg area.

Mrs. Ann Davis, Principal at Southeast Halifax High School stated that the seniors are raising funds for this trip. The parents are very supportive. The students are committed.

Dr. D. Hunter stated that she is willing to sponsor a student, if all funds are not raised, please let her know.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the overnight field trip for Southeast Halifax High School seniors. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. Motion carried. ***All Agree***

Mrs. T. Battle asked for board approval for the contract with Compass Learning Agreement for selected schools. Schools under this contract are Dawson, Inborden and Everetts.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the Compass Learning Agreement. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. Motion carried. ***All Agree***

Mrs. T. Battle asked for board approval for the contract with Renaissance Learning which hosts the Accelerated Reading and STAR math programs for the district. Schools under this contract are Dawson, Enfield Middle, Everetts, Inborden, Pittman, Scotland Neck Primary and William R Davie Middle Schools.

Mrs. S. Evans asked if this is a renewal contract, and how is the data looking.

Mrs. T. Battle stated that the data is used to support the agreement. Some schools have shown growth. This agreement helps with the grouping of the students.

Mrs. S. Evans moved to approve the Renaissance Learning contract. Mr. C. Cooper moved in second. Motion carried. ***All Agree***

Mr. P. Rountree asked for board approval for the installation of a new door to be installed at Hollister Elementary School in the PreK Classroom.

Mrs. J. Lashley inquired about the quote for Hardware Specialist.

Mr. P. Rountree stated that they withdrew their bid.

Mrs. S. Evans moved to approve the Capital Outlay Project for the installation of a door. Mrs. J. Lashley moved in second. **Agree** (Hedgepeth-Lashley-Evans) **Oppose** (Hunter-Hawkins) **Abstain** (Cooper-Hardy)

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that her reason for opposing is that we need to spend the monies wisely at Hollister. She will be asking to rescind her motion to move the class to Hollister.

Attorney Armstrong stated that she cannot put an item on the agenda at this point.

Dr. D. Hunter asked if we have a policy to rescind a motion. We do not need to spend the money for the project. Reconsider to bring back to the board.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he has heard what the White Oak Community wants, but have you asked what the Hollister Community wants. He will get the state auditor to come in here and look at all the books.

Ms. D. Umstead shared with the board the contract for NC PreK services provided to the district in the agreement with NC PreK and the Halifax – Warren Smart Start Partnership for children.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the NC PreK agreement. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. Motion carried. **All Agree**

Mr. C. Cooper asked that we go back to the door. He did not vote, he was waiting for clarity.

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that when November meeting comes she will rescind the motion.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he will have WRAL to be here at the November meeting. He stated that he has tried to put people on the right pay scale.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that Mrs. Sallie Surface is present and she will present the request. Mrs. Sallie Surface asked for approval to use at least one and perhaps two of the vacant classrooms at the White Oak Parent Child Center. She has identified more children to serve.

Dr. D. Hunter moved to approve the request once the number of children has been identified. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. **Agree** (Cooper-Evans-Hedgepeth-Hunter) **Oppose** (Lashley) **Abstain** (Hardy work part time with CADA)

Mrs. Sallie Surface asked for board approval for the transportation services agreement between Halifax County Schools and Choanoke Area Development Head Start of NC, Inc. CADA will add on bus monitors.

Mr. C. Cooper moved to approve the transportation services agreement between Halifax County Schools and CADA. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. Motion carried. Agree (Hunter-Cooper-Hedgepeth-Evans) **Oppose** (Lashley) **Abstain** (Hardy work part time with CADA)

Mr. C. Hedgepeth asked how many students have we lost.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that there has been a decrease in students' last year 3,165 and this 3,053 students (not including Prek).

Mr. C. Hedgepeth asked who's writing the letter to the parents getting the students back to our district.

Dr. E. Frederick stated that our ADM is 3,053 students. We have some students never enrolled or have gone to the charter schools. That's why we have cuts because of the enrollment.

Superintendent Comments:

- Superintendent asked for a special meeting date on October 27th or 29
- Lee Family asked for the use of the grounds at Eastman on July 2015 (permission granted)
- Green Folder (*Board Members Only*) – Superintendent Goal Setting Form & Academic Focus
- Career & Technical Education brochure
- Board of Education Committees
- Community Forums
- Winter Wear Drive
- Education Leadership Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce
- 2014-2015 PTA/PTSA Dates
- Finance Committee Meeting
- The Navigator
- Attendance/Absences
- Bank Reconciliation
- News Articles
- Meeting Evaluation

Board Comments:

Mrs. Debbie Hardy thanked everyone for coming and she wished that you have a safe trip home. She stated that she has seen an example of what a young male can do.

Dr. Donna Hunter thanked everyone for riding out the storm. The finance committee will meet on October 23rd at 4:00 p.m. She would like to recognize Mrs. Mabel Taylor-Jones for helping with the Winter Wear Drive. If you have any gloves, coats or hats, our drop off sites are Southeast and Aurelian Springs. Please help our kids be covered and warm during the winter months.

Mrs. Susie Evans thanked everyone for waiting so patiently. Please forgive us for any confusion. We will conduct business in a more professional way.

Mrs. Joyce Lashley stated that we need a revelation and restoration. We may seem confused. She visited Enfield Middle a lot of excitement going on.

Mr. Charles Hedgepeth thanked everyone for coming. He stated that you can see how the board makes bad decisions. You can't leave that class at White Oak. There are contracts without board approval. Employees that are overpaid. At the next board meeting, he will have the Hollister community to attend. He will also have the SBI and state auditors to come in and look at the books.

Ms. Carolyn Hawkins stated that she visited Enfield Middle and she really enjoyed her class. If you want her to come to your school, just ask.

Ms. Catherine Brooks stated that she has received one set of the minutes from the state court reporter for the board to have access too.

Mrs. Joyce Lashley stated that we need to have a conversation with DPI to see what their expectations are.

Mr. Claude Cooper stated that he thought being on the board was going to be an easy job. Make your decisions on facts not your opinion. Why are we doing what we are doing? There is somebody else in control of us.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Mrs. Susie Evans moved in second. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

November 3, 2014