

THE HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
9525 Hwy 301 South
Halifax, NC 27839

OPEN SESSION MINUTES
Monday, November 4, 2013

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, November 4, 2013. The meeting was held at the Central Office Administration Building, located at 9525 Hwy 301 South, Halifax, North Carolina 27839.

Present: Dr. Donna Hunter, Chair, Mr. Tyus Few, Vice-Chair, Mr. Charles Hedgepeth, Mrs. Debbie Hardy, Ms. Carolyn Hawkins, Mrs. Susie L. Evans, and Mr. Clarence Carmon.

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mrs. Tyrana Battle, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Personnel, Mrs. Linda Bulluck, Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, Representatives from DPI: Dr. Pat Ashley, Dr. Will Crawford, Dr. Pascal Mubenga, Ms. Catherine Brooks, and Board Attorney Larry Armstrong.

Dr. Donna Hunter greeted the audience with words of welcome and thanked everyone for coming.

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

Dr. Donna Hunter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Dr. D. Hunter asked for the approval of the Board Agenda.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the meeting agenda. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Reverend Shawn Mitchell, *New Focus Community Mission*, extended an invitation to the School Board for November 16, 2013 for the grand opening of the cafeteria at Old Inborden School at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Tempest Adams, *UNC Charlotte Student*, gave her thoughts about being prepared for college in Halifax County. There has been an increase in enrollment for colleges. As a board you should be creating a 21st Century Learners.

Dr. D. Hunter read the Conflict of Interest Statement to the Board. All Board members responded that there was no conflict of interest to the matters on the Board agenda.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the meeting consent agenda as presented in closed session. Mr. T. Few moved in second. Motion carried.

Personnel Recommendations as presented in Closed Session:

CERTIFIED: Myra Jackson, Michele Pregont.

NON-CERTIFIED: Terrance Bradley.

RESIGNATIONS: LaQuasha Hudson, Tiffany Lievense.

RETIREMENT: Patricia Hedgepeth.

TRANSFERS (Informational Only): Brenda Horton, Victoria Kearney, Shirley Whitaker.

Special Recognition was given to the Student of the Month by Mr. K. Hoggard and Mr. C. Carmon. The month of October, Student of the Month was Jessica Carter, a senior at Northwest Halifax High School. Her advice to others is to stay focused on your goal at all time.

Special Recognition was given to the Employee of the Month by Mr. K. Hoggard and Mr. T. Few. The month of October, Employee of the Month was Ms. Beverly Vassor, Northwest Halifax High School's Counselor. Ms. Vassor stated that she comes to work for the students and not for the money.

Dr. E. Frederick introduced Mr. Antonio Stephens and Mr. Willie Hardy of Saint Augustine University Halifax County Upward Bound Programs. Also, attending were students at Northwest, Tyler Evans (Northwest) and Calvin Reddick (Southeast). They shared their experiences from being in the program.

Mrs. T. Battle presented to the Board an overview of our Test data. It will be reflected at the November 16th meeting at the State Board. She stated that each day we will have two kind of students. One on grade level and the other below grade level. There will be a dip state-wide in our test scores. Our goal is for students to be College and Career Ready.

Mrs. D. Hardy stated we have effective learning, quality administrators and quality teachers. What happens when they get there and you have a substitute teacher in the classroom?

Mrs. Battle stated that we equip our substitutes with workshops. There is no replacement for a quality teacher in the classroom.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth asked if all the students are being tested. When we look at Enfield Middle, it is low performing and we look at Southeast and it is high performing.

Ms. C. Jones shared updates of the budget as of November 4, 2013. Ms. Jones stated that she is waiting to hear from Federal programs. .

Ms. C. Hawkins stated the board members received the following board policy which will be placed on the table for review for thirty days. If you have any questions, please give her a call before the next board meeting.

4600 Student Fees (Revised)

Dr. E. Frederick presented to the board the revised Audit Contract with an increase of \$5,000.00.

Mrs. S. Evans motioned to accept the revised contract as presented. Mr. T. Few moved in second. Motion carried. *All Agree*

Dr. E. Frederick asked for board approval of salary grade change for teacher assistants (move from Grade 54 to Grade 56; effective July 1, 2014.)

Mrs. D. Hardy motioned to accept the teacher assistant salary grade of 56 effective July 1, 2014. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried. *All Agree*

Dr. E. Frederick asked for board approval for salaries of employees whose pay grades are considered for red circling – Option 1 - as presented and discussed in closed session. (**Option 1** – Freeze the employee's current level of pay until that employee leaves employment with Halifax County Schools or until general pay increase catch up with the employee's current pay, whichever comes first).

Mrs. D. Hardy motioned to approve Option 1 as presented in closed session. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried. **Agree** (Hardy-Carmon-Evans-Hunter) **Oppose** (Few-Hedgepeth-Hawkins)

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that this is not as the policy states.

Mr. T. Few stated that there may be additional staff that may appear on the sheet. We should include additional staff that may not appear on the sheet.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth asked how can we freeze salaries and we cut child nutrition workers and teacher assistant hours.

Board Comments:

Mr. Tyus Few stated that he was glad to see everyone attending tonight. He hopes that our test scores show growth because this is a new process.

Mr. Charles Hedgepeth thanked everyone for coming. He stated to the audience that you see and here how finance makes bad decisions.

Ms. Carolyn Hawkins stated that everyone has the same goal and is headed in the same direction, just going different ways to get there. She stated that she has visited 58% of the schools.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy thanked everyone for coming out. Let's spend more time and energy on academics of our students and less time on other things.

Mr. Clarence Carmon stated that it has been an enjoyable night. We have people going in the wrong direction.

Mrs. Susie Evans thanked everyone for coming. She is waiting patiently for the test scores. The Upward Bound Program has really helped her son, Tyler.

Superintendent Comments:

Information included in Board Members' Folder:

- Holiday Luncheon with the County Manager's Office, County Commissioners and Central Office Administrator will be held on Monday, December 2, 2013 12:00 p.m.
- Halifax County Schools 2013-2014 Calendar
- Halifax County Schools Fall Community Forums
- Letter to Parents and Guardians
- Copy of letter to Mr. William W. Cobey, Jr. from the Board
- Attendance/Absences
- News Articles
- Evaluation Tool

Dr. Donna Hunter thanked everyone for coming and staying to the end. She recognized Mr. Ted Vaden from the News and Observer newspaper. She would like to send one student from Northwest and one from Southeast to an Affair at HCC. She stated that attendance is important. Please come to school, you can not teach if you are not at school. She commended the Finance Department at the progress that they have made. Be patient and respectful. Thank you all.

Mr. Tyus Few made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Debbie Hardy moved in second. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

December 2, 2013