

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

CALL MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
Monday, October 28, 2013

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, October 28, 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, Mrs. Susie L. Evans, Ms. Carolyn Hawkins and Mr. Clarence Carmon.

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Eleese Frederick, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Personnel, Mrs. Linda Bulluck, Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, Representatives from DPI: Dr. Pat Ashley, 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 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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.

Ms. C. Jones presented the Budget Resolution for the 2013-2014 school year for approval. State Public School Law General Statutes 115-432 states the Finance Officer is required to submit a Budget Resolution by October 31, 2013.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated on September 24, 2013 he requested a budget breakdown of local, state, and federal budgets. He personally doesn't understand the budget.

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that she doesn't understand the "why"? She asked if we have done this before at this time of the year.

Ms. C. Jones invited the board to attend the next Finance Committee meeting. At that meeting we can explain the budget codes in more details. The next meeting will be held in December.

Mrs. D. Hardy asked if this Budget Resolution reflect an unqualified audit or an audit finding.

Ms. C. Jones stated that the audit has to go to Local Government Commission for approval.

Dr. Hunter stated that she received a call stating that we are right on schedule for the audit.

Mr. T. Few asked if there's a fund balance in Child Nutrition.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the Budget Resolution for 2013-2014 as presented by Ms. C. Jones. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried. *Agree* (Hardy-Carmon-Evans-Hawkins-Few) *Oppose* (Hedgepeth)

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that Mr. Cobey broadcasted on TV and newspaper the letter that was written to the Board. Mr. Cobey did not answer any questions. He wants Mr. Cobey to answer questions 1 through 8. He should have addressed him. He met with him on his time.

Dr. D. Hunter stated that we should meet as a full Board and not as an individual. The board did not give you that authority to meet with Mr. Cobey.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that the Board is going to sit here and take what Mr. Cobey said.

Dr. D. Hunter stated that we are going to stay focused and continue to move forward as a Board. It's not about us, it's about the children.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth addressed Attorney Armstrong concerning the article in the newspaper. He stated that he sits over there and says nothing. He asked, whose side are you on, DPI's side or Halifax County Schools' side?

Attorney Armstrong stated that he sat in the background to help you to understand. He has advised you what the law states. There will be a hearing on November 14th in Raleigh. The State will give an update of Halifax County Schools. He also stated that it is easy to go to statutes and interpret it. I have to help you understand the law and to interpret it the way it will be interpreted in court.

Dr. D. Hunter shared three letters she wrote to respond to Mr. Cobey as a Board. All three letters said the same thing.

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that when Mr. Cobey wrote the letters, he wrote it you. He was precise in his letter; you are broader.

Mr. T. Few stated that one thing that troubles him; someone told the State Board that we are running good principals and teachers away. That's an untruth. Someone

misrepresented us. The focus of DPI is the achievement of students. This Board has not tried to stop any curriculum and instruction focus. Who have we ran away? He could not think of a principal that was ousted. He is troubled about the statements that are not true. This compromises his integrity. The collaboration is between DPI and Administration; not the Board. He's not a trouble maker. That's how he sees it as a former educator. It's hard to believe the other 114 is happy or vote the way administration wants.

Dr. P. Ashley felt a need to respond. She always meets before the board meetings with the Board chair and the Board vice chair. The State wants to work collaborative with the Board. The pattern we have followed is to meet before the meetings.

Mr. T. Few stated that we are running good teachers away.

Dr. P. Ashley stated that the Board has been supportive of Curriculum and Instruction. You want effective teachers.

Mrs. D. Hardy stated that C. Hedgepeth only been on the board for a short time. Her concern is not about us. The overall concern is about student achievement in Halifax County. Are we going to have the growth?

Dr. Frederick stated that we will have preliminary information on Monday night at the regular board meeting.

Dr. D. Hunter stated that she thought it was appropriate to respond to Mr. W. Cobey's letter as a Board.

Superintendent Comments:

Dr. E. Frederick

- Introduced to the audience the Interim Exceptional Children Director, Ms. Kathy Keeter
- Announced the dates for the Fall Forum
- Board Package ready to be pickup

Board Comments:

Dr. D. Hunter stated that those parents that can not attend the forums need to be informed about testing.

Mr. C. Carmon asked if students are required to bring back signed information that is sent home. We need a way to get information to the household.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Susie Evans moved in second. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

December 2, 2013