

THE HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTHEAST HALIFAX HIGH SCHOOL
Halifax, North Carolina 27839

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

September 12, 2011

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, September 12, 2011. The meeting was held at the Southeast Halifax High School, located on 16683 Hwy 125, Halifax, North Carolina.

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

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Tyrana Battle, Personnel Director, Dr. Farrell Young, Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, Representatives from DPI: Dr. Pat Ashley, Ms. Catherine Brooks and Board Attorney Larry Armstrong.

Dr. Donna Hunter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Those present participated in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

Public Comments:

Mr. Gary Grant – Committee to Save Education in Halifax County – asked that we put on our listening ears as to what is to be presented by UNC-CH Civil Rights Center tonight. Mr. Grant stated that education offered to the students in Halifax County Schools should be the same education that is being offered in Roanoke Rapids and Weldon.

Mrs. Florine Bell – Lincoln Heights – also spoke on the merger of schools. Mrs. Bell has attended several forums presented by UNC Civil Rights Center. The public needs to hear the report that was gathered.

Mrs. Susie Evans moved to approve the meeting consent agenda as presented in closed session. Mrs. Debbie Hardy moved in second. Motion carried. (5 agree)

Mr. Keith Hoggard recognized the student of the Year for 2010-2011, Steve Hunter II, 5th grade student at Pittman Elementary School. Dr. E. Frederick awarded him with a plaque and goodie bag. Principal, Mona Gilliam gave words of encouragement.

Ms. Angel Whitby recognized Scotland Neck Primary School with the Energy Star Award accepted by Mr. Gary Cox the principal.

Ms. Elizabeth Haddix, Staff Attorney for the UNC Center for Civil Rights “Unless Our Children Begin to Learn Together”. She shared the study that was done in Halifax County on the three school system in one county. A study of the history, educational impacts and legal implications of maintaining three separate school districts in Halifax County. Data was shared on the history of public education in the county, on student achievement and educational resources, and on the school desegregation and adequate finance lawsuits that have focused on Halifax County over the last forty years.

Dr. Monica Henson introduced a Dropout Recovery Pilot Program to the board. She stated that every student deserves to graduate. Bridgescape is EdisonLearning’s dropout prevention and recovery program, developed to address the needs of students who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out and want to earn a standard high school diploma.

Mrs. Tyrana Battle updated the board on the Race to the Top Application. This application has five areas of focus (1) Technology, (2) Standards and Assessment, (3) Data System to Support Instruction, (4) Great Teachers and Leaders and (5) Turning Around the Lowest Achieving Schools.

Ms. Catherine Brooks shared the DPI Transition Team Updates for the month of September. There will be a Literacy Instructional Coach at each elementary school. These coaches will provide small group instruction one to two times per day during the literacy block and the thirty minute enrichment time.

Mr. Cliff Pearson gave an update of the impact of Hurricane Irene had on Halifax County Schools facilities. He recognized the Maintenance and Transportation Staff for the work they had done.

Dr. Eleese Frederick shared the Organizational Structure for 2011 – 2012 for Central Office and DPI support team.

Projected Lottery Funds Projects Update was shared by Mr. Phillip Rountree. Projects included Everetts, Scotland Neck, Aurelian Springs, and Northwest Halifax.

Mrs. J. Whitfield asked for board approval for the Memorandum of Agreement between HCS and CADA Head Start Program for services for preschool children with disabilities.

Mrs. G. Walden motioned to approve the contract as presented. Mr. C. Carmon moved in second. Motion carried. (6 agree)

Mr. P. Rountree asked for board approval for 2011-2012 Capital Outlay Budget. The board asked to list the schools instead of using “system-wide” wording. Ms. C. Jones explained the system-wide terminology.

Ms. C. Hawkins motioned to approve the Capital Outlay Budget as discussed. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried. (6 agree)

Mrs. G. Walden asked for board approval for the Driver Education Program policy. Mr. P. Rountree added that the parents will be made aware of the new policy. Mrs. G. Walden motioned to approve the Policy for Driver Education Program. Mr. C. Carmon moved in second. Motion carried. (6 agree)

Mr. P. Rountree presented the revised 2011-2012 School Calendar. Mrs. S. Evans motioned to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar. Mr. T. Few moved in second. Motion carried. (6 agree)

Budget Amendment given by Ms. C. Jones for board approval. Mr. T. Few motioned to approve the Budget Amendment. Ms. C. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried. (6 agree)

Ms. C. Jones presented the Budget Summary for board approval. Mrs. G. Walden motioned to approve the Budget Summary as presented. Mr. T. Few moved in second. Motion carried. (6 agree)

Superintendent Comments:

- Thanked Southeast Halifax High for their hospitality
- Projected Enrollment Comparison
- Newspaper article (Smart Start or Smart Ending—Who will suffer?)
- Newspaper article (New Elementary Principals)
- NCSBA (Teacher Tenure or Career Status law)
- Weldon City/Roanoke Rapids Graded School consolidation proposal
- Central Office Duty List with extension
- Buildings & Grounds Committee Meetings Schedule
- Announcement – Substitute Teacher Refresher
- Letter received from NCHSAA
- 2011 District 3 Meeting for School Board

Board Comments:

Dr. Donna Hunter thanked every one for coming out tonight. She requested that you make sure your children are in school everyday. Parents need to attend PTA meetings. She would like to commend Mr. Beebe on his presentation at the commissioners meeting. Halifax County Schools support school merger, but academic comes first. She shared a quote from James Arthur Baldwin “Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

Mr. Tyus Few no comments made.

Mrs. Gladys Walden no comments made.

Ms. Carolyn Hawkins would like to see the policy on the lack of power to vote on transfers.

Mr. Clarence Carmon made no comments.

Mrs. Susie Evans had no comments.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy reminded the board of the Halifax County Education Foundation Care Share support. Have a safe trip home.

Mr. Tyus Few made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Mrs. Debbie Hardy moved in second. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

October 3, 2011