

The Halifax County Board Of Education
Central Office Administration Building
Call Meeting
August 11, 2010

MINUTES

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Wednesday, August 11, 2010. The meeting was held at the central office administrative building located on Hwy. 301 South in Halifax, North Carolina.

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

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Charles Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Tyrana Battle, Director of Personnel, Dr. Farrell Young, Public Relations Officer, Mr. Keith Hoggard, Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, Director of Maintenance, Mr. Cliff Pearson, Representatives from DPI: Dr. Pat Ashley and Ms. Catherine Brooks, and Board Attorney, Larry Armstrong.

Dr. Donna Hunter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

Dr. D. Hunter explained that the reason for the call meeting tonight is to review the information received from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Planning Department investigation of the Reopening of Eastman Middle and Brawley Middle Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Margaret Parrish – Committee to Save Education – The committee thanked the board for sharing the report with the community. The contents touch on other schools as well as Eastman and Brawley.

Dr. Hunter thanked DPI for completing this report in a timely manner. This report is up for discussion.

Mr. T. Few highlighted:

- Everything depends on projected enrollment
- He thinks the best interest is to move forward; if we don't we will lose more students.
- Funding – existing Capital Outlay, Outside sources, Recovery Act.
- Meeting the standards.
- Community support – The community is willing to assist.
- Do we know if Eastman Kodiak Corp. will assist?

Mrs. G. Walden concerns:

- Community Schools are wonderful.
- What is the major source of funding?
- Refocus the staff.
- School enrollment – What will happen to other schools' enrollment - Will the students come back?
- Source of funding.

Mrs. D. Hardy:

- Small community based schools.
- We had only 1 school to meet AYP.
- Our focus should be Student Achievement.
- Who will say parents will bring their children back is a question: not only to the building, but also to the school system.

Mr. T. Few added:

- We have to be accountable to the citizens of Halifax County.
- We have to take a stand for our parents.
- The two schools that closed he feels were the wrong schools.
- As a board member I have to watch all doors. I am looking at all the schools, in good faith.
- We will have high achievement.

Mrs. G. Walden

- Do we have working equipment that we can shift from other schools?
- Do we know the reasons for students leaving our schools?
- What are our plans after this meeting?

Mrs. C. Hawkins

- I am in support of the reopening of the schools.
- I do talk to parents and children.
- Population is expected to decrease.
- Community schools are keeping the family together.

Dr. D. Hunter

- We have small feeder schools in operation.
- Our children riding the long distance.
- Unhappy families at Charter Schools.
- They cannot play sports.
- What grade levels we can accommodate.
- Toilets needed.
- Dollars needed.
- No way we can keep all the schools open.
- If we make the choice, will we go with what we decide?

Mrs. D. Hardy

- Assign a committee to take the project and come back to the Board.

Mr. T. Few

- What's at Inborden that have not been vandalized?

Mr. Pearson

- Items removed from Inborden are at the maintenance shop, but not sure if they are working.

Dr. D. Hunter

- A grade selection needs to be identified.

Mrs. G. Walden

- What's the plan?

Mr. T. Few

- The committee comes back with a plan for the board to research.

Mrs. S. Evans

- If we chose grade 4-8, less regulations by state.

It was motioned by Mr. T. Few to let a committee determine the needs and grade level to address the reopening of Brawley and Eastman Middle Schools and make a recommendation to the board. Mrs. Susie Evans carried the motion. All in favor.

Dr. E. Frederick was asked to formulate a committee by the end of August, to begin working on this project.

Mrs. C. Hawkins stated that there should be signs on the property of Eastman and Brawley stating that NO pets allowed. Signs need to be changed to read NO Animals allowed.

Mrs. T. Battle was asked to comment on the opening of schools in the middle of a year as it relates to testing.

- AYP requires a student to be in membership for 140 days at a designated school. Based on the 180 day calendar, if we move students from one school to another halfway during the instructional year (90 days), then these students would not count for any one school but would count for the district.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

Dr. Frederick stated that CADA is asking for permission to attach an awning from CADA modular unit to awning already in place at Scotland Neck Primary.

It was motioned by Mrs. D. Hardy to give CADA permission to attach an awning at Scotland Neck Primary and CADA is responsible for the upkeep. Mrs. Gladys Walden moved in second. Motion carried.

A DRAFT schedule of the Community Involvement Forums distributed.

She shared information from the Police Department in Enfield concerning the Back to School gathering.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Debbie Hardy is excited about a new school year coming up. Greater things are coming up.
- Mr. Clarence Carmon thanked everyone for coming out. He's looking forward to opening of Eastman and Brawley. We can get it done.
- Mrs. Susie Evans was asked to speak at breakfast for the class of 1970. They are willing to help with anything. She attended the meeting at Inborden with Dr. Hunter.
- Mr. Tyus Few thanked the community for coming out. Wanted the community to stand. Spend time with your children on homework. We need all parents to stand. We are going to work it out.
- Mrs. Gladys Walden thanked all for coming out. Attended a Closing the Achievement Gap Meeting and a Back to School gathering at Tillery Chapel.
- Mrs. Carolyn Hawkins has been asked to serve on the Building and Grounds Committee.
- Dr. Donna Hunter stated that parents showed up and showed out at Inborden. We need parent involvement. The alumni at Eastman would like to gather on the campus ground, if authorized by the board.
- It was motioned by Mrs. C. Hawkins to allow Eastman alumni to gather on the grounds as long as they adhere to the board policies including "Pets". Mrs. S. Evans seconded the motion. Mrs. Walton voted negative.

Mrs. Carolyn Hawkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Mrs. Gladys Walden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

September 7, 2010