

Halifax County Board of Education
February 8, 2010

MINUTES

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, February 8, 2010. The meeting was held at the central office administrative building located on Hwy. 301 in Halifax, North Carolina.

Present: Debbie Hardy, Chair, Gladys Walden, Vice-Chair, Tyrone Williams, Carolyn Hawkins, Dr. Donna Hunter and Michael Hawkins. Absent: A. Faye Young.

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Assistant Superintendent, Charles Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent, MiShawna Moore, Finance Officer, Carrie Neal, Human Resource Director, Dr. Farrell Young, Public Relations Officer, Keith Hoggard, Representative from DPI: Catherine Brooks, and Board Attorney, Larry Armstrong.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Margaret Parrish – Committee To Save Our Schools – Topic: School Consolidation. We cannot do what we don't know about. I continue to come not to be a problem but to speak about problems and potential problems. I offer a written proposal on School Consolidation (see attached), for which the committee is requesting a response within thirty (30) days.
- Mr. Gary Grant – Concerned Citizens of Tillery
Congratulations to Dr. Elease Frederick and to the board on their selection. Have a concern with the December Meeting not being advertised and being held in the daytime. PTA meetings held on the same night as Board Meeting and elementary and middle and high schools holding PTA meeting on the same night. We still say you need to reopen Brawley and Eastman Middle School for the 2010-11 school year.

Mrs. Walden moved to approve the meeting agenda with the deletion of Kim Bracy under Public Comments and the addition of IV.C. Make Up Days/2009-2010 School Calendar. Mr. Williams moved in second. Motion carried.

Mr. Williams moved to approve consent agenda items, which include the following:

- Minutes from January 4, 2010,
- Personnel recommendations, as presented in closed session, and
- Board Policies:
 - #2200 – Election of Officers/Organization of Board**
 - #2230 – Board Committees**
 - #2610 – Board Attorney**
 - #3420 – Student Promotion and Accountability**

Mrs. Walden moved in second. Motion carried.

Board members recognized Imani Debro, a 5th grade student at Inborden Elementary School as Halifax County Schools' Student of the Month for January 2010.

Board members received an overview of the Fall 09 EOC Summary (Unofficial Data) for the first semester from Mrs. Peggy Howard, Testing and Accountability Director. This information is preliminary for planning and for administration to make strategic changes for the spring.

Board members received an update from Ms. Catherine Brooks with the assistance of Mr. James Ellerbe regarding the DPI Transition Team. Mr. Hawkins asked if teachers have done the six-week pacing guides. Ms. MiShawna Moore indicated that teachers now have a six-day plan to address the highly weighted goals to ensure that teachers cover at least 70% of the content area. This is being done to try to make sure that all elementary students are at the same place by using this more specific pacing guide.

Mrs. Hawkins said she noticed the Leadership Academy for Principals and Assistant Principals, what about teachers. Dr. Frederick replied that there is professional development being provided to the teachers as well.

Dr. Hunter stated that she still has a concern regarding the \$132,000 being paid to America's Choice; she still has not seen any data and would like an update. Dr. Frederick indicated that administration has concerns as well. Dr. Hunter would like for administration to share data as soon as possible.

Mrs. Walden asked Dr. Frederick if she heard her correctly in that we are entering our third year with America's Choice. She questioned whether this is something that can be bidded out.

Mrs. Carrie Neal, Finance Officer discussed the financial update. Good news, the State will not be reducing our State Allotments any further unless there is a mid year budget freeze or reversion. What you have tonight reflects where we are with the budgets at this point in time including the budget amendments I have for your approval. The Local budget reflects the 3% mid year budget cut effective 1/1/2010-6/30/2010. The amount is \$81,724. The Federal Budgets reflect our Federal Funding status to date. ARRA funding is reflected as the allotment amounts available this fiscal year. Capital Outlay reflects projects to date. We are currently operating within the budget constraints but must proceed very cautiously. In the next few months a lot will be happening very quickly in Finance:

- **We will look at all budgets in detail to see where we are and how we will end up the year.**
- **At the same time we will get our preliminary allotments from the State and Local County Commissioners to begin planning for the FY 2010-2011 budgets.**
- **And we are wrapping up 2 years of audits. We are in the process of setting a date for the auditors to present what they have so far. All of the testing has been done - keeping in mind that because we are a high risk district 15 programs were tested. Normally in the course of an audit only 3-4 programs would be tested. The auditors have been here for 4 months day in and day out and are back at the offices in Raleigh preparing the financial statements.**

Mr. Williams moved to approve the contract for Monique Beatty (with necessary corrections) to provide services to children identified as Hearing Impaired one day per week as referred by the Director of Exceptional Children Programs. Funding will come from Exceptional Children funds (3.5210.144.311) Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Mrs. Walden moved to approve the budget amendment for the local budget with a decrease of \$81,724.00 bringing the total budget to \$3,628,908.00, for the State Public School Fund budget with an increase in the amount of \$851,844.01 bringing the total budget to \$ 26,708,940, and with increase in the federal budgets bringing the current total to \$11,913,010.00. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the revised 2009-2010 School Calendar with make-up days for the recent inclement weather, as presented by Charles Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Walden moved in second. Motion carried.

Days Missed Due to Snow	Make-Up Days
February 1	February 15
February 2	March 8
February 3	June 10

Note Changes:

- February 15 (Monday) is a regular school day (previously listed as an optional workday).
- March 8 (Monday) is a regular school day (previously listed as a protected workday).
- June 10 (Thursday) is a regular school day (previously listed as a mandatory workday).

Other changes are:

- April 2 (Friday) is a protected workday (previously listed as an optional workday).
- June 14 (Monday) is a mandatory workday (previously listed as a protected workday).
- June 15 (Tuesday) is a protected workday (previously listed as a summer vacation day).
- June 16-17 (Wednesday & Thursday) are optional workdays (previously listed as summer vacation days).

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

- Process for School Closing(s)
- State Board Meeting – March 3 & 4th
- 2009-2010 HCS Organizational Chart (January – June 2010)
- Advertising for Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Secondary Education
- Halifax County Schools did receive a Golden LEAF Grant (through a partnership with Roanoke Rapids City and Weldon City Schools) totaling a little better than \$1 million
- Very pleased to share changes in the Child Nutrition Program (news articles, newsletters, etc.)
- Student, Staff, Principal and Central Office Attendance Reports
- Article from Leadership entitled: *North Carolina Considers State Takeover as a Reform Strategy*
- Thanks to all of you for the beautiful reception and for the thoughts and prayers during the loss of my mother.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Dr. Donna Hunter – Thank you to all that called or sent a card during my illness. I’m feeling better. I thank Mrs. Neal for having all budgets on system.

Job well done! Mrs. Archibald thank you for keeping the board informed. Hint; Hint...I'd like to see the same from other principals. I am concerned with the leaving of Dr. Moore in regards to SACS Accreditation. I noticed that Mrs. Hawkins had requested information regarding cost savings regarding the closing of the schools. I'd like an update regarding the magnet program. I'd also like to see the board minutes posted to the web site in a timely manner.

- Mr. Michael Hawkins – I'd like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers and flowers during the loss of my brother. The building and Grounds Committee will meet at Hollister Elementary at 5:30 p.m. on February 17th.
- Mrs. Gladys Walden – I thank all attendees. We offer condolences to our Superintendent and Board members on the loss of family members. The Curriculum Committee Meeting has been canceled for Feb. 9th and has been rescheduled for Feb. 23rd. I attended a Martin Luther King Brunch. On the 20th we were at a reception for Retired School Personnel. We appreciated the Reception in honor of Dr. Frederick. On the 29th we attended Hollister Awards Day. We look forward to serving on the panel for NC Teaching Fellows on Saturday, Feb. 13th. As a reminder to all...Saturday is FAFSA Day.
- Mrs. Carolyn Hawkins – I want to fuss, but can't, so I'll find something good to say. I noticed the bulletin boards in the back halls by Enfield and Inborden. Very nice. I again want to say how much I appreciate the information that Mrs. Archibald provides to the board through her newsletter. I would love to receive the same type of information from other principals.
- Tyrone Williams – Good night everyone.
- Mrs. Debbie Hardy – Again, congratulations to our student of the month. I would like to thank Mrs. Walden for stepping up and helping me out at the last meeting. Reminder... there is a Master Board Training scheduled Feb. 20th. Please consider March 13th or 20th for the make-up day for Allison Schafer for the January 23rd Master Board Training. As Dr. Frederick has indicated, we must and will do better.

Mrs. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

March 1, 2010