

Halifax County Board of Education
January 4, 2010

MINUTES

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, January 4, 2010. The meeting was held at the central office administrative building located on Hwy. 301 in Halifax, North Carolina.

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

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Eleese Frederick, Assistant Superintendent, Charles Chambliss, Finance Officer, Carrie Neal, Representative from DPI: Catherine Brooks, and Board Attorney, Larry Armstrong.

Vice-Chair, Gladys Walden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Howard Johnson from the Committee to Save Education in Halifax County Schools - I congratulate Dr. Frederick. A press release captured your employment background. Your comments, “working together really works”, and “removing barriers,” really stoked our interest. We are excited to have a native of Halifax County. We look forward to working together and working to achieve shared goals. To the board of education, in so much that the year has changed not so much in the school system has changed. You did not include the community in the final stages of the superintendent search. The committee requested that there be a public forum, there was no public forum. There is too much at stake. As we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday in January and in February as we celebrate African American Heritage. Let us strive to work together.

Mrs. Walden read the conflict of interest statement. There were no conflicts of interests.

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

- Minutes from December 7, 2009,
- Personnel recommendations, as presented in closed session, and
- Board Policies:
 - #1320/3560 – Title I Parent Involvement**
 - #1610/7800 – Professional Development and Assistance**
 - #1740/4010 – Student and Parent Grievance Procedure**
 - #3140 – Evaluation of Instructional Programs**
 - #4351 – Short Term Suspension**
 - #4352 – Removal of Student During the Day**
 - #4360 – Appeals of Consequences No Greater Than Short-Term Suspension**
 - #4362 – Requests for Readmission of Expelled Students**
 - #4370 – Student Discipline Hearing Procedures**

#7430 – Substitute Teachers
#7440 – Assignments/Reassignments/Transfers
#7500 – Workday and Overtime

#2300 – Board Meetings
#2310 – Public Participation at Board Meetings
#2320 – Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
#2321 – Closed Sessions
#2325 – Board Meeting News Coverage
#2330 – Board Meeting Agenda
#2335 – Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials
#2340 – Parliamentary Procedures
#2341 – Quorum
#2342 – Voting Methods
#1710/4021/7230 – *Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying*
#1720/4015/7225 – *Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure*

Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Board members recognized Niya Angelique Barner, a 4th grade student at Everetts Elementary School as Halifax County Schools' Student of the Month for December 2009.

Board members recognized the following for receiving National Board Certification for 2008-2009:

Kevia Lynch – Aurelian Springs Elementary School
Tonya Jones – Aurelian Springs Elementary School

Dr. Frederick reminded those in attendance that this is not an easy process and that it has been indicated that this is the last year that the state will pay for the assessment fee. One big incentive is that individuals receiving National Board Certification receive a 12% salary increase. National Board Recipients received a special incentive from the board as well as purchase orders for designated amounts to be used by a specific deadline.

Board members received an update on the first year savings from our "Energy Saving Program" from Mr. Jessup Nelson, President of Educon, Inc., which includes November 2008 – October 2009.

Board members received the following board policies to be placed on the table for review for the following thirty (30) days:

#2200 – Election of Officers/Organization of Board
#2230 – Board Committees
#2610 - Board Attorney

Board members received a report from the Buildings & Ground Committee regarding the disposition of school property. Reference: General Statute 115C-518(a). (See attached report).

Bakers – Compass Grant Initiative

Enfield – CADA Apartment Project for Senior Citizens (Gym – repairs based on funding)

Inborden – Cafeteria and Gym being used by the Town of Enfield for a “summer recreation program”. Three classrooms are being used by our Exceptional Children Department for (Project STAY).

McIver - Brawley – Eastman - Groups and individuals have voiced suggestions and proposals but no source of funding or formal plans have been submitted.

Tyrone Williams has a concern regarding the roof of the gym at the Enfield Middle. We need to purchase a tarp. This building is on the National Historic Registry. We also need to address the Inborden facility. We had an agreement with the Town of Enfield, however, the agreement expired on June 30, 2009. We need to look for adaptive use of all of the buildings of the schools that have been closed.

The board requested that Mr. Pearson obtain the tarp and have it replaced.

Board members received an update from Ms. Catherine Brooks regarding the DPI Transition Team. Highlighted the upcoming professional development:

Pre-K – 2 – Ongoing work with K-2 assessment: Jan. 5th-8th. Carolyn Guthrie and Carolyn Sutherland will provide support on reporting running records.

School Transformation Coaches – Ongoing work with principal with coaching focus on: Principal Evaluation Process, Teacher Evaluation Process, Classroom Observations, Professional Development, Formative Assessments/Benchmarking data.

Human Resources Support – Clerical Staff professional development January 29, 2010 at the Central Office. Review of organizational structure, and collaboration on vacancies.

Instructional Coaches – Ruby Payne’s Framework for Understanding Poverty professional development (12/08/2009), Using formative assessment/data, and Using benchmark data.

Board members received a Monthly Financial Report for FY 2009-2010 from Mrs. Carrie Neal, Finance Officer. She shared the following information:

- State Budget does not reflect decrease in ADM
- Local Budget does not reflect the 3% reduction imposed by County Commissioners effective 1/1/10 – 6/30/10.
- Federal Budget ties in to the Federal Budget Amendment, which I am presenting for approval tonight.
- Capital Outlay Budget details are provided tonight for your review of projects to date.
- Child Nutrition budgets are as expected.

She encouraged the board to please note the following:

- We need to be conscientious with our energy costs in the next few months for any potential issues we foresee with budgets.

- We have met with Budget Directors to try to be proactive and minimize any negative impact.
- After meeting with the Board Chair and Dr. Frederick regarding the 3% Budget Cuts, a Plan of Action was implemented to apply the cuts across various PRCs to minimize a negative impact and allow us to continue to get the services we need. All parties agree that completing two years of audits is top priority.
- We are on schedule with the two audits and plan to have financial statement drafts in February, if not fully completed.

Mrs. Hawkins asked how much has been saved due to closing the schools. Mrs. Neal indicated that she will have to get back to the board on that.

Mrs. Young moved to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$878,224.04 bringing the total budget to \$12,904,953.05 for the Federal budget. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

- I'd like to thank Mr. Williams and others that contacted us regarding the heating issues today. Mr. Pearson and his team worked hard to address these issues.
- January 7th & 8th we will be out in the schools monitoring testing. We are working with Mrs. Battle and Mrs. Lowe from the Regional Testing and Accountability Office.
- Attendance is still a concern. We are truly trying to monitor students, teachers, staff, principals, and the central office team.
- I have shared with you a copy of our most recent Newsletter.
- The new Report Card seems to have been received well.
- January 7 & 21 – Webinars on the New NC Bullying Law: Practical Applications for Administrators (Allison Schafer, NCSBA)

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Tyrone Williams – Happy New Year everyone. I came up with a new motto “Begin again in 2010.”
- Mrs. Carolyn Hawkins – I want it reflected in the minutes that I have requested a report on the cost savings for the school system for closing the schools. I'd like to thank Inborden for keeping us informed. I'd love to see the same from other schools. The energy savings program is looking good. Due to the fact that employees were paid early in December due to the Christmas Holiday, I would like to recommend that we look at paying employees early in January.
- Mr. Michael Hawkins – Happy New Year. I spent the day at Aurelian Springs and let me say “it was cold”, I'd work for a while in my coat, then for a while without my coat, but I enjoyed my day there today. I look forward to the Master Board Training this month. There will be a MLK Holiday Parade sponsored by my church again this year.
- Mrs. Faye Young – I must apologize, I neglected to mention Board Policy #3420. Last year we gave permission to retest students in grades 3-8 scoring at level 1. I just need to remind the board that Board Policy #2460 allows administration to modify the board policy to include students in grades 9-12

scoring level 1 to be allowed to retest. I'd like to thank Mrs. Walden for her leadership at tonight's meeting in the absence of Mrs. Hardy. The Policy Committee will meet January 7th.

- Mrs. Gladys Walden – Thanked everyone for coming this evening and for your concerns for Dr. Hunter who is ill and for Mrs. Hardy our Board Chair who was unable to be here tonight due to illness in her immediate family. I'd like to remind everyone that we have an upcoming Master Board Training. The Curriculum Committee had an opportunity to visit both high schools and the board would have been proud. Everyone appeared to be focused on student achievement. The Curriculum Committee will meet again on Jan. 11th at 4 p.m. at the central office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:**
 - Policy Committee Meeting – Jan. 7th – 4:00 p.m. at the central office
 - Curriculum Committee Meeting – Jan. 11th – 4:30 p.m. at the central office
 - Master Board Training – Jan. 23rd – 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 - Reception honoring Dr. Elisea Frederick – Jan. 24th – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Student Commons at Southeast Halifax High School
- **Others:**
 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – January 18th
 - Raising Achievement & Closing Gaps Task Force Meeting – January 26th – 6:00 p.m.

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

Board Chair

Secretary

February 8, 2010