

The Halifax County Board Of Education
July 6, 2010

MINUTES

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, July 6, 2010. The meeting was held at the central office administrative building located on Hwy. 301 South in Halifax, North Carolina.

Present: Debbie Hardy, Gladys Walden, Tyus Few, Carolyn Hawkins, Dr. Donna Hunter, Susie L. Evans and Clarence J. Carmon.

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Personnel Director, Dr. Farrell Young, Interim Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, Representatives from DPI: Dr. Pat Ashley, Dr. William Harrison, Ms. Catherine Brooks, Dr. Doris Hayes, and Board Attorney, Larry Armstrong.

Attorney Armstrong came forward for the election of board chair and vice-chair. The following names were nominated for Board chair:

Dr. Donna Hunter (4 votes)
Mrs. Debbie Hardy (1 vote)

It was motioned by Mrs. C. Hawkins to close the nomination on the above two names. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried.

The following names were nominated for vice chair:
Mr. Tyus Few (5 votes)
Mrs. Gladys Walden (1 vote)

It was motioned by Mrs. C. Hawkins to close the nomination on the above two names. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried.

Dr. Donna Hunter came forward to take the board chair seat. She thanked Mrs. Hardy for a job well done.

Dr. Donna Hunter, Chair called the open session to order.

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

Changes in the agenda as presented in the close session:

- Item k placed on hold
- Add item w to reopen of Eastman Middle and Brawley Middle
- Resubmit policy # 4328/5029/7272 Animals Allowed in Schools to the policy committee
- Policy # 5032 Special Curriculum Objectives (Rescinds)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mr. Gary Grant– Concerned Citizens of Tillery – He congratulated the new board members. He’s wondering whose managing the finance in the school system. Did we close the schools because we owe everybody in the state? The surplus sales haven’t been voted on in the open session.
- Mr. Andrew West – Committee to Save Our Schools – What ever we can do to help benefit our children, our children are suffering. What ever happened last year is gone. We have a new board. Let’s get a new start. Parents are paying for our children to go to other school systems. Why not put the money in this system.

Mrs. Walden moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented in close session. Mrs. Debbie Hardy moved in second. Motion carried.

- Approval of minutes from June 7, 2010 and June 28, 2010
- Personnel recommendations, as presented in closed session.

Mrs. Catherine Brooks, DPI District Transformation Coach gave an update of the collaboration between the board, superintendent and staff.

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

- # 3510 Religious-Based Exemptions from Schools
- # 3515 Religion in the Schools (*Rescinds 5410 adopted May 3, 1993*)
- # 3516 Controversial Issues (*Rescinds 5400 adopted August 13, 1987*)
- # 3530 Citizenship and Character Education
- # 3620 Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (*Rescinds 6400;6410;6411; 6412;6440;6453;6460;6470 adopted August 13, 1987*)
- # 3630 School-Sponsored Publications and Performances (*Rescinds 6420;6430; 6470 adopted August 13, 1987*)

Ms. Charlene Jones, Interim Finance Officer presented the financial update.

Dr. Eleese Frederick stated there is a \$00 balance owed to the state.

Dr. Eleese Frederick requested board approval for the policies, which have been on the table for thirty (30) days).

Mrs. Debbie Hardy moved in approval of policies that have been on the table for thirty days as presented by Dr. Eleese Frederick. Mr. Clarence Carmon moved in second. Motion carried.

- # 5032 Special Curriculum Objectives (*Rescinds*)
- # 2120 Code of Ethics for School Board Members (*Updated 2120*)
- # 3001 Academic Achievement (*Rescinds 5300*)
- # 3400 Evaluation of Student Progress (*Rescinds 5310;5311;5320*)
- # 3405 Students at Risk of Academic Failure (*New*)
- # 3410 Testing and Assessment Program (*Rescinds 5311; 5330*)
- # 3430 School Improvement Plan (*New*)
- # 3431 Conflict Resolution (*New*)
- # 3440 Recognizing Excellence (*Rescinds 5340*)

- # 3450 Class Rankings (*Rescinds 5350*)
- #3460 Graduation Requirements (*Rescinds 3460*)
- #3470-4350 Alternative Learning Programs/Schools (*Rescinds 5033*)
- #3475 Summer Program (*Rescinds 5034*)

Dr. Elease Frederick presented the Wellington Benefits contract for the county. There are no changes in this contract. It is only for one year. Mrs. Debbie Hardy moved to approve the contract as presented. Mrs. Susie Evans seconded the motion. All agreed.

Ms. Jennifer Whitfield will present all contracts for Exceptional Children and we will discuss and vote at the end.

- c&d. How are student's chosen? Students are identified through NC Wise, students who tends to score 3 or 4, and we look at test data.
- e. Check dates on contract. Why August 1 – June 30th? Preparation is needed. Delete the ID # on contract. School to school milage is needed in contract. Language change in last paragraph.
- f. No questions
- g. No students present for two weeks as per contract. Modification on wording. Are we meeting the needs of children?
- h. Is there a base fee for a no-show, services needed itemized?
- i. Page 3 all; page 6 # 15 Jackie Wilson (delete); page 9 service plan 2.
- j. Page 2
 - (k) Removed from agenda as per Dr. Frederick.
- k. NO travel in contract.
- l. Because of her certification, satisfied with her services.
- m. Project STAY (alternative setting for student).
- n. M & N together
- o. Assist teacher; may not handle alone; Will he get reimbursed for travel if student is not at school that day?
- p. P & Q together
- q. No questions
- r. Main points read, did not understand.
- s. No questions

It was motioned by Mrs. Gladys Walden to accept the Exceptional Children's contracts as presented by Ms. Jennifer Whitfield after the corrections are made as stated. Mr. Tyus moved in second. Motion carried.

t. & u. Mr. Ron Alexander presented Child Nutrition recommendations.

It was motioned by Mrs. Debbie Hardy to accept the recommendations as presented by Mr. Ron Alexander. Mrs. Gladys Walden moved in second. Motion carried.

v. Re-opening of Eastman Middle and Brawley Middle

It was motioned by Mrs. Susie Evans to reopen Eastman Middle and Brawley Middle. Ms. Carolyn Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried with discussion.

- Timeline (August 25, 2010)
- Need to do a walk through

- We are moving in the right direction. Will this be a drastic change for our children?
- What can we do to help student achievement?
- August 25th is not a realistic date. Could you reopen the schools if the board votes?
- If we are making progress, why not at the community school.

Dr. Frederick stated that as the superintendent she does not recommend this opening. Let's work together as a team for student achievement. What can we do for the students?

Mrs. G. Walden stated it is more than speaking and it comes into existence. She thought it was going to be a presentation. I am not opposed to listening.

Mr. T. Few stated some how this situation has to be resolved. It's no way we can open by this date. The state has to approve, inspections have to take place. Lots of things have to happen.

Mrs. D. Hardy stated we need to talk about student achievement. We need to put our emphasis on our students.

Mr. C. Carmon stated we need to consider the opening, but the date of August 25th is impossible. A bunch of junk was left in the schools.

Mrs. C. Hawkins stated that she commends Mrs. Evans for bringing it to the board. We need to revisit and unite. We need to support our people not the person.

Dr. D. Hunter says our children are not happy. Our parents cannot support their children because of transportation. Our children are our future. Who are we depending on being successful? Let's start putting the children first. We have made a turn around.

Mr. Gary Grant responded we have a board thinking outside the box. Our children are being denied to participate in after school programs. Students cannot be successful if parents cannot see them perform. Take a serious look at reopening. Bring the children back to the community.

Mrs. Evans withdrew the above motion with the August 25th opening date.

Mrs. Susie Evans motioned to reopen the Eastman Middle and Brawley Middle schools with a date on January 1, 2011. Mrs. Carolyn Hawkins seconded the motion. Board voted to Open-4, Oppose-2, Abstain-1. If no major complications.

Superintendent announced:

- To complete the demographic form and return to her office.
- Training for new board members
- Surplus Sale
- AVID at the High Schools
- SIG Grant at Enfield Middle and Southeast High
- Professional Development at W R Davie Middle on August 2-6, 2010.

Mrs. G. Walton welcomed the new board members. She attended graduation exercises, Ice Cream Social and participated in the superintendents' evaluation process, which was very effective.

Mr. T. Few stated that he hoped he could make a difference in student achievement. He must say that charter schools have really robbed us.

Mrs. D. Hardy congratulates the new board chair. We are not going to agree on everything but we have the same focus: the students of Halifax County Schools.

Mr. C. Carmon stated he appreciates being here and let's do what's best for the children.

Mrs. S. Evans stated this is a learning experience for her. I will do what I can to help our schools.

Mrs. C. Hawkins shared that Bee Bee is on the computer asking us to vote for Northwest High to receive a rubberized track. The more votes --- the more money.

Dr. D. Hunter thanked everyone for voting her as the chair. She attended the activity of the Committee to Save Schools. Parent Involvement needs our help. Let's get involve with our children. Parent Involvement need to improve.

After discussing the Surplus Sale, it was placed on hold.

Mrs. Carolyn Hawkins made a motion to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. Mrs. Susie Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

August 2, 2010