

Halifax County Board of Education
November 2, 2009

MINUTES

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, November 2, 2009. 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, Michael Hawkins, Dr. Donna Hunter and A. Faye Young. Absent: Carolyn Hawkins.

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

Chairman Hardy 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

Mr. Gary Grant, Concerned Citizens of Tillery - recently there was an article about narrowing down the questions for the candidates for Superintendent. There is a concern in the community about DPI seeming to be in control. Is the school system in charge or DPI? Is administration aware that bus drivers are being bused to locations to pick up buses and then driving back to their beginning locations and bus drivers at Inborden/Enfield Middle where bus drivers are asked to be there early and are not being compensated for their wait time? There is a concern by the Concerned Citizens of Tillery and the Committee to Save Our Schools that they would like a public forum for the Superintendent Search.

Ms. Margaret Evans Parrish, Committee to Save Our Schools - I come to publicly thank those in charge for the follow up reports on the decrease in student enrollment. We feel that the paper and this group will benefit if we work together. I thank Dr. Frederick for her reports on what is going on in the system and with the children. It is still a concern that the Committee to Save Our Schools Committee if we are allowed to have interactive communication with the board.

Mr. Williams moved to approve consent agenda items with the exception of Board Policies # 2200, # 2230 and # 2610. Mrs. Walden moved in second. Motion carried.

- Minutes from the meeting held October 5, 2009
- Board Policies:
 - #2200 – Election of Officers/Organization of Board (back to the table)*
 - #2210 – Duties of Officers*
 - #2220 – Official School Spokesperson*
 - #2230 – Board Committees (back to the table)*
 - #2600 – Consultants to the Board*
 - #2610 – Board Attorney (back to the table)*
 - #2650 – Liaison with School Board Association*
- Personnel *(as discussed in closed session)*

TEACHER SUBSTITUTES: Nikiesha Field

ELIGIBLE TO RETURN TO WORK: Lisa Jones, Arlene Williams, Doris Banks, Carolyn Williams, Cassandra Mills, Loretta Taylor, Marissa Powell.

TRANSFERS: Wilfredo Alambra, Madeline Bowser.

RESIGNATIONS: Shelia Lowe, Peggy Lee, Frances Bass, Katrina Evans, Jackie Kennedy Nelson, Yolanda Johnson.

Board members recognized Robin Chen, a fifth-grade student at Dawson Elementary School as Halifax County Schools' Student of the Month for October 2009.

Board members recognized Mrs. Bettie Archibald, Principal of Inborden Elementary School, as Halifax County Schools' Principal of the Year for 2009-2010.

Board members recognized Ms. Mary Edmonds, Teacher Assistant from Aurelian Springs Elementary School, as Halifax County Schools' Teacher Assistant of the Year for 2009-2010.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy, Board Chair, recognized the members of the Halifax County Board of Education, Dr. Eleese Frederick, Interim Superintendent, Catherine Brooks, DPI Transition Coach, and Tammy McAllister, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk, for completing Level 1 of the NCSBA Master Board Training. *(She referenced the court order from Judge Howard Manning prior to making presentations). She also shared a letter from the NCSBA proudly recognizing the Halifax County School Board for completing Level 1 of Master Board Training from Dr. Ed Dunlap. (20 hours with focus on: Working with the Community and Managing Board Meetings) We've worked long and hard. We are working as a team. We are proud to have DPI here to partner with us.*

Board members received an update on the Technology Program from Mr. Stacy Lee, Technology Director.

- Network snapshot
- Support model
 - 2 full-time technicians
 - 1 eRate supported network vendor
 - 24 hour monitoring of the network. All issues routed to support staff for notification, escalation and resolution
 - For district related issues, work orders are raised and routed to support personnel for resolution
- Instructional updates
 - Emphasis for funding geared towards teacher training and classroom enhancements:
 - Interactive solutions
 - Computing for students
 - Technology needs to be integrated with instruction
 - INTEL Teach Training
- On-going priorities
 - Security
 - Network, physical and content
 - Network "health"
 - Instructional support
 - 21st century enhancements
 - Technology Plan – DPI is looking at shortening the window to maybe 2 years down from 4 years.
- Q & A

Mr. Hawkins questioned why NC Wise computers can only be used for NC Wise. Mr. Lee indicated that there is no reason that the device cannot be used for other purposes. Mr. Hawkins asked about a mimeograph, because they are less expensive than smart boards. Mr. Lee indicated that he agrees that teachers can do as much with mimeographs and laptops and LCD / DLP Projectors, which are far less expensive, as they can with smart boards.

Dr. Hunter asked Mr. Lee what would be the top three things that he would like to see changed in technology and he answered:

- Enhance training,
- Make technology available,
- Get technology out of the way, so that it is not a hindrance, but an enhancement.

Board members received an update from Ms. Catherine Brooks regarding the DPI Transition Team. Introduced: James Ellerby, High School Transformation Coach and Loretta Riddick, Elementary School Transformation Coach.

- Professional Development Design Teams
 - o Overview of the Staff Development held on October 29th
- Observations are in and DPI Staff will begin reviewing them on November 3rd.
- America's Choice Data (strictly looks at Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Dr. Hunter indicated that in looking at this information is not impressive to me. We are paying \$132,000 for this program to not see more results.

Catherine Brooks stated that if America's Choice is not working for the school system that a reform plan can be presented to a committee at DPI for the school system to try another program.

Dr. Hunter suggested that the board consider an Ad Hoc committee to work with Dr. Frederick, Ms. Brooks and Ms. Moore.

Mr. Charles Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services provided board members with a revised Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Schedule. The time of meetings has been moved from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Board members received a Monthly Financial Report for FY 2009-2010 from Mrs. Carrie Neal, Finance Officer. Auditors will be coming in the door November 9th and I expect them to be here for about two months. Second month student count indicates we are down 294, which means that budgets will need to be revised.

Mrs. Young moved to approve the contract for A1Ta Speech & Language Services to provide Speech and Language Services and Evaluations for children with disabilities as referred by the Director of Exceptional Children's Program. Funding will come from Exceptional Children funds (1.5210.144.311). Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried. There was discussion by the board.

Dr. Hunter moved to approve the contracts approved by NCDPI for Providers to offer Supplemental Education Services (SES) or free tutoring to eligible (free/reduced lunch) Halifax County Students. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

There was discussion by the board. Services will not be provided at Everetts, Pittman and Hollister?

Mr. Williams moved to approve the transfer of pictures, trophies and other memorials of the closed schools (Mclver, Brawley and Eastman), as presented by Mr. Charles Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried.

Brawley Middle	To	Enfield Middle
Brawley High	To	Southeast High
Eastman Middle	To	William R. Davie Middle
Eastman High	To	Northwest High
Mclver Elementary	To	Littleton Senior Citizens Center

Mr. Williams moved to approve the Budgets for Local Supplemental Grants totaling \$2,862,419.00, as presented by Mrs. Carrie Neal, Finance Officer. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried.

Mr. Hawkins moved to approve authorization to Chair and Secretary to execute deed and other necessary documents to transfer Enfield Middle to CADA. Mrs. Walden. Motion carried. Mr. Williams abstained. Dr. Hunter opposed.

Mrs. Young moved to approve a Quick Turn Deed. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Mr. Williams abstained. Dr. Hunter opposed.

Mrs. Walden moved to approve the easement along the road at the back of the Enfield Property. Mrs. Young moved in second. Mr. Williams abstained. Dr. Hunter opposed.

Mr. Hawkins moved to not alter the gym, which has been listed in the National Historical Registry. Mrs. Walden moved in second. Motion carried. Mr. Williams abstained. Dr. Hunter opposed.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

- Recognized Margaret Howard the new testing coordinator.
- Asked central office staff and principals and school staff to stand.
- Introduced Dr. Farrell Young, the new Human Resource Director.
- Shared that she had received an e-mail from Dr. Christine Clark from the NC School of Science and Math, who teaches an honors course in character development at Southeast Halifax High School. She is very impressed with the caliber of students that she is working with this year. She has (six) 6 students in her class at Southeast Halifax High School.
- Shared:
 - A DRAFT copy of the Leandro Plan.
 - Student Attendance for all schools for October 26-30, 2009 (Taken from NC Wise).
 - Teacher Absences for September 1-30, 2009.
 - Central Office, Principals Absences for September 1-30, 2009
 - A list of upcoming meetings
- Will report back to you at the next meeting about K-2 Assessment and Report Cards.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Dr. Donna Hunter – Keep up the good work. Take flu shots, drink Noni juice, do whatever necessary to stay healthy, because we all need to be there for students.
- Mr. Michael Hawkins – Thanks for staying for the entire meeting. American Education Week is November 16-21, 2009. We need to get something out to our teachers to let them know how much we appreciate what they are doing. Had to change the time of the Buildings and Grounds meeting to 5:00 p.m.
- Mrs. Faye Young – Welcome the new staff members: Dr. Young, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Riddick, and Mr. Ellerby. The Policy Committee met last week. There will be more policies coming to you in December. The Audit Committee has not met yet, but will soon. Thanked Tammy McAllister for all that she does, it is really appreciated.
- Mrs. Gladys Walden – Thanks for coming and staying for the bulk of our meeting. I'm pleased to say that I am close to having all of my committee members, which include parents and students.
- Tyrone Williams – Welcome to all of you with us tonight. Thanks Dr. Frederick for the information that you are sharing. Thanked Mrs. Hardy for stepping up and doing such a great job.
- Mrs. Debbie Hardy – Congratulations to Teacher Assistant of the Year, Principal of the Year, Student of the Month, and Board members. The Curriculum Committee had wonderful school visits at SNP and Dawson. The information from these meetings is on file in the Superintendent's office. Recognized two products of Halifax County Schools with us tonight: Jamika Ashley, a graduate from Southeast Halifax who is working with ***The Littleton Observer***, and Della Batts, a graduate from Northwest Halifax, who is working at ***The Daily Herald***. Thanks to Dr. Frederick for the excellent work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- NCSBA Annual Conference – Monday, November 16 – Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the Sheraton Greensboro/Koury Convention Center, North Carolina.
- COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:
 - Building & Grounds Meeting – November 19, 2009 at Everetts Elementary
- Parent Empowerment Meetings:
 - November 3rd at 10 AM and 6 PM at Enfield Middle
 - November 5th at 10 AM and 6 PM at William R. Davie Middle

Mrs. Walden made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

December 7, 2009