

The Halifax County Board of Education

December 1, 2008

MINUTES

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, December 1, 2008. The meeting was held at the Halifax County Schools Central Office located in Halifax, North Carolina.

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

Others present: Superintendent, Gerry Middleton, Associate Superintendent, Dr. Eleese Frederick, Assistant Superintendent, Charles Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent, MiShawna Moore, Finance Officer, Andrew Callihan, Personnel Director, Selma Allen, and Board Attorney, Larry Armstrong.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m.

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

Mr. Williams read the Conflict of Interest Statement, which refers to the Board Policy #1050. There were no conflicts.

Mrs. Hardy moved to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of VI.C. - Energy Conservation Guidelines, VII.C. - Exam Schedules for High School Testing. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hardy moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 3, 2008 with any said corrections. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Mr. Lee Anderson of the Enfield Community introduced Garrett Freeman from Rocky Mount on behalf of the Enfield Warriors and here tonight with a request to be allowed to repair the Baseball Field at the old Enfield School to be used for a youth baseball league for ages 5-12. Mr. Williams informed Mr. Garrett that the board would hear them tonight, but would give them no answer tonight.

Board members recognize Juquavis Batchelor, a seventh-grade student from Enfield Middle School as Halifax County Schools' Student of the Month for November 2008.

Mrs. Young moved to approve personnel recommendations as discussed in closed session. Mrs. Hardy moved in second. Motion carried. Carolyn Hawkins opposed.

CERTIFIED: Melonee Hunter, Larae Butcher, Joyce Lashley.

NON-CERTIFIED: Jeanine Boykin, Suzanne Ferguson.

CHILD NUTRITION SUBSTITUTES: Terry Taylor, Cassie C. Edwards

RETIREMENTS: Rhonda Carroll, Janet D. Green, Sherry Garner, Naomi Young, Jacqueline Wilson.

Board members received a financial update from Andrew Callihan, Finance Officer. Some of the items discussed:

- o Public School Revision from Charter Schools. This refund will be used towards the money the State will be requesting back (4%-5%)
- o Reversion of State Public School Fund (\$5,000 from central office/administration)
- o Letter highlighting issues facing the school system for the board to use to begin strategic plans for budgeting for 2009-2010.
- o The first payment (\$275,000) toward the \$865,000 owed to the State was mailed by November 10th.
- o The audit report will probably not be ready until January or possibly February. The auditors are working very hard to get us an opinion.
- o Bonuses/Supplements which were budgeted and approved by the board will be paid by the end of December.

Mr. Charles Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent presented board members with a copy of the Energy Conservation Guidelines, which are used by EduCon.

Mrs. Hardy moved to accept the Technology Plan as presented by Shelia Lowe, Director of Technology. Mrs. Walden moved in second. Motion carried.

Mr. Hawkins moved to approve the Exam Schedule for High Schools for the first and second semester. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

- o We've had a good half-year. You will get an update on some of the focuses at the January Board Meeting.
- o Catherine Brooks from DPI has been recording the kinds of meetings/focuses the school system has. This information is taken back to the DPI Roundtable Meetings.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- o Dr. Donna Hunter - I have two loves: God and Facts. I have a concern with the article by Hank Dewald in The Daily Herald regarding a rift between Dr. Hunter and the Board. To my knowledge I do not have a "rift" with the board. As far as the anonymous letter, I do not write anything that I would not sign. Am I angry? No. Am I upset? Yes. Merry Christmas.

- o Michael Hawkins - I'd like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and have a blessed Christmas.

I could not attend the recent Buildings and Grounds Meeting and will not be able to attend the Finance Committee Meeting, but Dr. Hunter plans to attend.

- o A. Faye Young - Thanks for the Prescriptions for Effective Communications. I recently attended the NCSBA Conference in Greensboro. I also had a chance to meet with Catherine Brooks (DPI). Looking forward to an even better second semester. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- o Gladys Walden - Happy Holidays. Thanked the Board for allowing Mr. Hawkins, Mrs. Young and me to attend the NCSBA Conference. One of the key things was that Mrs. Young and Mr. Hawkins were recognized for their hours of training.

Is it possible for us to participate on committees for NCSBA?

As you are aware, my church, Tillery Chapel Baptist, has adopted Dawson Elementary. The church has donated a case of paper and next month plans to donate winter plants.

If you have not already had the opportunity, you really need to hear Dalton Sherman's 15 minute speech.

- o Debbie Hardy - Thanks for the lovely afternoon luncheon. I am pleased to share that my church has adopted Pittman Elementary. Be thinking about the board work sessions: Saturday, January 31st (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) and Saturday, March 28th (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon). I'd like to invite Catherine Brooks.
- o Tyrone Williams commended the hard work of the committees. Thanked everyone for the work being done and the progress being made. Take time to be with family and friends this Holiday season.

Mrs. Hardy moved to adjourn at 4:25 p.m. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

January 5, 2009