

THE HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Halifax County Administration Building

9525 Hwy 301 South
Halifax, North Carolina 27839

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Monday, November 2, 2015

The Halifax County Board of Education met in open session on Monday, November 2, 2015. The meeting was held at the Halifax County Administration Building, located at 9525 Hwy 301 South, Halifax, North Carolina 27839.

Present: Mrs. Debbie Hardy, Chair, Mrs. Joyce Lashley, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Susie L. Evans, Mr. Claude Cooper, Mr. Charles Hedgepeth, Ms. Carolyn Hawkins, and Dr. Donna Hunter.

Others present: Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mrs. Tyrana Battle, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Personnel, Mrs. Linda Bulluck, and Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, *Representatives from DPI:* Dr. Nancy Barbour, Dr. Keith Eades, Dr. Meta Phelps-Hodges, and Attorney Larry Armstrong.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy welcomed everyone to the November Board meeting. Mrs. Hardy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

The Mission Statement and the Goals of the Halifax County Board of Education were repeated in unison.

Mrs. Hardy asked for the approval of the Board Agenda.

Ms. C. Hawkins stated that we cannot change history. She motioned to add to the agenda to replace the vice chair with Mr. C. Cooper. Dr. Hunter moved in second. (Agree: Hawkins-Hunter-Cooper) (Oppose: Hedgepeth-Evans-Lashley) Mrs. D. Hardy broke the tie.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that he would like to add Building and Grounds report. Mrs. Hardy asked that he give that in this comments.

Dr. D. Hunter moved to approve the board agenda. Mr. C. Cooper moved in second. (Agree: Hunter-Cooper-Hawkins) (Oppose: Hedgepeth-Lashley-Evans) Mrs. D. Hardy broke the tie.

No Public Comments.

Mrs. D. Hardy asked if any board member had a Conflict of Interest to the matters on the board agenda. All other board members responded that there was no conflict of interest to the matters on the board agenda.

Mrs. D. Hardy asked for the approval of the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. S. Evans moved to approve the consent agenda as discussed in closed session. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. (Agree: Hunter-Evans-Cooper-Hawkins) (Oppose: Hedgepeth-Lashley)

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that none of the close session comments were in the minutes.

Mrs. Hardy stated that we can't read them out because they are closed session.

Mr. Hedgepeth stated that nothing is in the minutes that went on.

Mrs. D. Hardy asked for a vote on the minutes dated October 5, 2015.

Ms. C. Hawkins moved to approve the minutes dated October 5th. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that Board members voted and they were not present. He would like to know whose right or wrong.

In favor of minutes as submitted: Cooper-Hunter-Hawkins. Oppose: Evans-Hedgepeth-Lashley. Mrs. D. Hardy broke the tie. Minutes approved as submitted.

Mrs. D. Hardy asked for the approval of the Personnel consent Agenda. Mrs. J. Lashley moved to approve the personnel consent agenda. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. Motioned carried.

Personnel Recommendations as presented in Closed Session:

CERTIFIED: Rodney Pierce, Ronald Freeze, Jr.

NON-CERTIFIED: Kinney Neal, Charlene Davis.

MASTER TEACHERS: Daria Daniel-Johnson, Latonya Whitaker.

RESIGNATIONS: Jennifer Arnold, Tameka Robinson, Christopher Burnette.

RETIREMENT: Jesse Crowell, Wilma Jones.

TRANSFERS (For Information Only): Dywaun Mitchell, Tierra Alston-Harris.

Mrs. Cynthia Debreaux along with Mr. Claude Cooper recognized the *Student of the Month* for October, Rebecca Bertram, 2nd grader at Aurelian Springs Elementary School.

Rebecca was not present but will receive a backpack for the Student of Month and a plaque.

Mrs. Cynthia Debreaux along with Mrs. Susie Evans recognized the *Employee of the Month* for October, Ms. Mary Wade, Teacher Assistant at Pittman Elementary School. She was presented with a plaque and a lunch bucket.

Dr. Elease Frederick introduced Dr. Bonnie Fusarelli and Ms. Catherine Edmonds representatives from the Northeast Leadership Academy (NELA) NC State University. They presented Educational Awards to the schools that have been recipients of School Improvement Grants. Schools recognized were Inborden Elementary, Enfield Middle, Dawson at Scotland Neck, Everetts Elementary, Southeast Halifax and WR Davie Middle.

Dr. Elease Frederick recognized the schools with the highest attendance for the month of October: Pittman Elementary with 95.77%, Enfield Middle with 94.68% and Southeast Halifax High School with 91.43%.

Dr. Frederick stated that we have Focus on the Facts for Halifax County Schools each month. Now, we will have each school at the board meetings to show what is happening at their schools. For the month of November, Mrs. Jacqueline Perry-Higgs (Everetts Elementary) and Mr. Victor Fenner (William R Davie Middle) will show highlights that impact Teaching and Learning from their schools. Displays for both schools can be found in the lobby tonight.

Mrs. T. Battle – Curriculum and Instruction update will highlight the Exceptional Children's program. Ms. Debreaux stated that every child needs a champion and this does not exclude the child with a disability.

Dr. Elease Frederick gave the board a recent presentation that was made to the City Council of Roanoke Rapids which suggested the Council allow any household in the city limits to become part of the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District. If this happen it would affect our student population as well as the money attached for the ADM both county and state-based funds. It is possible that we will lose 170 students if this plan goes through. This is to make you aware.

Mrs. A. Whitby stated that it was a citizen group that went to the City Council and requested this information.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that should also look at the boundary lines for Weldon.

Mrs. Tyrana Battle presented the draft copy of the Low Performing District and Schools Plan at the last meeting for your review. Now it is time for the public to review the plan. The final approve will be presented at the December 7th meeting.

Mrs. J. Lashley asked how will the public review this plan.

Mrs. Battle stated that the plan will be on the web site. The public will be able to make comments and they will come directly to her e-mail.

Mrs. S. Evans asked how confident are you that we will get the students where we need them to be.

Mrs. Battle stated that she can't tell you they will be 100% because it is not realistic. 99.99 % we can put the parameter in place.

Mrs. D. Hardy stated that she believes the outcome will be great.

Mr. Anthony Alston shared the five year DPI Facility Needs Survey. The Local Board of Education is required by G. S. 115C-521 (a) to submit their Facility Needs Assessment to the State Board of Education. We are seeking approval, then we will send the Plan to the County Commissioners for their approval.

Dr. D. Hunter moved to approve the Facility Needs Survey as presented by Mr. A. Alston. Mr. C. Cooper moved in second. Motion carried.

Ms. C. Hawkins moved to reconsider the position of vice-chair in the name of Claude Cooper. Dr. Donna Hunter moved in second.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth asked what has Mrs. Lashley done so wrong to remove her. Because you don't get your way and walk out of meetings.

Mrs. Lashley asked why can't it be another person's name.

Vote: In favor: Hunter-Hawkins-Cooper *Against:* Hedgepeth-Evans-Lashley (Mrs. Hardy broke the tie in favor)

Superintendent Comments:

- Received an e-mail from Philip Price concerning the budget for 2015-2016 with areas of concern.

Mr. Hedgepeth stated that we received a letter on October 14th. You knew the budget was over by \$760,000.00. Why did you have us to approve the budget? This school system in a predicament. If the state is taking over, why do we have a personnel and finance staff. Three employees should not lose their jobs.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that this should have been bought to us before we voted on the budget. She asked did DPI look over the budget before we approved it. How much do you have in the fund balance?

Dr. Frederick stated that we are not in the red in the fund balance. We need to rethink what we do, so we don't get in the red.

Mrs. J. Lashley asked why didn't we receive this before now.

Dr. Frederick stated that they are making suggestions to us. They are asking us to be careful with the fund balance.

Mr. C. Cooper stated that we haven't over spent. You have \$40,000.00 and 1.5 positions to move.

Dr. Hunter stated that the board kept three positions. They went against the superintendent's recommendation. We have to make right decisions.

Mrs. Lashley stated that DPI is waiting for us to make intelligent decisions.

Board Comments:

Mrs. Susie Evans thanked everyone for coming and staying. We are looking for better things in Halifax County.

Dr. Donna Hunter asked if we knew of anyone that needs a coat, or warm items for the winter. We have items to give away.

Mr. Claude Cooper thanked the public for been here to present to the board tonight. We need to step back and let the experts do their jobs.

Mr. Charles Hedgepeth stated that he had the green light to get rid of Dr. Frederick. We voted on a budget that was over spent. He closed by saying that his high school education is "kicking you all's ass".

Mrs. Joyce Lashley stated that much work needs to be done to find board members that will have your interest in hand.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy asked that we stay focused on the children.

The gray folder for the Board included:

- HCS Service Plan & Implementation Map
- Phillip Price, DPI
- Call Meeting Date (Thursday, November 19, 2015)
- E-mail – Dated Tuesday, October 27, 2015
- FALL Happenings
- Attendance
- Charter Schools
- PTA Meetings
- Board Work Sessions (January 21, 2016)
- Article
- Meeting Evaluation

Dr. Donna Hunter made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Ms. Carolyn Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

December 7, 2015