

**SPECIAL MEETING  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Monday, October 24, 2011**

Members Present: Donald Johnson, Chair; Bill Little, Lafayette Majette, Rhonda Taylor,  
Dr. Eric Bracy, ex officio

Members Absent: Marjorie Edwards, Erica Smith-Ingram, Kelvin Edwards

Others Present: Administration, press and interested parties

The Northampton County Board of Education held a Work Session on October 24, 2011 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Chair Donald Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Approval of Board Agenda**

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Board Agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

**Business Before the Board for Information**

**A. Finance Update**

**Fund Balance Report** - Mr. Joe Holloway reviewed with the Board the following Fund Balance Report as of October 24, 2011:

**Local Current Expense Appropriations – 2011-2012:**

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Amount Allocated by Northampton County -                  | \$3,161,538.00         |
| Amount Transferred from Capital Outlay to Current Expense | <u>200,000.00</u>      |
| Total Appropriations for 2011-2012                        | <b>3,361,538.00</b>    |
| Amount Received as of October 7, 2011                     | <u>( 1,120,512.38)</u> |
| (July 2011 through October 2011 Payments)                 |                        |
| Amount Due Northampton County Schools                     | <b>\$2,241,025.62</b>  |

**Capital Outlay Appropriations – 2011-2012:**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Amount Allocated by Northampton County -                  | \$ 345,000.00       |
| Amount Transferred to Current Expense from Capital Outlay | <u>(200,000.00)</u> |
| Amount Due Northampton County Schools                     | <b>145,000.00</b>   |

**Cash Balances as of September 30, 2011:**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Local Current Expense & Other Local Current Expense Fund - | <b>\$ 1,571,887.45</b> |
| Capital Outlay Fund  | <b>217,829.91</b>      |

**STIF Investment Fund:**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Balance as of July 31, 2011 -                      | \$ 523,824.54        |
| Interest Earned – July 2010 through September 2011 | <u>1,393.58</u>      |
| Balance as of September 30, 2011:                  | <b>\$ 525,218.12</b> |

Mr. Little: What account is earning us interest? Is that the Local Current Expense?

Mr. Holloway: Yes, that is the money that is in the STIF account and the \$1,393.58 is the interest we have earned on that account.

Mr. Matthews: I want to clarify that Mr. Holloway made the statement in his report that none of the Capital Outlay money has been spent to-date. That is a correct statement, but we have rebuilt a boiler at Squire Elementary School and that bill was a little over \$30,000.00. We paid for it out of contracted services and plan to transfer that to the Capital Outlay line item. If we don't, at the end of the year we will be over in contracted services.

Mr. Holloway: We have spent quite a bit out of contracted services and for fuel, because at the end of the year last year the fuel prices were rather high. The school tanks were basically on empty and as of Thursday we have purchased fuel to get all of the schools topped off.

Mr. Little: Do we have any major expenses coming up that you know of within the next two months other than the routine operating costs?

Mr. Holloway: Right now, there are none that I am aware of. I don't know at what stage we will begin the repairs on the building behind the Central Office. If we do that we will probably have to end up taking that out of local and get a reimbursement. That would be the only thing I know of right now.

Mr. Matthews: The only thing we know of right now is the damage caused by the storm, "Hurricane Irene". That expense should be covered by the insurance. Let me remind you that there is \$80,000.00 budgeted for the bus garage wrecker. As soon as DPI gets the contract straight, that expenditure will be paid for.

Mr. Holloway: It also came up in one of the Facility Meetings regarding air conditioning on the activity buses.

Mr. Matthews: We have not made a final decision on that.

Mr. Holloway: We need to give an overview regarding the damages to one of our activity buses. The potential is out there for replacement or repair and we are leaning towards replacement. The figure we were quoted regarding the damage was about \$16,611.00. The bus is going to be totaled because of that particular figure for replacement.

Mr. Matthews: To further explain about the activity bus is regarding a bus accident that occurred with the Conway Middle School track team last spring. The bus has not been repaired. The insurance company has been kind of slow coming to look at it. They have come to look at it now and the preliminary report from the insurance adjuster evaluated the damages to be \$16,110.00, although we don't have that in writing yet. They valued the bus at \$10,000.00 and have totaled the bus. Our insurance is a \$500.00 deductible so the offer from the insurance company is to give us \$9,500.00 and then take the bus. As I stated before, we have not made a final decision on this and we are looking at our options. We have an out of service school bus that is identical to this activity bus sitting on the bus property for surplus. The state is trying to sell us that bus for \$3,500.00. One of the things we are considering is to let the insurance take the activity bus, accept the \$9,500.00 and buy another bus from the state for \$3,500.00 and use the left over \$6,000.00 to paint the bus white and retrofit it for an activity bus. Of course, we would take the gears and luggage racks out of the activity bus and put them in the school bus. This is just the thought process for right now.

Mr. Holloway: The final option on that would be to purchase a new activity bus and that cost would be over \$80,000.00.

Mr. Matthews: A new activity bus would come with air conditioning. The wrecked bus was not air-conditioned, but a new one would be. Another option would be to sell the bus to the insurance company for \$9,500.00 and apply that to the cost of a new bus, which would put the cost at \$70,000.00 instead of \$80,000.00.

Ms. Taylor: What was wrong with the bus that surplus?

Mr. Matthews: It was a school bus that was taken out of service based on years and mileage. After seven years, they are taken out of service. That is one of the things we were thinking about and had not really given the thought to a new bus, because that would cost the school system approximately \$70,000.00. You would have a new air-conditioned activity bus if you take that route.

Chair Johnson: Where are our buses located right now?

Mr. Matthews: Right now, the activity buses are assigned to the various schools: two @ Gaston (Gaston Elementary & NCHS-West); one @ NCHS-East; one @ Conway Middle and one @ Bus Garage. We normally have two buses at the Bus Garage, but this one is out of service.

Chair Johnson: Was this wrecked bus actually used by Conway Middle?

Mr. Matthews: It was and when their bus was wrecked, we took the other bus from the Bus Garage and sent it to Conway.

Chair Johnson: My thinking is that if you are going to replace it with a new one, I would put the new bus where the services are utilized more, such as a high school versus a middle school.

Mr. Matthews: We have always put our newer buses on the eastern end.

Mr. Majette: By the time you change the surplus bus over it will be expensive and you will still have an old bus. If they are going to pay over \$10,000.00, get the new bus for safety purposes. I would suggest we go ahead and get a new bus and put it on the road.

Chair Johnson: We can't make that decision tonight.

Mr. Matthews: We have 2,400 students in our schools with five operating activity buses right now. We really have not suffered behind it overall. I don't know what this Board is going to do concerning a high school, but I think at some point in the near future there will be a decision made one way or another. When that decision is made, would be the time to buy the new activity bus so that when the students come together, if they come together, then that new activity bus would show up at that time. One option, as Mr. Majette suggested, would be to take the \$10,000.00 and put it in an account until we are ready to purchase the new bus.

Mr. Majette: That would be my suggestion, because of the enrollment that we have and the way the economy is now. I just feel we should hold on to it until a decision is made.

**B. Memo Transition Cooperative Agreement – CADA Head Start** – Ms. Brenda Taylor distributed to the Board copies of the Memorandum of Transition Cooperative Agreement between CADA Head Start and Northampton County Schools. Mr. Taylor addressed the Board and informed them that this is an annual agreement between CADA Head Start and the school system. We do this every year because CADA's preschool children come to our public school and we have an agreement for a smooth transition from preschool to public school. This agreement involves no money. You can see in the responsibilities what the school system and CADA will do to make that transition into the public school and keeping the parents informed about what is happening with the PreK program. It is also something that is mandated by DPI that we do every year.

Mr. Majette: Please hold your position of responsibility for the Board of Education and let CADA hold theirs so there will be no conflict coming up later on in order to have a good working relationship.

Ms. Brenda Taylor: We have an excellent partnership with CADA and it has been a long time standing.

**C. Graduation 2012** – Dr. Bracy informed the Board that we have talked about last year's graduation. Ms. Chamblee informed him that the senior class has voted to have graduation on campus on Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the gym again. I just wanted to let everyone know that. Many of you had concerns from last year.

Ms. Taylor: You said the whole class voted?

Dr. Bracy: Yes, the total class voted to have the graduation on Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the gym.

Mr. Majette: Who runs this school system? If you can remember we had this discussion about how hot it was last year. I am hoping that I am not right, but I don't believe the senior class voted to have graduation in the gym. The way I feel about it now I am going to ask some senior class students about when they had the meeting, what time was the meeting, who was in charge of the meeting? It appears that it always come down to I am going to do what I want to do. I have learned that the School Board makes the policies and sets the rules, not the administration. We can say no you are not going to have it and it won't be anything said. I vote against it right now, because I don't believe the senior class voted for this.

Chair Johnson: This is just an information setting today and we don't make motions, but it can be brought up again.

Mr. Majette: When it comes back up I will have made some contacts of at least twenty-five families. I will find out if they want to have graduation at the Community College.

**D. Board Committees** – Chair Johnson informed the Board that at the last meeting I asked each member to let me know what committees they would like to be a part of. Ms. Edwards and I have met together to go over the list. We worked together on this so that it would not be said that I made all of the decisions. I have all of the sheets that everyone turned in to me.

Mr. Majette said he would work on all committees and I received a request from Ms. Edwards, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Little, Ms. Ingram and Ms. Taylor. I have compiled the list, but it has not been typed up yet. Chair Johnson announced the following committees for the 2011-2012 school year:

Mr. Bill Little, Finance Committee

Ms. Rhonda Taylor, Policy and Personnel Committees

Mr. Lafayette Majette, Facilities and Personnel Committees

Chair Johnson added that the other Board Members are not here to be informed where they will be, but I do have the list where they requested to serve. To the best of Ms. Edwards and my ability, we worked together to make sure everyone was not put where they did not want to be put.

**E. Personnel** – Chair Johnson informed Mr. Matthews that they would hold personnel for closed session since we announced an allowance for closed session this evening. Chair Johnson further stated to please note that item F. Superintendent's Evaluation Goals and Objectives Meeting will also be discussed in closed session. I wish to inform Ms. Rhonda Taylor that she is the Chair of the Personnel Committee so that she can get together with her committee of Ms. Ingram and Mr. Majette on a time for your committee meetings.

### **Board Information**

- Next Regular Board Meeting – November 7, 2011 – Board Room – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

- NCSBA Annual Conference – November 14-16, 2011 – Greensboro, NC

### **Closed Session**

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Mr. Majette and APPROVED, the Board convened in closed session at approximately 5:05 p.m. pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of confidential personnel files under G.S. 115C-321 or other information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to state or federal law, or not considered a public record; pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Board's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege and pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider matters relating to initial employment of an individual employee or a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual employee. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

### **Open Session**

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0. The closed session ended at approximately 6:55 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

On a MOTION by Mr. Majette, SECONDED by Mr. Little, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: February 13, 2012

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Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent