

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, September 9, 2013**

Members Present: Marjorie Edwards, Chair; Kelvin Edwards, Vice Chair; Erica Smith-Ingram, Donald Johnson, Rhonda Taylor, Phil Matthews, Clinton Williams, Dr. Eric Bracy, ex officio
Others Present: Administration, press and interested parties

The Northampton County Board of Education held its regular meeting on September 9, 2013 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Chair Marjorie Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram and APPROVED, the Board convened closed session at approximately 5:20 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 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 6-0.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. The Board's first closed session ended at approximately 6:35 p.m. Chair Marjorie Edwards announced that Vice Chair Kelvin Edwards was here for closed session, but was unable to stay for the open session due to a conflict in his schedule.

Mission Statement

Chair Marjorie Edwards read the Northampton County Schools' Mission Statement to the audience as follows: To provide each student the opportunity to gain skills, knowledge, and values necessary to function effectively in society through a cooperative effort of school, family, and community in a safe and nurturing environment.

Pledge of Allegiance

Taevon Dickerson, a senior at Northampton County High School, led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously APPROVED to amend the agenda to add the item, Facilities Committee Report – Roof Bids, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0

Good News Award

2013 North Carolina Governor's School Presentation: Mr. Hans Lassiter informed the Board and audience that with the first Good News Award item he would yield to Ms. Tanya Byrd-

Robinson who is going to introduce a young man who attended the 2013 North Carolina Governor's School over the summer, which is an outstanding honor to acquire.

Ms. Tanya Byrd-Robinson addressed the Board and audience stating that Taevon Dickerson and Jonathan Martinez are seniors at Northampton County High School. Over the summer, these two young men had the opportunity to attend the 2013 North Carolina Governor's School and Taevon is here to share a few his experiences with us at this time.

Taevon Dickerson addressed the Board and audience as follows: "Good evening. My name is Taveon Dickerson and I had the opportunity to attend the 2013 North Carolina Governor's School program. Jonathan Martinez and I traveled to Winston Salem, North Carolina where we spent five weeks total in the program. My English group had a reading where we performed our poetry and prose pieces in front of the whole school. This was the most gratifying moment of the whole summer. Although I was nominated in English, one person at Governor's school that I really drew a lot from was the Art Instructor Erica Palmiter. I attended all of the optional seminars she held and I felt really engaged with the subject matter. Overall, this was an experience that I highly recommend for any student."

Ms. Byrd-Robinson further stated that Jonathan Martinez could not be here tonight, but he was nominated in the area of math and from what I understand, both of the students have been sharing their good experiences throughout the school and we hope we will have more students attend next year.

Mr. Lassiter stated that he wanted to take the opportunity on behalf of Ms. Catina Hoggard to speak about Parent University. We have a catalog of activities to distribute regarding this opportunity for the community to get involved with what we are doing in our school system. If you did not pick up one of the catalogs at the front desk, I have some more copies with me.

2013-2014 Teacher of the Year Recognition – Mr. Lassiter announced that it gives him a great pleasure to work with the Teacher of the Year process and I appreciate Dr. Shirley Smith's support and guidance through this process for 2013-2014. I wish to thank the Teacher of the Year Committee tonight who deserves credit and I wish to ask them to stand if they are present. The committee members were: Ms. Felisha Whitaker, Principal at Northampton County High School; Rev. Anthony Rawlings, Pastor of Second Baptist Creeksville Church; Mr. Donald Johnson, Board Member; and Ms. Kimberly Daughtry, 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year at Willis Hare.

Mr. Hans Lassiter along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Marjorie Edwards announced and introduced the following **Teacher of the Year Candidates for the 2012-2013 School Year** to the Board and audience:

Ms. Tymeshia Butcher, Gaston Middle School – Ms. Butcher's interview was awesome and she spoke from the heart. She spoke about her love for the children, her school, her craft, and that she always wanted to be one-step better. Because of that commitment to her children and her craft, that is why she is standing here representing Gaston Middle School.

Ms. Shirley Everett, Willis Hare Elementary School – Ms. Everett in her correspondence to me was elated and honored that her peers selected her as Teacher of the Year of Willis Hare Elementary School. She is the embodiment of excellence!

Ms. Rhonda Holmes, Conway Middle School – Ms. Holmes' interviewed and one of the questions we asked her was about her ability to translate art into that which is done in the traditional or regular classroom. Ms. Holmes stated that art is one of those skills or one of those courses that transcends the curriculum and that all of those things that are analytical and reasoning skills are needed in art. That was something that really stuck with the committee.

Ms. Brenda Wilkins, Northampton County High School – Ms. Wilkins from Northampton County High School spoke from the heart about Family & Consumer Science. She is the advisor for FCCLA (Family Career Community Leaders of America) at the high school. She has sent students to state-wide competitions at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. Ms. Wilkins said and I quote: “We took the little kids from a little corner in northeastern North Carolina where no one has ever heard of and we come back with “State Elected Officials!”

Ms. Cecilya Williams, Central Elementary School – Ms. Williams in her interview talked about her love for the children, her love for integrating technology in the classroom and talked about and demonstrated to us her reach and teach of young people. She gave us a very heart-warming story about her first year teaching. Her first classroom stint lasted six months and she came home in tears many days. She left the teaching field, but she came back with a spirit of determination to stir up the young people, because of the field in which she entered and saw that education would be a catalyst for a lifetime change. She left education and went to mental health and she saw young people with all sorts of emotional issues. She felt that if she could somehow reach these young people early, she could make a difference and be the positive change in their lives that we want to see.

Mr. Lassiter congratulated the Teacher of the Year Candidates and announced that each Teacher of the Year Candidate will receive a trophy and a gift card. It gives me a great pleasure to present the winner and the one the committee has chosen will go forth to represent Northampton County Schools in the Regional Competition. We will work with you in the development of your portfolio so you may go forth and represent our district immaculately. In the event that the person who is selected cannot represent our district for some reason, the First Runner-Up will be in line to take their place and go forward.

Mr. Lassiter announced that the **First Runner-Up for Northampton County Schools’ 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year** is **Ms. Cecilya Williams**, representing **Central Elementary School!**

Mr. Lassiter then announced that it gives him great pleasure to present the **2013-2014 Northampton County Schools’ Teacher of the Year, Ms. Rhonda Holmes representing Conway Middle School!**

Ms. Rhonda Holmes addressed the Board and audience as follows: “I just want to say thank you to everyone. I will take this challenge as something where I want to show other people in North Carolina and across the nation that here in Northampton County we have stellar teachers.”
Chair Marjorie Edwards: Thank you Mr. Lassiter. Congratulations Ms. Rhonda Holmes!

Introduction of New Personnel

Mr. Hans Lassiter introduced the following Northampton County Schools’ new personnel to the Board and audience:

Sonya Johnson, Elementary Teacher, Central Elementary School
Savannah Anderson, School Nurse

Public Comments

No one signed up to speak during Public Comments.

Break

The Board recessed in a five-minute break at 7:05 p.m.

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously APPROVED the consent agenda consisting of the following items, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Board Minutes – Closed Session – August 12, 2013

Regular Meeting – May 6, 2013 and May 14, 2013

On a MOTION by Mr. Williams, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board unanimously APPROVED the remaining items below under the consent agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Request for Fund Raisers

Northampton County High School – JROTC – Shoe Fund Raiser – September 19-30, 2013

Northampton County High School – JROTC – Fan Cloth/Clothing & Fan Gear – October 1-15, 2013

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and Choanoke Area Development Association, Inc. – Transition Services- Effective: September 19, 2013 until September 19, 2014

Business Before the Board for Information

Report from Finance Committee – Mr. Matthews informed the Board that he has distributed a sheet showing a summary of the Finance Committee Meeting that was held last Thursday. He shared a few highlights in the summary as follows:

- The Budget Resolution and the Budget for 2013-2014 are in place and they will be presented to the Board for approval tonight.
- The Budget is solid. The expenditures and the funding source are a match.
- We put \$400,000 in Fund Balance to balance the Budget.
- Fines & Forfeitures came in a little lower than expected for the month of July. Our Fund Balance has been reduced to the point where we need to be cautious.
- The Audit Report for 2012-2013 should be expected in October.
- On the second page, it shows Capital Outlay funds that are available to us as we move forward through the year.

Mr. Matthews further stated that if there are any questions, he would be glad to address them.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I know in previous years we have been a little bit more cautious when we found out that there is going to be a reversion or how much the reversion is going to be. Has the reversion been taken care of and do you have any indication of how much?

Mr. Holloway: That reversion has been taken care of and was a part of the allocation that came to us at the beginning of the year; therefore, we will not have to physically go in and reduce programs or revert positions as we have in the past.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: How are we with our ADM in terms of numbers in comparison to last year?

Mr. Holloway: As far as the student ADM is concerned, we don't have any information from the ten-day count. Ms. Moses may be able to give us an approximate count.

Ms. Rhonda Moses: Our count at this time is approximately 2,100 students.

Mr. Williams: What was the count last year?

Mr. Holloway: It was 2,121 last year.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I expect Dr. Bracy will be notifying us of the actual number.

Dr. Bracy: The tenth day is tomorrow.

Directors' Updates – Mr. Joe Holloway shared the Directors' Updates with the Board for the month of August 2013. The Director's Updates included the following attachments: #1 Revised Parent University Course Catalog; #2 2013-2014 Parent University Calendar of Events; and #3 NC PBIS Initiative Partnership Agreement.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I have a question about our reading intervention programs. It appears that we have three programs. One program is for K-2nd called iRead, another one is Read 180 is 4th-12th graders, and also the System 44 is for 3rd-12th graders who are reading two or more grade levels below their reading level. My question is what are your expectations for the teachers and teacher assistants? Do they have to run both of the programs Read 180 and the System 44 at the same time? That is like juggling, it is a lot going on and every time you have a new program it is more training for the teachers. How is that program going to work?

Ms. Tikisha Joyner: How it is going to work is that everyone has been trained for that program. It will not be both it will be only the lowest percentage of the Exceptional Children's population. The students have to be tested and they will fall into either program Read 180 or System 44; therefore, both programs will not run simultaneously in the classroom.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I just wanted to thank Mr. Lassiter for a couple of reports that the Board had requested such as the PBIS and as well as the Administrative Leadership Program; investing in our human capital. Thank you Mr. Lassiter for getting that information and thank you Dr. Bracy and your staff, as I am anxious to see PBIS up and running.

Business Before the Board for Approval

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budgets for State, Current Expense, Federal, Capital Outlay, Child Nutrition and Current Expense, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget Resolution, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously APPROVED Board Policy No. 3440 – Honor Roll (former Policy 3620), as recommended by the Superintendent.

Attorney Rod Malone: Is this a revision of a policy or is it a new policy?

Ms. Catina Hoggard addressed the Board as follows: It is a new policy, because there was no policy in place for Honor Roll, as it did not specify what the "A" Honor Roll is.

Attorney Rod Malone: What number policy is it going to be in the new manual?

Ms. Catina Hoggard: It will be Policy No. 3440.

Attorney Rod Malone: With that being said, if this is a new policy we need to waive the second reading since you got rid of all of your old policies.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously ADOPTED Board Policy No. 3440 – Honor Roll to be included the District Policy Manual and waive the second reading, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Roof Repair and Replacement Projects – Gaston and Conway Middle Schools

Ms. Smith-Ingram announced to the Board that the Facilities Committee met tonight and received an outstanding presentation from Mr. James Tillery regarding the roof repair and

replacement projects on two of our existing schools: Gaston Middle School and Conway Middle School. We have received the recommendation, as well as the bids that went out.

I move that we approve the roof repair and replacement projects for Gaston Middle School and Conway Middle School, award the bid to GMG, and direct Dr. Bracy and his administration to work on negotiating the options for that work. Mr. Clinton Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. Matthews: Mr. Holloway, does the approval to draw down Lottery money to fund this have to be a part of this motion?

Mr. Holloway: It should be a part of it unless you want to do a separate motion. Once the Board has approved the bid, it will have to go to the County Commissioners for their approval. We want to try to get this to them for their meeting on September 16, 2013.

Chair M. Edwards: Ms. Ingram, would you add that to your motion?

Attorney Rod Malone: What is the expected cost of this project?

Mr. Matthews: The cost would be \$222,800.00.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board APPROVED to amend the motion for the roof repair and replacement projects on two of our existing schools: Gaston Middle School and Conway Middle School to include a draw down of Lottery funds to fund the projects and be sent to the County Commissioners for their approval on September 16, 2013, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Attorney Rod Malone: My attention has been drawn back to the Choanoke Area Development Association, Inc. (CADA) Contract under the Consent Agenda for contracted services and I would like to suggest that contract be approved subject to adding the Lunsford Act clause to it. I don't usually miss that, but I think it would be better to amend the approval of that contract to insert the Lunsford Act clause.

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board APPROVED to amend the contract with Choanoke Area Development Association, Inc. (CADA) pending the insertion of the Lunsford Act clause, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Williams and APPROVED, the Board convened closed session at approximately 7:20 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 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 5-0.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. The Board's second closed session ended at approximately 8:45 p.m.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Matthews, the Board APPROVED the personnel list below as amended and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Personnel

Certified Recommendations:

Johnnie Rawles, Teacher, Central Elementary School, 8/19/13
Pamela Romero, ESL Teacher, Gaston Elementary, 9/30/13
Vivian King-Jackson, Guidance Counselor, TBD, 9/10/13
Savannah Anderson, School Nurse, Central Elementary/Northampton Co. High School, 9/4/13
Mitzi Taylor, School Nurse, Central Elementary School/Conway Middle School, 9/23/13
Devin Jerman, CTE/Business Teacher, Gaston Middle School, 9/10/13
Yvonne Martin-Stewart, Teacher, Willis Hare Elementary School, 8/19/13

Resignations:

JoAnn Pearson, High School Teacher, Northampton Alternative School, 9/6/13
Kimbyln Moore, High School Teacher, Northampton County High School, 8/21/13
Danida Hershberger, CTE Teacher, Gaston Middle School, 9/6/13
Derrick Stevenson, Elementary Teacher, Northampton Alternative School, 6/14/13
Charlie Hasty, SRO, Northampton County High School, 6/14/13
Dustin Melvin, High School Teacher, Northampton County High School, 6/14/13
Jessica Elias, Guidance Counselor, Gaston Elementary School, 8/30/13
Ryan Branch, Custodian, Northampton County High School, 9/3/13
Doris Vinson, Teacher, Early College, 9/3/13
Ronald Owens, Teacher, Central Elementary School, TBD

Leave of Absence:

Kames Edwin Piland, Shop Foreman, Bus Garage, 7/12/13 through 9/11/13
Malcolm Webb, Custodian, Squire Elementary School, 8/12/13 through 10/7/13
Paula Pruden, Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 7/25/13 through 9/5/13

Contract Recommendations:

Lindell Palmer, Interim Principal, Gaston Elementary School, 7/1/13 through 6/30/14
Alice Laura Hill, Instructional Coach, TBD, 8/1/13 through 6/30/14
Elaina Sabatine, Instructional Coach, TBD, 8/1/13 through 6/30/14
Samantha Valentine, Instructional Coach, TBD, 8/12/13 through 6/30/14

For Information

Transfer Recommendations:

Jessie Mayle, Teacher Assistant at Central Elementary School transferred from Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant to Regular Education Teacher Assistant
Dequetta Boyd, Teacher at Gaston Elementary School transferred to Gaston Middle School

Board Information

- NCSBA District 3 Meeting – September 11, 2013 – Warren County High School, 149 Campus Drive, Warrenton, NC – 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 2013 Fall Retreat & Issues Forum (NCCBSBM) – October 3-5, 2013 – Greensboro, NC
- Next Regular Board Meeting – October 14, 2013 – Board Room – 5:00 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- NCSBA Annual Law Conference – October 16-18, 2013 – Asheville, NC

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Approved: February 10, 2014

Marjorie Edwards, Board Chair