

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY OF FORMAL ACTIONS TAKEN AT
MONDAY, December 14, 2015, REGULAR MEETING**

This document summarizes formal actions taken on substantive matters at the regular meeting of the Northampton County Board of Education on December 14, 2015. This document is provided for the convenience of the public and does not constitute the official minutes of the meeting. For details such as the precise substance of main motions, any subsidiary motions, the names of members who made and seconded motions, staff presentations and public comments, and the times the meeting was called to order, recessed, reconvened, and/or adjourned, please consult the official minutes of this meeting, which are maintained as audio or video recordings and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent and on the Board of Education website.

Members Present: Rhonda Taylor, Chair; Marjorie Edwards, Vice Chair; Clinton Williams, Lucy Edwards, Kelvin Edwards, Phil Matthews, Keedra Whitaker, Dr. Monica Smith-Woofter, ex officio
Others Present: Administration and interested parties

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Closed Session. The Board entered closed session at 5:40 p.m. pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(1) and (a)(6) to discuss student and personnel matters. Ms. Keedra Whitaker was not present for closed session.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda. The meeting agenda was approved as presented. The Board approved to amend the agenda to add Teacher of Excellence as agenda item #7.02 under Good News Award replacing the Bright Ideas Grant Recognition.

Reorganization of the Board. The Board also approved to amend the agenda to add an additional agenda item, Reorganization of the Board to the agenda. The motion to add Reorganization of the Board did not pass due to a tie vote.

2015-2016 Exceptional Children Teacher of Excellence. Ms. Tikisha Joyner-White, Director of Exceptional Children Program, announced to the Board and audience that Ms. Blythem De Sare, an Exceptional Children Teacher at Gaston Middle School, was selected as Northampton County Schools' 2015-2016 Exceptional Children Teacher of Excellence at the 65th Conference for Exceptional Children by the NC Department of Public Instruction Exceptional Children's Department. Ms. Joyner-White further stated that Ms. De Sare was presented a plaque and flowers earlier in the week by the Exceptional Children Department.

Completion of Doctorial Program of Study. Dr. Smith-Woofter announced to the Board and audience that Ms. Felisha Whitaker recently completed her Doctorial Program of Study at East Carolina University this past August. Dr. Smith-Woofter presented Dr. Felisha Whitaker to the Board and audience and presented her with red roses.

Break. The Board took a five-minute break at 8:15 p.m. and Ms. Keedra Whitaker arrived at the Board Meeting at that time. The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda. The Board approved the minutes under the consent agenda. The consent agenda included the approval of closed session minutes for November 9, 2015; the regular minutes for April 13, 2015 and May 11, 2015; and the special meeting minutes for May 11, 2015. The consent agenda also included the following request for fund raiser and contracted services:

Request for Fund Raiser

Northampton County Schools AIG Department – Business Donations – December 15, 2015 thru May 1, 2016

Contracted Services

Northampton County Sheriff Department – Contract for Law Enforcement Services – Effective: October 14, 2015 thru June 8, 2016

Surazal Systems, Inc. – Monitoring and Support of Network Operation Services – Effective: December 14, 2015 thru June 30, 2016

Jackson-Eastside Site Trailer. The Board approved for the administration to contact Rev. George Jerman and receive his consent in writing that he would remove the trailer from the Jackson-Eastside site by January 31, 2016 or he would forfeit the trailer to be removed by the school system on February 1, 2016 to be demolished. This action is needed in order to complete the sale of the Jackson-Eastside Property with the buyer.

Five-Year Facility Plan. The Board approved the 2015-2016 Five Year Facility Plan as amended at the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting. The plan would be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for their review prior to it being sent in to DPI.

Acceptance of Bright Ideas Grant – Gaston Elementary School. The Board approved the acceptance of a Bright Ideas Grant from Roanoke Electric Corporative received by Ms. Megan Lewis at Gaston Elementary School, entitled *Read for Fun, Read for Life* in the amount of \$1,600.00. These funds will be used to begin the journey to love reading and to contribute to the role of reading through books, technology, and activities.

Acceptance of Central Elementary School 4th Grade Book Donation – Ms. Gayle Moses. The Board approved the acceptance of a book donation from Ms. Gayle Moses for each 4th grade student at Central Elementary School to take home two books to enjoy as his/her own. The books are entitled, *“Because of Winn-Dixie”* by Kate DiCamillo and *“Bud, Not Buddy”* by Christopher Paul Curtis. Ms. Moses selected the 4th graders at Central Elementary School, because she wanted to do something meaningful in memory of her sister, *Ms. Loraine Moses Stewart*, who taught 4th grade at the former Jackson-Eastside Elementary School in Jackson for several years. Ms. Stewart was a dedicated educator for her entire professional career and she believed that the power of books would change a child’s life, as so does her sister, Gayle. Ms. Moses will also donate copies of the books to each teacher at Central Elementary as well.

Acceptance of Donation from Georgia Pacific Chemical, LLC – Conway Middle School STEM Club. The Board approved the acceptance of a donation from Georgia Pacific Chemical, LLC in the amount of \$4,000.00 to support Conway Middle School’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering,

and Mathematics) Club. Dr. Smith-Woofter informed the Board that Georgia Pacific Chemical donates this money each year and that the money will be used to defray the cost for summer STEM camps during the month of June for student members to attend. She added that last year the funds were used to benefit the Gaston Middle School's STEM Club.

CW Counseling Services, Inc. Resolution & Contract. Dr. Smith-Woofter stated that the CW Counseling Services, Inc. Resolution and Contract agenda item is being presented as follow-up from the last Board Meeting and that the Board charged me and Attorney Malone to review the contract and make the necessary edits as recommended in regards to the direction of the discussion during last month's meeting. In addition, according to the General Statute, which is a requirement with regards to conflict of interest, Attorney Malone created the second document, which is the Resolution that the Board will need to adopt in consideration of approving the contract with CW Counseling Services, Inc. Attorney Malone stated that he tracked the changes in the version that he forwarded to the Board in comparison to the version they had at the last Board Meeting. The motion to approve the CW Counseling Services, Inc. Resolution & Contract did not pass due to a tie vote.

Fall/September Board Policy Updates. The Board approved the following Board Policies as previously reviewed and edited for second reading by the Policy Committee: 3320, 3405, 3420, and 7950.

The Board also approved the following Board Policies as previously reviewed by the Policy Committee and listed on the agenda for second reading: 1310/4002, 1320/3560, 1710/4021/7230, 2302 (New), 2310, 3460, 404/7310, 4110, 4152, 4303 (New), 4320, 4351, 4353, 4400, 5022, 5026/7250, 5027/7275, 5030, 6305, 6315, 7335, 7500, 7730, 1742/5060, 2500 (Options A and B), 3300, 9010, 9020, 9110, 3320, 4335, 6550, 9400.

Recommended Policy Changes/Revisions by Attorney for Review and Approval:
Policy 4201/7271.

Reorganization of the Board. A motion was made to amend the agenda to add an agenda item, Reorganization of the Board. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

2016-2017 NCSBA Legislative Committee Service Nomination. Dr. Smith-Woofter stated that the 2016-2017 NCSBA Legislative Committee is tasked with developing the draft biennium NCSBA legislative agendas for consideration and adoption by the Delegate Assembly, as well as reviewing ongoing legislative activity and providing guidance to the Board of Directors on legislative matters. This individual should be nominated through a vote of the full Board taken in open session and their application must be submitted by February 15, 2016.

The Board approved to nominate Board Member Marjorie Edwards to serve on the NCSBA's (North Carolina School Boards Association) Legislative Committee.

The Way Forward Plan Update.

Dr. Smith-Woofter updated the Board in reference to her meeting with County Manager Ms. Kimberly Turner, stating that Ms. Turner had informed her that the County Commissioners are interested in scheduling a Retreat with the Board of Education to take place in June or July after the budget is approved; they would like to visit the schools along with the Board Members sometime in January; and February, and they would also like to be a part of the Public Forums. I would like to be able to

communicate the response to Ms. Turner no later than 2nd Monday in January and I have several dates identified.

Dr. Smith-Woofter shared with the Board the following information regarding the Supplemental Tax:

- The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on January 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room. As you know, our first meeting was back in October and those were the individuals who were interested in helping with the efforts to promote, market, and support a centrally located school. Our staff is also welcome to participate.
- In addition to that, I met with the Northampton County Education Foundation two weeks ago and we will meet again on January 12, 2016 at 12:00 noon to discuss how we are moving forward with this effort. I am uncertain whether or not we will need private funding to support the marketing literature that says, “**Vote in Favor**”. Therefore, I have also shared this information with the Ministers’ Council and the Northampton County Association as well to support our efforts and to fund the opportunity to pay for the marketing literature, because we know as a school system we can only make copies of information points. I will continue to disburse this information that will be shared on January 6th with the Steering Committee, we will have a discussion, and I will provide those members with talking points that they can share. For an example, the additional amount for me in terms of my taxes that will increase will be approximately \$150.00 and that is .40 cents per day at 365 days a year that I am committing and investing in our students. In breaking that down, we can say we support the central location of a new school for grades 7-12. I will also be working with the principals to communicate with at minimum of 3rd and 4th graders, but our 4th graders will be the first ones to benefit in grade 7, because the centrally located school could be ready by the 2018-2019 school year; therefore, they will be the first 7th graders going into the new building. All grade levels that are between the 4th grade and grade 12 during that year, we will certainly communicate with parents.
- We have parent nights scheduled for January 12th at Conway Middle and at Gaston Middle on January 14th at 6:00 p.m. to make an effort to educate and communicate the summer opportunities that will be available for our students. We have a new Academic Promotion Policy and if students do not meet the promotion standards at every grade level, then some will have the option and some will be required to attend six weeks of summer school. Because we are doing those parent nights, we want to facilitate some of our opportunities for afterschool for those students who are struggling or are in danger of failing. We want to take advantage of the parents who are there to provide those education flyers and answer questions or concerns parents may have at that time.
- I am recommending that we schedule the Public Forums on different days of the week between now and March 15th. Those dates are: January 28, 2016, February 9, 2016, February 24, and March 7, 2016. I will send these dates out to you again in a Board Update. If there are major conflicts or if there is something that the Board as a group may have to participate in, as I know that you have conferences coming up and I have to check that. I would like to communicate these dates with the County Manager the first of the year so that she can share it with the County Commissioners, because they also wish to come to the Public Forums. I will also get input from the Steering Committee as to what time and whether they want to vary the times.
- Also, as we have talked about Plan B if the Supplemental Tax does not pass, Mr. Edwards mentioned back at the October or November meeting that we needed to schedule to have a discussion in January about our Plan B and making decisions about that. If the Board still have some concerns as to whether the Supplemental Tax will be taken off the ballot, as I recall last month you asked me to find out and you made a motion at our Special Call Meeting on November 30, 2015 that if it was not too late to take it off the ballot your answer was yes. Therefore, in the email that I

sent to you, the response was neither yes or no, but rather more complicated. It was left in the email charging the Board as individuals or the Board as a whole that if you wish to proceed further then you needed to instruct me otherwise. In order for it to come off, then you would have to make that decision about what you wanted to do. It would have to be submitted in writing to the County Commissioners, then they would have to intern submit it in writing to the Northampton County Board of Elections, and they would have to submit it to Raleigh. Those are the four steps that would have had to be taken place had the Board made a decision to do so. Out of the seven Board Members, there were five people who responded; therefore, the Supplemental tax goes forward.

- There was one more thing that Ms. Turner shared with me. She informed me that the County Commissioners are intending to renovate of the old Department of Social Services building and that she wanted to be transparent about that.

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a Board Retreat on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Gardens in Roanoke Rapids.

Personnel. The Board approved the following personnel as presented:

Certified Elections:

Kimberly Vincent, 3rd Grade Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 1/5/16

Victor Chilaka, ELA Teacher, Northampton County Alternative Program, 12/15/15

Classified Elections:

Antoine Graham, Head Custodian (12 month position), Willis Hare Elementary School, 12/1/15

Substitutes/Volunteers:

Judy Rankins, Volunteer – Surrogate Parent

A. Faye Young, Volunteer - Surrogate Parent

Shana Brown, Volunteer - Surrogate Parent

Lisa Martin, Volunteer

Shanta Bowman, Volunteer

TaQuishia Harris, Volunteer

Shirley Everett, Substitute Teacher (Retiree)

Resignations:

Kitty Mann, Media Coordinator, Conway Middle School, 12/11/15

A. Laura Hill, ELA Teacher, Conway Middle School, 12/31/15

Janet Daniels, Child Nutrition Assistant, Northampton County High School, 11/6/15

Retirements:

Betty Liverman, Principal, Central Elementary School, 1/6/16

Dismissals – For Information:

Regina Freeman, Bus Driver, Northampton County High School, 9/18/15

Leave of Absence:

Ellie Garner-Rhodes, Teacher, Northampton County High School, through 12/11/15 (Medical-Extension)

Tammy Branch, Teacher, Central Elementary School, 11/10/15 thru 12/1/15 (FMLA Medical Leave)

Betty Sue Harris, Media Coordinator, Central Elementary School, 12/9/15 thru 12/29/15 (FMLA Medical Leave)

Mark Kearney, Custodian, Gaston Middle School, 12/12/15 thru 6/30/16 (Medical-Extension)

Gloria Branch, Bus Driver, Northampton County High School, 11/23/15 (Early Return from LOA)

Additional Assignments:

Merventine Scott, Homebound Services, Central Elementary School, 12/1/15

Administrative Transfers – For Information:

Margaret Powell from Positive Behavior Support Assistant at Central Elementary School to Office Support/Data Manager at Central Services, 1/11/16

Pay Grade Adjustments/School Resource Officers (SRO's):

*Ray Lynch, SRO, Gaston Middle School – Pay Adjustment Retroactive to 8/24/15

*Dwayne Carter, SRO, Northampton County High School – Pay Adjustment Retroactive to 8/24/15

*Raymond Vaughan, Conway Middle School – Pay Adjustment Retroactive to 8/24/15

*Employed by Northampton County Sheriff's Department for 10 months in the school system.

Superintendent's Information.

Dr. Smith-Woofter shared with the Board that she wants to find a way to ensure that the Board receives the information that is shared with them. Therefore, with every update she sends out she will always repost them and send a text message that says, "Check your email."

Also, there is one piece of information that I want to be sure to share with you, because one of our Public Comments' participants alluded to the Early College. On December 2nd, I forwarded an email to all of the Board Members that alerted you that the Joint Advisory Committee approved our Early College application and we are among nine (9) new applications that were submitted to the State Board of Education during their December session. Fourteen total applications will be going to the State Board, five (5) are existing that already have funding, but they are looking to expand their school opportunities. When it passes the State Board of Education, it will go to them and then it will go before the General Assembly in April and it rests in their hands. Therefore, we officially have approval from the committee and it does not pass the committee and go before the Board unless they are in approval of what we can do and I am excited!

Adjournment. The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Monica Smith-Woofter, Superintendent