

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, November 12, 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 November 12, 2013 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Vice Chair Kelvin Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Williams 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; 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. Ms. Marjorie Edwards, Ms. Rhonda Taylor, and Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram were not present for the vote.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. The Board's closed session ended at approximately 6:45 p.m.

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

Azeeyahn Roach, a student at Central Elementary School, led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Williams, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Board Agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Good News Award

Mr. Hans Lassiter along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Marjorie Edwards recognized following recipient. Mr. Lassiter announced that he would like to acknowledge one of his colleagues at this time. He stated that although it is not on the agenda, this does bear recognition. I wish to call Principal Barbara Stephenson to the podium.

Reser's Company Grant Recipient - Principal Barbara Stephenson of Gaston Middle School announced to the Board and audience that Gaston Middle School recently received a grant in the amount of \$850.00 from the Reser's Company of Roanoke Rapids, NC. She stated that the grant money was used to purchase a math program for their students.

Mr. Hans Lassiter also informed the Board and audience that he wanted direct their attention to the work of our students, teachers, administrators, and our community. In Sunday's paper, the scores of the Roanoke Valley were released and as Dr. Bracy so eloquently stated, "Although we are no where near where we want to be, we do have an outstanding baseline idea of what kind of instructional things need to occur in our classroom to make our students competitive on a more than excellent manner as everyone else here in North Carolina." You have heard me echo this statement for the last two years, "Our students are just as good as the ones in Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford and Cabarrus Counties. It is up to us to introduce them to higher order thinking instruction so that they can answer the bell, meet the challenge and perform in life in general. Our young people are just as worthy and it is about time for us to demand and expect the absolute best for our kids." On behalf of the Board and myself, I want to give a shout-out and thanks to the students, teachers, parents, and principals for the hard work you put in to get this thing started in a positive manner.

Mr. Lassiter also announced that it has been discussed and there will be a presentation later on by Ms. Geneva Squire who did a good job with this. We learned that one of our schools' 4th grade performance far exceeded that of the State of North Carolina's average. Again, we will recognize the outstanding work of those students at later time.

Shining Star Character Education

Mr. Hans Lassiter along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Marjorie Edwards recognized and presented the following students with **Shining Star Award Certificates** for demonstrating the focus of "Responsibility" for the month of October:

Amirakle Joyner, Central Elementary School

Abigail Heustess, Conway Middle School

Mi` Kyle Cornez Amonte Harris, Gaston Elementary School

Cedric Banks, Gaston Middle School

Vonnie Johnson, Northampton County Alternative School

Tyrone Fields, Northampton County High School-East

Ja`Mir Davis, Squire Elementary School

Layshwan Johnson (absent), Willis Hare Elementary School

Introduction of New Personnel

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

Julius Webb, Wrestling Coach, Northampton County High School

Dwander Dawson, Homebound Instructor, Northampton County High School

Vivian Hunter, Interim Guidance Counselor, Conway Middle School

Public Comments

No one signed up to speak during Public Comments.

Break

The Board recessed in a five-minute break at 7:01 p.m.

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board APPROVED the consent agenda consisting of the following items and deleted the regular minutes for the June 22, 2013 meeting, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Board Minutes – Closed Session – October 14, 2013

Request for Fund Raiser

Squire Elementary School – P.E. Department – Student/Parent/Staff Walk-A-Thon – November 4-13, 2013

Northampton County High School – Band – Fruit Sale – November 5-26, 2013

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and Choanoke Area Development Association, Inc. – Head Start Services – Effective: September 1, 2013 until June 30, 2014

Business Before the Board for Information

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Plans (PBIS) – Mr. Joe Holloway presented to the Board the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Plans (PBIS) for each school. He stated that the plan consists of five sections, which includes: 1) What is PBIS; 2) North Carolina Initiative Partnership Agreements; 3) Elementary School PBIS Plans; 4) Middle School PBIS Plans; and 5) High School PBIS Plan. He stated that all schools in North Carolina will implement Positive Behavior Intervention and Support as an effective and proactive process for improving social competence and academic achievement for all students.

Early College Application 2014 for Innovative High School – Mr. Holloway presented the Early College Application 2014 for Innovative High School to the Board. The Board held the following discussion regarding the Early College Application 2014 for Innovative High School: Ms. Smith-Ingram: I am very excited about this New Tech Early College High School. I think that we are offering our students something that would be attractive. As I am looking at the proposal that was set forward, it looks like it is more geared towards making sure our students get some community college credit towards an Associate's Degree, which is very similar to the Roanoke Valley Early College and the early colleges that are surrounding us. I am still hoping that we could focus on a school that offers the science, technology, engineering and math. All of the counties surrounding us have an Early College. What distinguishes our program from those programs that are around us? What is going to make students want to come to our Early College versus the Roanoke Valley Early College? The key that is missing in this piece, and we have talked about it several times, is the need to have those 21st Century occupations and high tech jobs that we don't even have the make up of right now that is going to fill those positions. The world is wide open, but there are fewer schools that are STEM and technology focused and we have more Early Colleges. With that said, I am hoping that we can look at some other models that surround us. Elizabeth City has that Northeast Regional STEM Aerospace High School. Several counties came together and Bertie County has a STEM High School. I think

Martin County, along with three other counties came together with a Regional Partnership that focuses on the 21st Century jobs and Stem Education. We had a STEM High School, but we lost that because we did not renew whatever the paperwork was supposed to be. I am telling you Dr. Bracy and this administration, we really need to give that more thought and look at that program for our students. We have addressed the high school student in terms of getting them what they need to be college, but what about that huge demographic that is not going to college? What are we offering these students that they can graduate from high school and walk straight into a profession or a career such as: Medical Arts, Electronics, or Automotive Certification? With those professions you can walk into a skill and that is what is lacking in this application. I see the Early College and I have looked at the course curriculum, but what we have done is met needs for those who are going to college, but we don't have a model in the Roanoke Valley that is geared towards getting them certification. I know there are certifications listed there such as, Microsoft Office, Workkeys, etc., but I am talking about the model that is using technology and making sure we meet that need for our students who are not going to college so that they can get a trade or a skill. This application is great, but I hope our future work will look at bringing in skill emphasis and occupational certification. That is what is going to attract kids. We have an Early College in Weldon; Halifax County.

Dr. Bracy: That Early College is not for us it is Halifax County's Early College. We are going to bus our kids to our Early College and that is a big difference.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: The only big difference Dr. Bracy, is instead of going to the Roanoke Valley Early College they will be going to the Northampton Early College, but what is going to make a Roanoke Rapids student or a Weldon student want to come to our Early College?

Dr. Bracy: I would expect the Weldon student to go to Weldon's Early College, because that is what that school is. They call it Roanoke Valley, but it is Weldon's Early College. Any student from our school system that we release to go to Weldon's Early College we forfeit our ADM to Weldon. They now become Weldon City Schools' students and we are losing several students per year. We want students from Northampton County to have the ability to leave high school with credits towards college to cut down on our parents' tuition cost.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Yes, but these students are going to college. What about the student who just wants to get a good job?

Dr. Bracy: I want to take care of the Early College students before I go there. So that is the difference between a student who is down on the Bertie County line who is probably not going to have the opportunity to go to Halifax Community College every day. With this Early College, we would pick him up and take him to our Early College. As far as students not attending college, I sent something to the Board a few weeks or a month ago where the County Manger Ken Creque wants to meet with us to talk about some of the projects such as the Seaboard-Coates property. He wants to meet with us and have discussions about those skills, such as automotives, heavy equipment operation, welding, instructional technology, etc. Mr. Creque wants to have a conversation with the Board of Education about us having our own regional school here in Northampton County. They are interested in a facility that we have here in Northampton County and having that school based out of that facility. I am looking forward to having that conversation with the County Manager. On paper it looks pretty appealing and I want to sit down with him and the Board to look at the nuts and bolts of that presentation.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: At best, all we are doing is instead of releasing our students to the Roanoke Valley, we are just holding those students. Where is the need being met for those students who are not going to college, but they are going into a career? I have been talking about this very

thing for three years. Whenever we go to conferences and the School Board just went to the District Training in September, what as featured there; a technology high school. Last year when we went to the National School Board Conference, that was the big-ticket item. That is something that is not offered here. They have Biotechnology and Agra-Sciences there. Ms. Edwards, we are talking about agriculture. Look at all of the land we have in Northampton, look at farming, and now we are going to hydroponics. There is so much out there that we can meet the needs that we are not just worried about getting our students back from Weldon, but we can get students from all around us. Instead of losing students, we are not just getting our students back, but gaining enrollment.

Dr. Bracy: Your point is understood and well-taken Mr. Ingram. I am not saying this isn't the end of it all just this piece, but it is a good start. This application we have now may not encompass all of our goals, hopes, and dreams, but we will certainly take your suggestions into consideration that warrants further discussion.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I think that the Northeast Regional School, Biotechnology and Agra-Sciences in those counties that came together and we can do the same thing if we come together and offer the same so that we can get our kids prepared. I have been talking about this for at least the last twelve months. Board Members, you know we put this in as a joint goal and I guess my frustration is that it feels like it has been pushed to the side and all we are focusing on is an Early College. This is disappointing, especially when every symbol and every radar is showing that we need to have a technology high school with a skill focus.

Dr. Bracy: Let me go back and address that Regional School. The great majority of the students that attend that school are from Washington County. The biggest percentage of the students are from Washington County and yes it has opened other schools funded from other school systems.

Mr. Williams: I think one of the issues here in Northampton County is it goes back to supply and demand. We already have GCP, the School of Math & Science, Roanoke Valley and I think Ms. Ingram has made a very good point that from all indications, the Career & Technical High School programs are really what is on the radar right now in terms of what our students' needs are. These students are really going to pursue that college education and they already fit in somewhere. I mentioned in a Board Meeting before that something is on that oxygen line of Northampton County Schools and it is killing us. We sit around this table and talk as if we were helpless in reviving our school district and I don't like that feeling. Where that is coming from is that we are constantly losing students to those programs that already exist for that student that we are trying to bring a program into existence within our school district. What can we do to save those who are here or those who are potentially at-risk? Those of us Board Members who went to the District Meeting in Warren County, they talked about these Early Tech High School programs and they are great. The Warren County students were presenting and I felt like they were professionals. This program is really working for those students and we have some of those students who are like sponges right here in Northampton County. They would really absorb and embrace that program, and also our parents. Ms. Squire, you put the program on, not us, but you asked us to come. We went to Mudcastle in Garysburg and I was proud to see those students doing the food services and those students who stood up and talked about all of the other technical career programs that they were in and the presentations that they were making. Even the teachers were excited. Therefore, I think if we can get that kind of excitement in our district we can save a lot of children. I can't remember exactly what the dropout rate is right now, but I think that would prevent a lot of that. I do know that we have a lot of children who have interest in certain programs and are good with their hands. With the right programs in our

school district, I would support it if we really look at something that is going to revive this school district, because right now something is on our oxygen line and we have to get that something off. I think that Career and Technical Education Program would be a great step in that direction.

Dr. Bracy: I am not going to belabor the conversation, but I would like to talk with Mr. Williams later. I don't know what he saw in Warren County, because I was not there. I would like to know where these schools are and perhaps Ms. Squire and I can go visit those schools.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I would be glad to forward that information to you, because it shows where they are throughout North Carolina and there is a big open area between Northampton, Halifax, and Edgecombe.

Dr. Bracy: I specifically want to hear about the school that presented and I would like to go there.

Mr. Williams: That was only one school, but when we were in California in April of this year we are not talking about locally necessarily alone, but we are talking about global. There were presentations done even in the general sessions. That is what we have been saying is that in every meeting we go to there is a push, a focus embracing Career & Technical Education (CTE).

Dr. Bracy: What everybody in the state and pretty much the nation is talking about being Career & College Ready. That is the buzzword and that is the conversation now.

Mr. Williams: Some of those students are going to hit both of those tracks and I think that is what Ms. Ingram is saying. We have to get something that is going to address those students that don't currently have an adequate program in place. With Career & College Ready, we have always had that program for those students who are going to be college-bound. Now, we have to come up with something innovative to capture the attention and the needs of those other students who are falling out there somewhere.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Some are not planning to go to college and they want to go right into the workforce and be certified with a trade.

Dr. Bracy: I agree fully with both of you. Ms. Squire and I will review the information that Ms. Ingram is going to forward to me. Mr. Williams will you tell me where those places are and you, Ms. Squire and I will visit them.

Mr. Williams: A Saturday morning would be good time.

Ms. Geneva Squire addressed the Board as follows: The Early College High School is a high school that embraces all types of students. These students are interested in a field or a concentration instead of going straight to a workforce after high school; as well students are interested in going beyond high school into a traditional four-year university or institution. Those students will have two years of college behind them so that they only have two more years to go. One of the things that we have already been doing is the certification for our students in Northampton County. We have already been working with the Career College Promise and Ms. Jenkins our CTE Director and Ms. Putney today talked about our Career College Promise program, which is a State Governor's Initiative to pay for the ability for students to receive certification in Heating & Air, First Aid, Automotive Services Technology, and Gaming Technology, as well as starting the ability for our 9th and 10th graders in Career College Promise in Industrial Technology Programs. All of those certifications that are in the technical areas will provide those students with the opportunity to work in those high tech jobs. We are getting a lot of industrial and manufacturing jobs coming back in to America, but they are coming back with fewer people that are going to work in the plants. Therefore, they are going to need to be able to

work with that heavy machinery and to fill those high field and high wages, but there will be fewer of them.

We did attend a National Early College Conference. Ms. Teneka Robinson, Mr. Holley and I sat at a table with NC Schools Project. They actually spearhead all of the STEM Initiatives in North Carolina. A director from a college in North Carolina was very impressed with what we are doing in our application. I had someone from Japan to say, "Here is my card, one side is in Japanese and one side is in English. Contact me so that our kids can skype back and forth." Also, a director from a college in New York has already contacted me and said, "I want to hear what is going on." Those things sound good, because we reached back to our 8th grade students with the academy concept. We had over 200 students and parents who met us at Chowan University on last Saturday and we were there from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We had a great time working together and planning for graduation and after graduation. We had parents to ask, whose children are not in Northampton County Schools, if they could bring their children. I said, yes so that they can hear what we are doing. Students were sitting in the same room looking at their parents saying, "Can I come here." They said it themselves to the other students when they separated the class of 2017 and the class of 2081 that "we don't do this in our Early College. We don't get to go on college campuses and sit down together and plan for graduation. What I think makes a difference between our Early College and some of the other programs, is us. It is the caring, it is the teachers and staff who came out on Saturday, it is the extension of partnerships with the universities who said, "We want to work with you." Therefore, it is not just Halifax Community College; it is Chowan University and Elizabeth City State University who said, "We are going to partner with you all." Your students can take classes with us and that is why we were on their campus. Elizabeth City State University actually has an Education Department on the campus of Halifax Community College. So the difference is, we are reaching beyond just the four walls in our school system. We want our students to be here, but we know that there is so much more out there. We have worked with a private institution, partnered with a public institution and now we have a 2-year institution. They can handle the technical areas where students can graduate with an Associate's Degree in four years, not five. That is why we are reaching back to the 8th grade. When they leave the 8th grade, they only have three more classes and they can be classified as a sophomore; therefore, after fall semester our students are sophomores. Technically, based upon our promotion standards in Northampton County that does not happen anywhere else in the State of North Carolina. At the national conference, it was not happening anywhere. Therefore, I am proud of what we have to offer here. Are we going to be able to do every single thing? No. Aerospace is going to be very hard for us to do in Northampton County, because we don't have the access to the Norfolk Airport and the regional airports like they do in Elizabeth City. But, can our kids access engineering fields? Yes. With Halifax Community College we were at the same table with the presentations about the Golden Leaf Partnership for the Seaboard-Coates Initiative. They approved our Early College the same day they approved the Partnership to go in to Seaboard-Coates; therefore, their Board is very excited about sending the programs that they have at Halifax Community College to work with us. Our students will be able to take any technical certification rendering programs that are at Halifax Community College if they want these programs. You had to do a sample of where students would start and end. So that was only one sample of a curriculum package, but our students are going to be all over the map. We have students who want to be doctors, pilots, and football players; therefore, as I said we have them all over the place, because they have so many different interests. If you would have seen the look on the parent's faces, who were the same

parents who called this summer and said, “I am thinking about putting my kid in some of the same schools that you all have been naming. What is going to make the difference if I take my child and put them there or leave them here? Do you know where those children are right now? We did not lose them they are with us. A student who has been in the Alternative School twice in his academic career is with us in the Early College and he was with us on Saturday.

Chair M. Edwards: I had some parents comment on Saturday and some of them went to Chowan University a few months ago and they were talking about how nice it was and the children were excited. I do want to compliment you on that Ms. Squire.

Ms. Geneva Squire: Most of the children had two or three people with them. That is what we talked about, their support system. We are part of their support system, but it is going to take all of that to get them to college and career ready. If they don't want to go on to a four-year institution after they leave us they will have an Associate's Degree and a certification that they can take and go into the workforce. We are starting them applying for college applications at the end of their sophomore year so that they can send the applications off in their junior year to get early acceptance. Fayetteville State University is guaranteeing if a student graduates from the Early College with a 2.75 GPA or better they will pay for the remainder of the student's two-year college tuition, room and board. Who better to put your trust in and put some money out there than kids who already have two years behind them, they have had college instructors, they have been on college campuses, and they juggle athletics, home chores, part-time jobs and college while they are not even 18 years old yet.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Ms. Squire, that is great for the students who we do need to take over the responsibility for, because now your performance is based on your graduation rate and your ability to retain students. Still what is missing in that component is a high school where I can walk out in my 5th year and I am certified as a laboratory technician or a certified automotive technician. What I see written down is Microsoft Certification, but that is not what I am talking about.

Ms. Geneva Squire: That is just one stream. You can go to Halifax Community College for any Associate's Degree that is offered.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I am not talking about an Associate's Degree, what I am talking about is certification with training for a skill.

Ms. Geneva Squire: An Associate's Degree comes with a certification.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: What I am talking about is like when you go to Apprentice School and then you are certified to work (x) amount of occupations at the Shipyard. I am talking about down the lines where you are certified to operate (x) amount of technology equipment or you have this certification as a radiologist or medical arts; therefore that is not what I am hearing and that is not what I am reading. We can talk about this more at the Retreat, but we really need to meet the needs of that student who wants to walk out of high school into an occupation. When I talk about occupation I am talking about the 21st Century jobs. Those jobs are available by the thousands that we don't have the ability to fill them with the students coming out of college. There is a national level to work with secondary education so that these kids can walk out of high school into a career without having to have an Associate's Degree.

Chair M. Edwards: Your point is well taken. We do need to get a motion to amend the agenda to move the Early College Application 2014 for Innovative High School agenda item to an action item so that we can vote on it. That agenda item would become item 12.04.

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board APPROVED to amend the agenda to move the Early College Application 2014 for Innovative High School agenda item to an action item, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Mr. Williams: If we are going to vote on this item I would like to: 1) have some more discussion if there are Board Members interested in entertaining it, and 2) see this coupled with a more focus on the Career Technical Education Program to be part of this whole package deal. We need to make sure we are focusing on both ends of the spectrum.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: That is kind of obsolete because this has already been submitted.

Attorney Rod Malone: The deadline is November 1st so technically it has already gone out.

Mr. Williams: It is not obsolete, because this Board has to vote on it as an action item in this room.

Dr. Bracy: The application is the application, but of course we can put more focus on a Career Technical Education Program. It does not have to be STEM and does not have to be in lieu of. Those are conversations that we can have any day and any time, but we don't have to hold this process up to add those things. Those are excellent points you all are making. We can have discussions and have STEM and CTE added to this, but let's not hold up this process in lieu of that. What you are saying Mr. Williams makes a lot of sense and Ms. Ingram has made some good points as well.

Mr. Williams: I certainly don't want to appear oppositional in any way, but I think this goes back to some of our concerns in the past as we are bringing certain points as Board Members to the table, those things are put somewhere on the back burner. It looks like we are not moving forward with some particular things that have been suggested and this is another example of that.

Chair M. Edwards: Since we already have the application, can we move on with this one and work on getting the STEM and CTE added? That can be an additional point that we can make and work on at Sunday's Retreat.

The motion to amend the agenda to move the Early College Application 2014 for Innovative High School agenda item to an action item passed by a vote of 5-0.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board APPROVED the Early College Application 2014 for Innovative High School, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: In light of what Mr. Williams said, can we have a follow-up presentation at the Retreat and our next Board Meeting? That will really take some serious planning and outlining to incorporate more STEM, as well as CTE where our students can walk of there straight into a job.

Dr. Bracy: We can have that at the next Board Meeting. Ms. Ingram and Mr. Williams, can you send me an email giving me some specifics of what you are looking for in that presentation?

Chair M. Edwards: Please include all of the Board Members in that email as well.

The motion to approve the Early College Application 2014 for Innovative High School passed by a vote of 5-0.

Directors' Updates - Directors' Updates – Dr. Bracy shared the Directors' Updates with the Board for the month of October 2013.

Business Before the Board for Approval

The Food Bank of the Albemarle Backpack Program Agreement - Mr. Joe Holloway presented The Food Bank of the Albemarle Backpack Program Agreement to the Board stating that our School Board Attorney has reviewed the agreement. The objective of The Food Bank of

the Albemarle's Backpack Program is to safely and discreetly provide nourishment to chronically hungry children by sending nutritious, shelf stable, easy-to-prepare meals home with them over the weekends and/or other times when school meals are not available. This program will serve three hundred (300) students in Northampton County Schools.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Matthews, the Board APPROVED The Food Bank of the Albemarle Backpack Program Agreement, as recommended by the Superintendent.

The Board held the following discussion regarding The Food Bank of the Albemarle Backpack Program Agreement:

Mr. Matthews: It looks like the liability has been taken care of, but it looks like right much work that Northampton County employees will have to do. How are we going to handle this additional work? Will it be the current staff or some one other than staff?

Ms. Taylor: How do you determine which students will receive the backpack?

Dr. Shirley Smith addressed the Board regarding who will handle the Backpack Program as follows: Good evening Board Members: To answer Mr. Matthews' question, we do have a planning meeting scheduled for November 21, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. Persons who will be at that meeting are community volunteers, representatives from the Ministers' Council, and various persons who will be in the meeting for discussion as to how the Backpack Program will be handled. There are some specific guidelines that will be discussed at the meeting as to how everything will be done. Ms. Carolyn Williams is a part of and was included in the discussion prior to our first meeting.

Mr. Matthews: With the Food Service staff existing as it is, how will the additional work load, reporting, and storage be handled?

Dr. Shirley Smith: The way the program is set up we have volunteers and those will be identified so we are not expecting any Child Nutrition staff to handle that.

Chair M. Edwards: This is volunteer staff.

Dr. Shirley Smith: They will be community volunteers and that is our reason for meeting to organize all of that prior to the actual program implementation.

Chair M. Edwards: When is it going to start?

Dr. Shirley Smith: Once we meet on November 21st then we will know the start date.

Chair M. Edwards: I hope that it is very successful; because I have been talking about this for our children and I am so grateful that something is coming down the pipe to send something home with our children. Like we have said before, sometimes those meals at school are the only good meals some of our children get. I am planning on being at that meeting on November 21st, because this is something that I have always wanted to do. To give our children some food and be sure that they have something when they leave school. I hope it goes over well.

Dr. Shirley Smith: As far as which students are chosen, in regards to the grant we were looking at the percentage part and there is also a referral form that is part of the process. All of that has been given out and discussed in that meeting as far as the referral process, whether the parent can opt in or opt out, because we do want them to have the opportunity to be a part of the process. The motion to approve The Food Bank of the Albemarle Backpack Program Agreement passed by a 5-0 vote.

Town of Garysburg and Northampton County School Board Purchase Agreement –

Attorney Rod Malone addressed the Board as follows: Subsequent to the document that we forwarded to the Board for review following the last meeting and meeting with the Attorney for

the Town of Garysburg, the Mayor Bell and Mayor Pro Tem we would like to make following proposed revisions to the document:

- 1) In the first paragraph we will insert the address for the Town of Garysburg,
- 2) In paragraph #4, we will delete the paragraph in its entirety. The new paragraph will read as follows: *The property may not be used for public or private schools without the Board's prior permission.*
- 3) In paragraph #7, delete the last sentence, which reads: *The Seller will give the Buyer a properly executed bargain and sale deed with covenants against grantors acts.*

With those proposed changes I think I can represent, but the Town of Garysburg's Attorney and the School Board's Attorney are prepared to recommend to both Boards to approve the document as revised.

Chair M. Edwards: Are we okay with that Mayor Bell?

Mayor Roy Bell: Yes we are.

On a MOTION by Mr. Williams, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board APPROVED to accept the Town of Garysburg and Northampton County School Board Purchase Agreement based on the deletions, insertions as modified and recommended by our Board Attorney, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

Mr. Phil Matthews and Mr. Donald Johnson voted against.

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Mr. Matthews, the Board APPROVED the personnel list below as presented, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram and Mr. Clinton Williams voted against.

Personnel

Certified Recommendations:

Dennis N. Taylor, Temporary Assistant Principal, Conway Middle School, 10/28/13 - 12/20/13

Shirley Everett, Homebound Instructor, Willis Hare Elementary School, 11/15/13

Doris Edwards-Watlington, Homebound Instructor, Squire Elementary School, 11/15/13

Gwen Bowser, Homebound Instructor, Conway Middle School, 11/15/13

Jane Mann, Math Tutor, Gaston Middle School, 11/13/13

Classified Recommendations:

Ernestine Sykes, Reading Tutor, Gaston Middle School, 11/18/13

Latisha C. Gilliam, Substitute Custodian, Northampton County Schools, 11/18/13

Shinquanetta S. Clark, Substitute Bus Driver, Northampton County Schools, 11/18/13

Ricky L. Clay, Substitute Bus Driver, Northampton County Schools, 11/18/13

Willie L. Davis, Substitute Bus Driver, Northampton County Schools, 11/18/13

Benketa A. Harrell, Substitute Bus Driver, Northampton County Schools, 11/18/13

Chenika H. Rook, Substitute Bus Driver, Northampton County Schools, 11/18/13

For Information

Joyce Stephenson, Exceptional Children Interim Teacher, Conway Middle School/Central Elementary School, 11/6/13

Lorraine Newsome, Child Nutrition Manager, Central Elementary School, 11/18/13

Superintendent's Information

Dr. Bracy addressed the Board and audience as follows:

- I want to congratulate our schools! We met last Thursday and certainly we realize that there is so much work to do. Where we are as a district, the Common Core and all of the new rigorous standards, I do want to congratulate our school leaders and particularly our teachers,

because all of our traditional schools out of seven (7) met or exceeded their growth. We had three schools to exceed their growth, which is high growth and we had three schools that met their growth. Again, we know we are nowhere near where we want or need to be, but certainly we congratulate those who brought us this far! I want to congratulate this Board, because, there aren't many Boards of Education in this state tonight that can say all of their traditional schools that took these assessments met or exceeded their goals. That is the position that you as a Board are in tonight. Certainly, we as staff members owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude for all of your support. Madam Chair, we are certainly grateful for you and your leadership along with Vice Chair in his absence. We are grateful for your leadership and the focus that you all as a Board of Education have given to the staff. With your support we will continue to grow as an instructional staff. Certainly, I am thankful that all of our traditional schools met or exceeded their growth and not a lot of people can say that tonight.

Chair M. Edwards: I want to thank Ms. Hoggard again for the Community Café. Some of the people that were in attendance were very excited. You did a great job and I hope we have more of them. Also, please keep the Parent University going as well.

Dr. Bracy: This is a good staff to work with. Our principals are working hard in our schools and we have a Central Services Team that is working to support our principals.

Mr. Williams: Madam Chair, I think this is the appropriate time to make this announcement. We have chosen you to be the Board Chair for this Board of Education and I would like to encourage all of us to respect you as such. I want to say for my position, I am going to support you 100% as Board Chair and I want you to be able to step up to the plate as you have already and be just that Board Chair that we are expecting you to be. When you need support, I hope that all of us are going to stand behind you and support you for whatever you are asking for and whatever you find necessary to address this Board and that everyone in this county respects you as the Board Chair of this Board.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I second that emotion!

Chair M. Edwards: I want to thank everyone as well. I think we all are trying to work together. Everybody has their own opinion and we certainly do express ourselves and we are working for our students. That is my primary focus that we get our students educated and educate the parents, because we need both. I think our county is recognizing that the help we are given is what is necessary and we are not afraid to step up to the plate and do more. We might not be tier one and we might not have what the big places have, but we have people who are willing to step up and do what needs to be done. I believe we are going to do well. I know all of us know the area and we do work hard in the community. I want to thank everybody for all that they do, because without you we cannot do it. Also, thank you too Attorney Malone.

Board Information

Chair M. Edwards reminded the Board that their Annual Conference is coming up this weekend. The Board is scheduled to be in Greensboro for a Board Retreat/Work Session at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday and Dr. Bracy has reserved a conference room for us to meet. Please give your agenda items to Ms. Harris that you want on the agenda so that she can have our agenda ready to go. If you can Ms. Harris, please email the Board the final agenda ahead of time once they send their items in. The deadline for the Board Members to get their agenda items in to Ms. Harris will be by the end of the day tomorrow.

Mr. Smith-Ingram: We did say that we were going to review the test results, as I would like to know the nuts and bolts. Also, our short-term and long-range facility plans needs to be on there.

Chair M. Edwards: The test results are supposed to be on the agenda. It is time for us to take care of business. Dr. Bracy knows what we need and he will get it together.

Dr. Bracy: Ms. Harris and I will work it out.

- Board Retreat/Work Session – Sunday, November 17, 2013 – Sheraton Greensboro Koury Convention Center – Greensboro, NC
- NCSBA Annual Conference – November 18-20, 2013 – Greensboro, NC
- NCSBA Public Policy Conference – December 5-6, 2013 – Greensboro, NC
- NCSBA Parliamentary Procedure: Common Questions & Practical Application Webinar – December 10, 2013, 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Kathy Boyd, Presenter (1 Hour)
- Next Regular Board Meeting – December 9, 2013 – Board Room – 5:00 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Chair M. Edwards: I wanted to also announce that the reason Mr. Kelvin Edwards is not here tonight is because he has a conflict with our Board Meetings in Roanoke Rapids where he is employed when we have our Board Meeting on 2nd Monday. That is why he is not here tonight. He was able to be here for closed session. Mr. Edwards is a good Board Member and I don't want anybody to think he is just not here for that reason.

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Approved: March 10, 2014

Marjorie Edwards, Board Chair