

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, November 7, 2011**

Members Present: Donald Johnson, Chair; Marjorie Edwards, Vice Chair; Bill Little, Erica Smith-Ingram, Lafayette Majette, Kelvin Edwards, Rhonda Taylor, Dr. Eric Bracy, ex officio
Others Present: Administration, press and interested parties

The Northampton County Board of Education held its regular meeting on November 7, 2011 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Chair Donald Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Mr. Majette and APPROVED, the Board convened in closed session at approximately 5:30 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. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram was not present for the vote.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Little, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The first closed session ended at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Board Agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board APPROVED to amend the Board Agenda to add a closed session at the end of the agenda and to move personnel after the second closed session, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Johnson requested that the Board and audience stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Good News Award

Ms. Tanya Byrd-Robinson along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Donald Johnson recognized and presented Good News Award Certificates to the following recipients:

Bright Ideas Grant Award Recognition – Mr. Ralph Graham, social studies teacher at the Northampton County Alternative School, was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for being awarded a **Bright Ideas Grant** in the amount of **\$1,462.00**. Mr. Graham applied for the grant to purchase e-Readers for the students at the Alternative School, which will allow the students to have access to thousands of books that the school would not be able to purchase in hard copy.

N.C. Department of Public Instruction Measure of Student Learning Design Group Selection – Ms. Wanda Briggs-Trevino, Principal, Northampton County Alternative School,

was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for being accepted by the **North Carolina Department of Public Instruction** to join the **Measure of Student Learning Design Group** to create assessments for non-EOG and EOC courses. Ms. Briggs-Trevino will be working in the area of middle grades social studies.

Breakfast Champions 2011 Award Recognition – Ms. Pamela Chamblee, Principal, Northampton County High School-East, Ms. Mabel Bradley, Child Nutrition Manager and Ms. Lucille Deloatch, Child Nutrition Worker, were recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for **NCHS-East** receiving the **“Breakfast Champions 2011 Award.”** This program was launched in September in Durham, North Carolina by Governor Beverly Perdue and it is a partnership between Governor Perdue’s Office, the Share Our Strength Foundation and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Child Nutrition Program. The goal is to encourage more students to eat breakfast. NCHS-East was innovative in offering a Grab-N-Go breakfast, which allows students the opportunity to eat in the cafeteria or select the Grab-N-Go meal in the Freshman Academy. Northampton County was one of only 18 LEAs selected for this award. Breakfast at NCHS-East has increased by more than 40% since the Grab-N-Go began in September. The success of this program is due to Principal Chamblee’s support and encouragement on a daily basis and Ms. Bradley’s successful implementation of the program.

Shining Star Character Education

Ms. Tanya Byrd-Robinson along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Donald Johnson recognized and presented the following students with **Shining Star Award Certificates** for demonstrating the focus of “Responsibility” for the month of October:

Andrew Handley (absent), Central Elementary School
Hudson Bridgers, Northampton County High School-East
Kaeley Claude (absent), Northampton West Stem High School
Dakarai Adams, Squire Elementary School
Dy`Monaje (absent), Willis Hare Elementary School
Terry Garner, Northampton County Alternative School
Luis Alvarez, Conway Middle School
Ahsley Garner, Gaston Elementary School

Introduction of New Personnel

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

Mary Harrell-Sessoms, System-Wide Mentor for Beginning Teachers
Goldie Gilmore, System-Wide Mentor for Beginning Teachers
Meta Stratton, Counselor, Northampton County High School-East

Public Comments

Chair Johnson announced that no one signed up for Public Comments.

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, 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 7-0.

Board Minutes – Closed Session – October 3, 2011

Regular Meeting – July 1, 2011 and July 11, 2011

Request for Fund Raiser

Conway Middle – School-Wide – Candy Sale – October 24, 2011 – November 7, 2011

NCHS-East – Senior Class – Car Show – November 20, 2011

NCHS-East – Senior Class – Doughnut Sale – November 14-18, 2011

NCHS-East – Senior Class – Talent Show – November 18, 2011

NCHS-East – Senior Class – Homecoming Dance – October 28, 2011

NCHS-East – Senior Class – Car Wash – November 14-18, 2011

NCHS-West Stem – Band/JROTC/Athletics – Fruit Sale – October 24, 2011 – November 23, 2011

NCHS-West Stem – FBLA – Turkey Dinner Raffle – November 7-22, 2011

NCHS-West Stem – Basketball Team – Fan Merchandise – TBA – February 1, 2012

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and Jerry Hawkins – Homebound Services –

Effective: October 4, 2011 through June 8, 2012

Northampton County Schools and Gwen Bowser – Homebound Services –

Effective: August 25, 2011 through June 8, 2012

Northampton County Schools and Carolina Audiology and Carolina Otolaryngology

Consultants, P.A. – Audiologic Consultation and Otologic Examination Services –

Effective: October 18, 2011 through June 8, 2012

Northampton County Schools and CareWorks, Inc.– Speech Therapy Services –

Effective: July 1, 2011 through August 30, 2011

Northampton County Schools and Choanoke Area Development Association, Inc. - Head Start

Transition Services – Effective: September 19, 2011 through September 19, 2012

Business Before the Board for Information

Directors' Updates – Mr. Matthews shared the Directors' Updates with the Board for the month of October 2011.

Ms. Smith Ingram: Mr. Matthews, thank you for taking our comments into consideration. The Directors' Updates look really great.

Business Before the Board for Approval

Ms. Taylor: I work in the shelters and know how it is to work in the dark. I strongly recommend supporting the Emergency Management in obtaining and installing the generators.

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board unanimously APPROVED to support the Northampton County Emergency Management in their efforts to move forward with obtaining and installing generators at Conway Middle School and Northampton County High School-West, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. This recommendation does not include any approval for any actual work to be performed at the facilities. The approval would come later when Emergency Management has progressed to that point.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: What is the funding source regarding the Beginning Teacher Program and do you have an estimate of cost?

Mr. Matthews: The funding source would be the Title II Federal Grant and it has already been budgeted. I would have to get the cost information to you.

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Little, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan, as recommended by the Superintendent. As

mandated by the N.C. State Board of Education, all beginning teachers with fewer than three years of appropriate teaching experience must participate in the LEA Induction Program. On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED the following Alternative School Local Option, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Accountability Model – 2011-2012

I. State Testing

B. Combination of High School and Low Grades

1. Positive change in End-of-Course Test(s) results and End-of-Grade Test(s) results compared to the same students' EOC and EOG test(s) results during the 2010-2011 school year.

II. Performance Composite

III. Local Options

4. Higher Expectations for Student Achievement

Goal: 75% of the students enrolled for at least one grading period during the 2011-2012 school year will make better grades or enroll in higher-level courses compared to same students' grades or enrollment in higher-level courses during the 2010-2011 school year.

6. Parent Involvement

Goal: The percentage of parents actively involved in the school by attending 2 or more Academic conferences during the 2011-2012 school year will be at least 60%.

7. Community Involvement

Goal: The number of community members involved in the school in 2010-2011 was 25 and will increase to 30 during the 2011-2012 school year.

Public Comments

Chair Johnson announced that no one signed up for the second Public Comments.

Superintendent's Information

Dr. Bracy addressed the Board and audience as follows:

- I wish to commend the students, teachers and principals as we have just completed benchmarks. Some areas look good and some areas need a little work. I commend them for the job they do every day.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I have a question regarding the family activity at NCHS-West on November 2nd that is listed on the Calendar of Events.

Dr. Bracy asked Principal Wyche to address the Board to explain the activity for November 2nd.

Ms. Felisha Wyche informed the Board and audience that the activity is an advisee or advisor mentor program for our students that we do each month. Since the beginning of the year, students write down the name of their top three teachers whose family they would like to belong to. Then we use that time, which is about a 30-minute block of time, for teachers to talk to students about issues that concern them and issues that might be plaguing our student culture. Next week, we will talk about the importance of SAT scores and preparing for college. We have different topics that we discuss each time and it works very well.

Board Information

- November Calendar of Events
- Facilities Committee Meeting – November 9, 2011 – Board Conference Room – 5:00 p.m.

- NCSBA Annual Conference – November 13-16, 2011 – Greensboro, NC
- Next Regular Board Meeting – December 5, 2011 – Board Room – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Attorney Rod Malone: I would like to ask if the Policy Committee is going to meet on December 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Let me poll the committee members and I will update you at the Board Meeting on Monday night.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor and APPROVED, the Board convened in a second closed session at approximately 7:15 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 7-0.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The second closed session ended at approximately 8:00 p.m.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously APPROVED the certified personnel listed below as discussed and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. Ms. Marjorie Edwards and Mr. Kelvin Edwards were not present for the vote.

Personnel

Certified Recommendations:

Lashonda McDade, PreK Teacher, Central Elementary School, 11/8/2011

Chyral Reinhardt, Guidance Counselor, Gaston Elementary School, 10/28/11

Kerry Smith Hanline, Kindergarten Teacher, Willis Hare Elementary School, 11/21/11

Tikisha Joyner, Interim Exceptional Children's Director, Central Services, 11/1/11

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board unanimously APPROVED the tutors listed below, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. Ms. Marjorie Edwards and Mr. Kelvin Edwards were not present for the vote.

Tutor Recommendations:

Jerry Hawkins, Math Tutor, Central Elementary School, 12/1/11

Delois Purnell, Reading Tutor, Central Elementary School, 11/8/11

Johnnie Rawls, Reading Tutor, Central Elementary School, 1/3/12

For Information

Resignations:

Deborah Deloatch, English Teacher, NCHS-East, 10/28/11

Vivian King-Jackson, Guidance Counselor, Gaston Elementary School, 11/5/11

Judy Rankins, Interim Exceptional Children's Director, Central Services, 10/31/11

Terry Buffaloe, Mentor (Part-time), Rich Square-W.S. Creecy Training & Community Center, 10/27/11

Retirements:

Janett Walker, Exceptional Children Teacher, NCHS-East, 1/31/12

Evelyn Ivey, 3rd Grade Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 1/31/12

Daguerrelyn Wood, 6th Grade Science Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 1/31/12

Leave of Absence:

Jane Mann, Middle School Math Teacher, Conway Middle School, 10/23/11

Melinda Powell, Administrative Assistant, Central Services, 10/3/11

High School Merger Discussion

The Board held the following discussion regarding the high school merger:

Ms. Smith-Ingram – Chair Johnson, before we move to adjourn I would like to request that we get the follow-up information from the October meeting in regards to school consolidation? Can we get that information for the December 5th Board Meeting?

Dr. Bracy: I have that information for tonight.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Is it the Board's pleasure, Chair Johnson, that we get a copy of that tonight?

Chair Johnson: Do you mean receive a copy for review?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Just to disseminate the information so that we can make a final decision at the December Meeting. I want to be sure that we have the information, because at the October Meeting we said we wanted to look at this again. I believe that it was Board consensus that we consolidate. The only question now is what is going to be the most feasible and economical way?

Chair Johnson: I have not heard that.

Mr. Little: That is an open issue. The first thing we need to decide, are we going to merge or not merge. Then, if we are going to merge then you have to decide where.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I can recall that Chair Johnson said, "I need to know where." My comment to you at that time was, "Can we look at where later? Do we have to choose what high school it would be?" Chair Johnson said, "No." We said we wanted to move forward and last year we waited too long in the pipeline. We said this year we were not going to wait too late to put the consolidation on the table, because the decision needed to be made before December.

Chair Johnson: It was discussed at the last Work Session that it would be an action item.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Can we get the information and bring it as an action item to the next regular meeting?

Chair Johnson: Before we get into that, when is the next meeting with the County Commissioners?

Mr. Joe Holloway: That meeting is scheduled for December 12th at 5:30 p.m. here at Central Services.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: You wanted to meet with the Commissioners before we bring it out? I think that is a good idea.

Chair Johnson: I think we need to find out what is going on first.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I think that is a good idea.

Attorney Rod Malone: Does this mean you are not going to bring it to the December Meeting?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Not if we are going to have a conversation with the Commissioners on December 12th. We may as well shake hands that we are not going to consolidate next year. We are putting ourselves in the same boat we were in last year.

Mr. Little: Why does this have to interfere with our making this decision?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: We can still make our decision on December 5th and we can still meet with the Commissioners on December 12th.

Mr. Little: Absolutely, because I don't see why that should affect us making a decision. I really feel that should be one of the agenda items.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Do we need to put that in the form of a motion?

Dr. Bracy: Is there a discussion to be had this evening about whether we are going to consolidate? I would like to know.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: There is really no need for you to go and do more work if we are not going to make a decision.

Chair Johnson: All of these things we are asking for have already been done and have already been presented, but I don't think anyone has thought about KIPP is starting up a kindergarten next year. I am not being critical of KIPP. We have six Pre-K's and they are at Squire. We need to look at the enrollment at both high schools and graduating seniors. I think if we were to meet with the Commissioners and if we have a plan ready on December 5th then why not have a joint meeting on December 12th to discuss what our intentions are. I was in favor of a new school and was greatly disappointed when the Commissioners said they are not going to help fund it. But, that was the best thing that happened to us financially because we could not afford it. We also need to look at our numbers too, because we were talking about an 850 capacity school. We don't need an 850 capacity high school. If we could cut that size down and go with what we have. Those are some of the things we need to know.

Dr. Bracy: It is anticipated next year that we will have 622 high school students.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: We have had this discussion about KIPP adding the kindergarten. That was the whole reason I threw out the suggestion about renovating Central. Dr. Bracy's response to that was, "Think about the Commissioners and what they said about money and they would also say why would they renovate Central when they already have two high schools." We have had this dialogue and I think everyone was at that point saying, based on the Superintendent's recommendation, because I will be the first one to say I have since changed my view. I don't believe we are going to have the enrollment of high school students to continue to send our resources in two different directions. Do you know how many times you have said we need to consolidate our efforts?

Dr. Bracy: But, I have never recommended to the Board to consolidate our high schools.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Then what was the suggestion when you said consolidate our resources with one site?

Dr. Bracy: I said, "If we are going to consolidate our high schools, it is going to either be at NCHS-East or NCHS-West."

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I am not talking location, but just merging the students and having all of your resources concentrated at one school.

Dr. Bracy: Ideally, there would also be a centralized high school at a central location. Part of my saying ideally came with the hope of having a new high school, but that is not going to happen.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: So now what is plan B?

Dr. Bracy: The plan B is, what does this Board want to do? We have had presentation after presentation and all of the information that Mr. Matthews has shared with both ends of the county. Do we want one high school or two? That is where we are.

Mr. Little: We have not made that decision and that needs to be made. Depending upon what it is, the next step is assuming that we merge, the next step is where and then the next step is what are the tasks and timelines. We would in essence have to agree to a time, which would be 2012-2013 or 2013-2014.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: When we were talking about budget last year, we talked about what was going to help with the budgetary cuts. Dr. Bracy's response was, "If we could concentrate all of our efforts into one high school."

Ms. Smith-Ingram: How many times do we have to beat it over the head. I just think that we should all come ready to make a decision on December 5th.

Chair Johnson: It is the Chair's responsibility along with the Superintendent to make the agenda. If we come up with a good plan and we can convince the Commissioners of our plan that we have downsized what we were asking for. If we are going to go that route with a new facility then we have to convince them that this is what we want to do and we have to get them on board to do that. There is nothing we can do by ourselves because of the financial situation.

Mr. Little: We don't know how much finances will be required. We have to make a decision and then decide where and make a positive decision. Different places are going to require different finances.

Attorney Rod Malone: It seems to me that if there were a central location, you would consolidate tomorrow. The harder question is, are you willing to close one school and transport the kids to the other end of the county? It is a very difficult question, but it does not help you to have an imaginary vote about closing a school if you don't decide whether you are going to send them to the East or the West.

Dr. Bracy: That is the way it is going to go. All the kids are going to be at East or all at West. You have 400 students at East that will have to travel to West and you have 207 students at West that will have to travel to East.

Attorney Rod Malone: Then West has the better building and we can go on and on. I know the presentations and it does not change. It is an unbelievable, difficult decision at an open meeting.

Ms. Taylor: What is going to stop them from going to KIPP or Hertford County, etc.?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Those were the discussions we were supposed to have since last year. Since last year's public hearing, we were supposed to have these discussions and have this follow-up. We just don't finish a task.

Attorney Rod Malone: It is a hard question.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: It is not going to go away and we have to deal with it.

Attorney Rod Malone: It does seem at some level that each year you continue to crank up and run the two schools. As bad as it may look financially, it seems like every year you are able to do it.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I know that East's students do very well, but I just don't think that building is suitable for them to stay there and for us to continue to sending them there.

Attorney Rod Malone: So that sounds like we should close East.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I still don't like to idea of sending kids all across the county whether it is to the east end or the west end. It is time for us to look at modifying or renovating some schools that we currently have. We have several buildings we can work with, especially if we are going to be downsizing our elementary schools. There is not a lot of hard work that needs to be done. Let us just look at the projections. How much would it cost to renovate Central?

Dr. Bracy: To renovate Central would cost approximately \$12,000,000.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: We can renovate Conway and have West as the high school and Conway as the one middle school or Conway as the one high school and West as the one middle school.

Dr. Bracy: We may have to open Creecy back up.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: With the elementary schools, we may have to do that. Those are the decisions we need to make. KIPP has lost plenty of kids this year also. It was rare for them to lose kids in the upper grades and some of them have gone to Weldon.

Dr. Bracy: West have had some of KIPP's kids to come back.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: We must be very strategic when we make our plans. Just imagine the competition that we will be able to offer and will be able to attract those kids back.

Dr. Bracy: Those kids at West do not like the small high school. They have said they want to merge and meet some new people.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: High school students want to be with high school students.

Dr. Bracy: They have just built a new gymnasium at Jones High for \$2.5 million.

Mr. Matthews: The architect has given us a report to convert Central to a 600 student high school and would cost \$12,000,000.

Attorney Rod Malone: Is that including the gymnasium?

Mr. Matthews: Yes, but not including the athletic fields.

Mr. Johnson: You won't have to worry about the baseball, softball, soccer, etc., because they can play that on the hill anyway.

Dr. Bracy: What happens to the students at Central?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: We put some at Seaboard-Coates, some at Willis Hare and some at Squire.

Mr. Matthews: If you had \$12,000,000 for the high school you could leave Central where it is. But, we don't have \$12,000,000.

Dr. Bracy: I think we can all agree that we need one high school.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I don't think we can all agree, because you and I are the only two people who have said that.

Attorney Rod Malone: From what I have heard, I don't think there is a consensus one way or the other to transport kids from one extreme to the other.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: No one on this Board wants to do that.

Chair Johnson: So on December 5th we will know where will be next year this time.

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Little, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Approved: March 5, 2012

Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent