

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, February 13, 2012**

Members Present: Donald Johnson, Chair; Bill Little, Erica Smith-Ingram, Lafayette Majette, Kelvin Edwards, Rhonda Taylor, Dr. Eric Bracy, ex officio

Members Absent: Marjorie Edwards

Others Present: Administration, press and interested parties

The Northampton County Board of Education held its regular meeting on February 13, 2012 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Chair Donald Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:3 p.m.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Majette and APPROVED, the Board convened in closed session at approximately 5:40 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. Erica Smith-Ingram, Mr. Kelvin Edwards and Ms. Marjorie Edwards were not present for the vote.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. The first closed session ended at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Board Agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Little, the Board approved to amend the agenda to add a second closed session, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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 a Good News Award Certificate to the following recipients:

Georgia Pacific Grant – Ms. Catina Jackson-Hoggard, Principal, Central Elementary School, was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for receiving a **grant** from **Georgia Pacific** of Conway, NC. Ms. Hoggard was presented a check in the amount of **\$2,000.00** from Georgia Pacific. The grant will be used to build a literacy library at Central Elementary School.

N.C. School Leadership Program Grant – Ms. Myrna Goldberg and Ms. Pamela Miles, Central Services Instructional Coaches, were recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for writing and receiving a **grant** from **Elizabeth City State University** through the **North Carolina School Leadership Program** in the amount of **\$18,500.00**. The problem-based initiative is entitled, “Every Child Reading: Connecting Students with Books”. These funds will be used to purchase language arts materials for K-5 classrooms.

Virginia Tech Honors Band – Blacksburg, Virginia – A student at Conway Middle School, **Jamonta Branch**, was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for being chosen to **participate** in the **Virginia Tech Honors Band in Blacksburg, Virginia**.

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 “Self-Discipline” for the month of January:

Kaeden Cherry (absent), Central Elementary School

Jaheem Bynum (absent), Squire Elementary School

Marieshia Richardson (absent), Northampton West Stem High School

Bria Webb (absent), Northampton County High School-East

Gilbert Farrow, Willis Hare Elementary School

Rayne Eaton (absent), Conway Middle School

Marissa Anderson, Gaston Elementary School

Public Comments

The following persons addressed the Board during Public Comments:

Ms. Brenda Phillips – “Good afternoon everyone, Dr. Bracy and Board Members. I thank you for this opportunity. Something happened last year between NCHS-East and NCHS-West, they both received AYP. You had personnel and administration in place and the children were in place. You did a wonderful, supper job! It appalls me and upsets me that you want to move everybody at this point. As I said before, leave things as they are until you can build a central location. I hope you had the opportunity, since our visit, to go back to the Board and really think things over. As I predicted it would happen and it did happen in Pleasant Hill that when I went by Gaston Prep the other day they were breaking ground. They were breaking ground in red, clay mud and I said they would do that. They can put up a school in two days. Just to prove my point, as I was sitting here looking over the agenda for tonight someone passed me something. I want to you know that they are eating this up and they are going ahead of us. I am saying all of that to say this, if they open a kindergarten and you have a child in kindergarten and other children, where do you think they are going to let them go? What is going to happen to the western end of the school system? So I say to you, we have not received a response and have you had the opportunity to think about it? That is a yes or no question, but I hope so. As I go to my seat I just want to say one thing, as I look each one of you in the eye just do the right thing by our children. Just do the right thing by our children. Just do the right thing by our children.”

Ms. LaToya Williams – “I am but one voice and I am a proud of Squire School Elementary parent. I am an educator, an engineer and a product of Northampton County Schools. I attended Squire Elementary, Gaston Middle and I attended NCHS-West. I stand here in solidarity with the Save Our Children initiative who are looking to make sure that the corner stone in our community stays there. I would like to present the Board with alternatives. There are alternatives to merging schools into consolidation and I know that with your help we can assure that all schools in Northampton County are provided with an

improved STEM and 21st Century skill-centered curriculum, greater physical efficiency, increase in teacher salaries, better school support services and increased family interaction that will inevitably, without a doubt improve learning incomes of our students. I think we can do this through two programs that are asking for none of your budget dollars, will provide students with the opportunity otherwise not available, that could generate inter-campus collaborative opportunities with students and parents, that generate cost savings and future cost of potential revitalization, community engagement through. Save Our Children Initiative: We need freedom and moving them won't do it. Make students marketable.

21st Youth Project – Chicago – will work with our students. One hundred percent improvement on the SAT. Programs that will make our students marketable. Would like a session with the Board to further elaborate. Take me up on my offer.

Mr. Richie Hardy – “How concerned are you about what is happening? With all that is going on there has been no response from the Board. With our children's livelihood at stake, we have received no response addressing our concerns. In March 2010, Mr. Johnson informed you that the citizens from Lake Gaston pay 30% of the taxes for the county. These are the people that we need to have at these forums. This is a forum concerning addressing the schools and they are here Mr. Johnson, but you just don't talk to them. Dr. Bracy was there and he wanted to know how they felt about the Wellness Center. They paid for it with the high school and the school system's money. Where does the school system get their money? The taxpayers I believe. We found out one week later from Mr. Tyner that the engineers suggested doing nothing with that building, because it is deteriorating and add two more years of that deteriorating process. KIPP is excavating right now for a new elementary school where parents from the surrounding areas allow 7-10 year old children to travel to Gaston and travel the same distances that the high school students do. Within in five years when KIPP Elementary School is in full swing, Gaston Elementary will have little to no students. If parents can get into KIPP to get their kids into KIPP at the kindergarten level that will ensure a local school student through to the 12th grade, what will they do. We are looking at one public school on the western end of the county within about five years. Will there be a need of one school to house 4-5 grade levels? Teachers, principals and support staff all of those jobs will be gone. We need you to concentrate on keeping all of our schools open somehow, someway. Talk to the people and let them know what is needed. We need these schools open. Thank you.”

Mr. Anthony Roberts – “Good afternoon Board Members and the public. I stand before you tonight just to request some information from the Board. I was reviewing some previous board minutes and in those minutes it stated that it would take \$12 million to renovate Central Elementary for the high school merger, it would take \$3.5 million to renovate NCHS-West and \$5 million to renovate NCHS-East. If possible, I would like a copy of the scope of work, including the itemized list and projected cost of each construction or renovation item. If so, would you please include the method of soliciting the bids for the work, what vendors placed bids, how the particular vendor was proposed and how was particular vendor affected that proposed those amounts? The reason I am asking for this information as Mr. Hardy just stated that we are about to put \$5 million dollars into a school that is out dated and won't even meet standards. I was wondering if I could get this information so we can be on the same page about who the Board came about this decision. Will someone be contacting me so I can start receiving this information?”

Chair Johnson answered, I am sure that we can with all that is available, such as the minutes and anything else that is available.

Mr. Anthony Roberts – “Thank you.”

Ms. Ella Lundy: “Good afternoon. This is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. Dr. Bracy, let me convey my condolences to you during the passing of your mother. To this wonderful School Board, I have never had the opportunity to say this so I wanted to say it tonight, because there are a lot of things I don’t understand. I come to try to understand and to try to learn. As I said at the forum the other night, this was talked about in 1967 at the time I graduated from Gumberry. Maybe not this School Board, but they talked about building a centrally located high school. So you know how many years that has been and it hasn’t been built. But, it is not this Board’s fault it is the other Board’s fault. This was here when you got there so you inherited it. I still want you to look at the travel time that it takes to get from NCHS-West or how far the children have to come and the cost of bringing NCHS-East up-to-date. As I heard earlier, there is cost. I am asking this Board to do what you can. I don’t know whether you think if I will stop coming I will stop asking. I marched during the 1960’s Civil Rights movement. I was marching for Leggett to hire blacks in that store. I was twelve years old, so I won’t give up. I will do like the scripture says, you will get tired of seeing us and then you will do something about it. Give us a comment one way or another, because we have been coming and we haven’t had a comment from the Board yet. I keep hearing in the atmosphere that it is a done deal. What is a done deal? Nothing is a done deal, because it is about the kids, the travel time, putting those students on the bus. I can guarantee you that you are going to have problems with time. How much sex do you think they will have on the bus with that travel time. It has been reported in other areas, but we don’t want that happening to our children. You give children enough freedom they will break their necks. Board, think about that and consider that.”

Rev. Richard Webb – “Good evening everyone. I praise the Lord for my being here, Dr. Bracy, Chairman and the Board Members. I stand again to represent the concerned citizens that are here on the East and the West ends of the county. I consider us being one, because we all are taxpayers in this county, parents in this community and students in this county. A lot has been said here again tonight. It seems that this Board is failing to recognize, hear and listen to the voice of the people. Either the Board is ignoring the taxpayer and the citizens who are concerned. What is it that this is Board holding back? Why isn’t the Board being honest with the citizens and the parents who have students in our county schools? This merger is not only going to affect the students, but it has an impact on the loss of jobs and gives an opportunity to private and charter schools to expand their enrollment. I believe that the schools’ Education Board should educate children in the community in which they live. Not in busing them 3 hours to another location. You said two hours, but I know it is 3 hours because I have rode buses from the western end to the eastern end. As a matter of fact, I use to drive 6 hours from the western end. That means I was getting state benefits, because that is how long it took me to run from the East end to the West end. There are a lot of things you have not looked at and that is the time that bus leaves, the time you pick up that child and how many students that bus has to stay in that area to pick up. It will take that bus about 30 minutes if you are picking up 30 to 40 children in an area, so you are adding another 30 minutes or an hour to where you have to come with children. You are not going to tell me how long it takes to make a run, because I have driven a bus. Here we are tonight, our agendas have not changed and our position remains the same and the Board has not responded to anything. I guess you are doing like you have done in the past. You are just going to let folks talk and you are going on about your business and don’t say anything. But, tonight we need an answer. I have not only asked this, it has been asked by our State President of the NAACP. Mr. Tyner said you all never respond. We wonder when will you respond? We need an answer. If you want us to follow and you be our leader, you need to

give us something to go on. You are refusing to give the students the opportunity and the taxpaying citizens and honest answer. When I read the minutes, was the Board honest about NCHS-East being unsafe and unsanitary for students? Was the Board honest about closing NCHS-East and moving it to NCHS-West? I guess not, because you are going on with your agenda. Was the Board honest on the MBAJ Report when you spent \$16,600.00 for a study? Money spent for nothing. Were you honest? I guess not. You are still going about doing what you are doing. Was the Board honest when you said, we should listen to the citizens? But, you are going ahead with your plans. That lets me know you are not listening to us. Who are you listening to and what is your agenda? I heard Mr. Roberts asking about a copy of a planned scope of work that you have done and how you are going about doing what you are doing. Well, are you honest about that? I have read in previous minutes that you have never given a report and you still haven't given a financial report as of today. Was the Board honest in the General Statute 115C-72 to share it with the students and the citizens what the Statute says about consolidating? I guess not. You still have not answered, but I will take a few minutes before I sit down to let you answer these people who are here tonight. You need to answer these people. Mr. Chairman, we need to know something. We can't keep on coming here and every time you say you will get back with us, but you haven't gotten back with us yet. We need an answer. Chair Johnson: Rev. Webb, I did respond to you and you got your letter and we have given you all of the things you have asked for.

Rev. Richard Webb – I will tell you what you wrote in the letter. The letter was about a meeting that you were having on January 19th. That was the response in the letter, but it was not responding to the questions that were asked of you when many stood here.

Chair Johnson: Did we not meet after that meeting Sir?

Rev. Richard Webb – “We met, but who met? The citizens met, but you did not meet. You were not there. You said we met in the back, but what did we come up with? Did we leave the table with anything?”

Chair Johnson: No Sir you didn't and that was stated in the letter.

Rev. Richard Webb – “That is what I am saying, you met on January 19th and we were waiting to hear from the Board. The letter you sent me stated we that will have another forum, but when you had the forum, we were there talking and the Board said nothing. So, what are we meeting for? Here we are tonight and the citizens are here waiting for an answer. Do you have an answer tonight for us?”

Chair Johnson: Your time is up Sir, I am sorry. You have had beyond your 3 minutes.

Ms. Shelia Johnson – “Good evening everyone. I don't have a lot to say, I am just here as a mother who has a son who has two more years in Northampton County before he graduates. In talking with him he does not want to go down to NCHS-East. I wish to ask you to reconsider your decision to merge the students. I would like for you to take a look at obtaining a new school within five years down the road with what students you have now and work at bringing the east and west end together. Lets go back as a community to the County Commissioners and ask them to help us build a new school. I think you are acting in haste. I am concerned about the transition period and I don't want my son spending the next two years transitioning to NCHS-East. You may buy new uniforms and you may paint the school, but it is still their school. I don't want you to interfere with his home school. For a year you have been talking about a school merger, what have you done to finance it? You say you don't have the money, but are you saving. Are you going to have \$3 or \$4 million dollars when you go back to the County Commissioners? Are you doing anything different? When you go back and they don't give

you're the money to build a school, what are you going to do with the kids then? Are they going to be stuck down there at NCHS-East? These are just my concerns and like I said, I have a son who does not want to go to NCHS-East. Since he does not want to do, I don't want him down there either."

Chair Johnson announced, that was the last person on the Public Comments section the Board would be taking a 5-minute break at this time.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Chair Johnson, before we take a break and I do understand that we as Board Members cannot comment during Public Comments. I feel the need to say this and I will risk the sanction from this Board, because I believe in what I am about to say. We have called the community out and they have been out meeting after meeting. We put them on a timer, we have listened to what they have to say, but we have not given them a response. The dialogue has been one-sided. At that meeting on January 19th that was held at the Cultural Arts and Wellness Center, I counted them and 102 people were present. A large majority of them drove from the western end of the county. Chair Johnson, I don't know what was going on, because you were not there and the Board Attorney was not there. It was almost patronizing to bring those people out and then put them on a time clock. Once again, these people elected us to serve their best interest and if we were good enough for them to vote for us, I think they are good enough that we can sit down at the table people to people, person to person, community to community and have an honest dialogue. We have got to stop this, they come and they are looking to us, we say what we want to say, we hear them, but then there is no exchange. I have talked with several Board Members and another Board Member actually brought this up to me. It is important for us if we can we schedule a meeting with the Save Our Children committee or we can come together and have an honest conversation. To continue in this way they are not going to get tired they will keep coming back. Quite honestly, I cannot look at them another meeting and have them plead with us and we have the audacity to sit up here and not even give them a response. If it is your pleasure, can we set a meeting, contact their designee and sit down as Board Members and really talk like we are human beings and have the ability to even speak in common reason together?

Break

The Board recessed in a five-minute break at 7:30 p.m. Following the break, Chair Johnson announced to the Board that they would be deviating from the agenda at this time, as it is necessary to go into closed session.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards and APPROVED, the Board reconvened in its second closed session at approximately 7:45 p.m. pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Board's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Open Session

A motion was made and seconded to go into open session. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. The second closed session ended at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Chair Johnson addressed the audience and stated that the Board apologizes for taking so long, but we were trying to go through the agenda. Following closed session, the Board held the following dialogue:

Mr. K. Edwards: I would like to piggyback on what we were talking about before we went into closed session. We went into closed session for discussion as you heard and listening to our constituents this evening we felt that we would like to take the opportunity, and I address Rev. Webb, to meet with you and two or three constituents of the Save Our Schools group this evening in a dialogue so that we are not just listening, but exchanging dialogue. What I am hearing is that we are not in conversation with each other and that the Board has just been listening.

Rev. Richard Webb – “Chair Johnson, I appreciate your offer at this time, but tonight I cannot meet. Are there any other times that we can get together, because tonight it is just impossible? If you come up with a time my time is flexible, but just not tonight. Just let me know the date and time.”

Ms. Taylor: Tonight would be the best for me, if there are three people available who can meet? If you cannot meet Rev. Webb if there are three other people who can? In fact, after the last Board meeting a couple of Board Members met with you all and we were not privileged to that. I hear out in the community, but I want to have dialogue and we are here tonight and it is hard to get us all here together at the same time. The three Board Members who have not met with you would like to meet with three people to hear your concerns. Most of you have shared your concerns, but if you don't mind we will be glad to meet with three people.

Rev. Richard Webb – “It seems to me that you are saying you will meet with three people at a time. Why don't you set up a time when we can meet with the whole Board and everyone will be involved since it is concerning our children? If we meet with three people this time, they will have their opinion and if we meet with three the next time they will have their opinion and we still will not have gotten anywhere. Everyone will have a different opinion.”

Chair Johnson: The reason why we said three people is because the law says we can only have three board members in dialogue at a time. That is why we met with three people the last time and the others were not privileged to the conversation that we had with you. That is why we said the three who were not at the last meeting would have an opportunity to meet with you and your group. We were anticipating and hoping it could be done tonight so that you as the spokesperson for the group, since I recall at the last meeting about six people turned their time over to you. That is the reason why we are doing it this way.

Rev. Richard Webb – “I would like to ask your lawyer a question. Mr. Malone, is it your job to inform the rest of the Board Members who were not in that meeting at that time? Is it your job to do that? If we met with three the last time, when you came back into your session could you discuss that with everyone about what was discussed in that meeting?”

Attorney Rod Malone – There are certain things that can be discussed, but there are a lot of things that the Board needs to discuss out here. I think, Chair Johnson, it is your plan to schedule a special meeting on just this topic is that correct?

Chair Johnson – I was going to ask Ms. Harris to set up at the earliest convenience a session where the Board would only be discussing the situation concerning the merger.

Attorney Rod Malone: Part of the problem, typically as you are aware and with other Boards, is that Boards receive information and they discuss and debate it amongst themselves. The interaction between the Board and the community typically does not receive an explanation. Typically, you don't find a lot of exchange between the Board and the public over issues that are on the agenda. The Board receives information from the public, because they want to know what the public is thinking, but you don't find a lot of give and take. What Chair Johnson felt at the last meeting was that some give and take would be useful to have and that is why he suggested

that a couple of community people and a couple of Board Members sit down and dialogue. I thought it was very productive actually in terms of the exchange of ideas, because it is important to try to get a new school centrally located. I think that time spent mattered, because it did not necessarily have to be with you, but with other concerned people so that get a sense of what they might be missing in what they are receiving from the public. I think that was what they were thinking and they were kind of hoping to do that prior to Chair Johnson's attempt to schedule a special meeting on the issue, because they know during the special meeting they won't have that give and take. It does not necessarily have to be you Rev. Webb, but as long as it is someone from the community who is concerned about this issue since there are quite a few people who are here and are concerned.

Rev. Richard Webb – “I think with the magnitude of the issue that we have before that the Board could somehow schedule a time when we can meet. When you have the magnitude of an issue we have before us now, I have seen School Boards meet with people. The whole Board meets with people and one or two people come to meet with the whole Board. Especially, when you have a matter such as this. However you want to do it, I am not saying we are not going to do it. I just don't have the time tonight. If there is anyone else here that you want to ask and they want to do it that is up to them.”

Mr. K. Edwards: Are there any other constituents from the Save our Schools cohort that would like to meet with the Board this evening?

Ms. Bettie Bennett – “The main ones might be gone already. If they were informed about this meeting with you earlier or at the last meeting that would have been better. Now, we don't hardly have anyone here. They need time to see and research what you said about meeting with two or three people. I am really here for children and I know you all are too. As Rev. Webb stated, he needs time to get back with the group and if you only need to meet with three that is fine. Give us some time, because you went back into closed session and we have waited patiently for you. I think you should wait and give him a chance to get with his group. We need to be fair, because we have been struggling long enough. I am going to tell you one thing about me, I don't make much money in this school system, but I tutor kids every afternoon at Squire School from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The SACS team up there at Squire told me that I cannot retire right now with the work I am are doing. I think they need time to elaborate. We stand at the polls in the rain and the mud and we want to give this education to these children. Every one of you on this Board has a good education. I don't work for money, I work for free and I refuse to not to give this education to these children. We don't want to lose these kids. We need to stand for these kids. Give Rev. Webb an opportunity to go back and get with his group.”

Mr. K. Edwards – A job well-done Ms. Bennett! When we stated about meeting tonight, it was because it was stated that we needed to give an answer tonight. That is what we heard prior to going into closed session. That is the spirit and the only spirit of saying meet tonight.

Ms. Betty Bennett – “Even though you asked for tonight, you still need to give them some time.”

Ms. Smith-Ingram – I call for the Point of Privilege, because it is 9:26 p.m.

Mr. Anthony Roberts – “We are all here looking for the same answer as well as Rev. Webb. If you want to tell us something you can tell us right here, because it is the same people who want to know.”

Chair Johnson: That is one of reasons that I said earlier as to why we cannot have the dialogue because people get emotional about what they are thinking and they say things that I would rather not have at this time. We also need to finish our agenda and we will return to it at this time.

Ms. Rosa Kelly: “Chair Johnson, before we start back on the agenda I would like to say that I have sat here and listened. I feel like that as an adult and everyone in this room is an adult that out of the respect for each of them, please give us a date and a time that we can meet with you all.”

Chair Johnson: As I stated earlier, I would ask Ms. Harris to set up a date and time for this. If you can't be there, you will be notified when that time is and you can bring your constituents.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: For clarity Chair Johnson, they will meet with the three Board Members and then we will have our meeting?

Chair Johnson: No.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: So, if they don't meet tonight then there will be no meeting.

Chair Johnson: No. In this meeting, I propose that we would build in a few minutes of discussion when the Board meets as a group. There will be a discussion between the public and the Board that is going to be scheduled by Ms. Harris. They will be notified when that date will be according to what I heard in the back during our discussion that Thursday, February 16, 2012 would be an appropriate date. Ms. Harris will schedule the meeting for Thursday and they will be invited to the meeting if that is the date that everyone can be here.

Attorney Rod Malone announced that the Board is scheduling a Special Board Meeting on this topic. Just like any other public meeting you are free to attend. I don't know at this point, but there may be some attempt to figure out a way to communicate. It is so difficult to run a meeting in that matter. There will be a meeting scheduled when Ms. Harris gets it scheduled and the public is invited to attend.

Ms. Rosa Kelly – In this meeting that Ms. Harris is going to schedule, will those questions that we asked earlier be answered?

Attorney Rod Malone: I think that the Board will take up the topic and try to work through the issues that are out there. That is the purpose of the meeting.

Ms. Rosa Kelly - There were about five topics and will you only have three concerned citizens there or will you ask for everybody?

Attorney Rod Malone: It will be a public meeting and everybody that would like to come to the meeting will be at the meeting. You are invited just like any other Board Meeting. I personally don't have a list of the five questions that you asked, but if someone would get me the list we will see what we can do to be responsive.

Ms. Rosa Kelly – “As of tonight, since we can't meet with the three people tonight you will table that?”

Chair Johnson: We will table it to a late date. We are not going to put it off and not have it. The public will be notified and by law we have to advertise it in the paper prior to any meetings that we have.

Ms. Rosa Kelly – “I am talking about the meeting with the three people?”

Attorney Rod Malone: The meeting with the three people did not work out and that is over, because the people were unavailable.

Rev. Richard Webb – “Is it because one Board Member was not available? Can't you appoint another Board Member if one cannot meet?”

Chair Johnson: Every Board Member will be at the Special Meeting.

Mr. K. Edwards: To be clear, our rationale was to meet tonight, because you wanted to exchange dialogue.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Because the group cannot meet those three Board Members are only available tonight to meet with members of the Save Our Schools. If you can't meet tonight there is not going to be another time.

Mr. Majette: The meeting will be all Board Members and the concerned citizens together.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: That still defeats the purpose of what we are trying not to do.

Ms. Vanessa Smith: "You have three people here who will meet. I hold a Masters from Norfolk State University, because legally what they are saying to you is that they offered you a chance to speak. We are not going to refuse the chance to speak. I know there are a lot of issues and concerns and I will gladly meet with you and whom ever the other two persons are. The fact that the three people who are on the Board are saying that had not had a chance to hear the issues then I will put that back on you, because you invited us to a forum at the Wellness Center. I am just sitting here wondering what has happened to those people I voted for, because you are here for the children and I hear what you are saying, but your actions are not with what you are saying. I will stay and meet, but let it not be said that you ask for something and you didn't have enough people from the community to stand beside them."

Rev. Richard Webb – "We will stay for the meeting is someone will take my family home. If I can find a ride home for my wife and granddaughter, I will stay for the meeting. I think we have three more people who can meet."

Ms. Vanessa Smith: "Don't let it not be said that the public did not stand its ground."

Chair Johnson announced that it is final and the meeting will take place following the end of the Board Meeting.

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED the consent agenda consisting of the following items, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Board Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 3, 2011 and October 24, 2011

Request for Fund Raiser

Central Elementary School-wide – Jump Road for Heart – February 15, 2012 – March 15, 2012

Central Elementary School-wide – Candy Sale – February 27, 2012 – March 19, 2012

Gaston Elementary School-wide – Candy Man – February 15, 2012 – March 5, 2012

NCHS-East – Prom Committee – Valentine's Day Candy Grams – February 6-10, 2012

NCHS-East – Prom Committee – Prom Prince & Princess/King & Queen Fundraiser – February 7, 2012 – March 23, 2012

NCHS-East – Prom Committee – Faculty-Student Basketball Game & Concessions – March 2, 2012

NCHS-West – JROTC – Candy Sale – February 6, 2012 – March 8, 2012

NCHS-West – SGA – Non-Profit Fundraiser for African Women – February 14, 2012 – April 6, 2012

NCHS-West – Band/Choir – Cookie Dough Sale – February 3-21, 2012

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and North Carolina Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat – Central Auditory Processing Disorder Services – Effective: January 10, 2012 through March 22, 2012

Business Before the Board for Information

West Side Goes Green Project - Mr. Phil Matthews informed the Board that Northampton County High School-West and Gaston Elementary School will be participating in the **Green For All** and the **252 Revitalization Project**. In an effort to raise student awareness about how

greening the earth and saving money can be a basis for better living in Northampton County, they are partnering with the national and local organizations **Green For All** and **252 Revitalization Project**.

Ms. Jada Drew, a former resident of Rich Square and a former Northampton County High School East student, is a representative of both organizations. She will visit our schools and help to increase student awareness by discussing the following:

- What are green jobs and why are they important?
- What is the process to use to weatherize homes and how does that help the environment?
- How can we recycle clothes?
- How can a community garden help feed the community as well as save the environment?

Some of the activities the students will participate in include: Go Green Day on February 12, 2012; a breakfast with community partners; Go Green assemblies; a “So Fresh and So Green” dress contest and an art and science contest. Both schools are requesting permission to allow students to dress out of uniform for the dress contest. Mr. Matthews further stated that the mission of the **252 Revitalization “Go Green” Project** is to use the concepts of greening the earth and saving money as a basis for better living in Northampton County.

Directors’ Updates – Mr. Matthews shared the Directors’ Updates with the Board for the month of January 2012.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Last year this time we did a great job with making sure all of our seniors had applied to at least one or two schools. I have been watching for that report, but I have not seen it. Can you get an update on how many seniors have applied to college and how many have been accepted at both of our high schools and the Alternative School?

Mr. Matthews: I think that information came out last year during our March or April meeting.

Business Before the Board for Approval

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Schools in School Improvement Plans for Gaston Elementary and Squire Elementary Schools in mathematics, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. K. Edwards: I thought that was a well put together plan for our students’ acceleration.

On a MOTION by Mr. K. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Little, the Board unanimously APPROVED the personnel listed below as revised and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards, the Board APPROVED Pam Majette as the Exceptional Children Director, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0. Mr. Lafayette Majette and Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram abstained.

Personnel

Certified Recommendations:

Julie Darden, 1st Grade Teacher, Willis Hare Elementary School, 2/7/12

Danielle Smith, English Teacher, NCHS-East, 1/30/12

Alana Metheny, English Teacher, NCHS-East, 2/8/12

Ellie Garner-Rhondes, Allied Health Teacher, 2/14/12

Classified Recommendations:

Clara J. Robinson, Substitute Bus Driver – All Schools, 2/14/12

Dorene D. Rooks, Substitute Bus Driver – All Schools, 2/14/12

Velvet D. Powell, Substitute Bus Driver – All Schools, 2/14/12

Jennifer Peete Posey, Substitute Bus Driver – All Schools, 2/14/12

Jeraldine Brooks, Tutor, Squire Elementary, 2/7/12

Mary Shackelford, Tutor, Squire Elementary, 2/7/12

Denise Patterson, Tutor, Squire Elementary, 2/7/12

Claudine Wilson, Tutor, NCHS-West, 1/24/12

Gladys B. Balmer, Substitute Teacher, 2/7/12

Delmeshia Jones, Substitute Teacher, 2/7/12

Resignations:

Jibrell Davis, Job Coach, NCHS-West, 2/1/12 (Accepting a 6th grade position at Gaston Elementary)

Shelia Salita (Burns), Exceptional Children Teacher, Conway Middle School, 2/17/12

Eliot Raynor, Spanish Teacher, NCHS-East, 1/20/12

Board Information

- February Calendar of Events
- NCSBA Special Issue Seminars – February 23-24, 2012 – NCSBA Assembly Hall – Raleigh, NC
- Next Regular Board Meeting – March 5, 2012 – Board Room – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- NCSBA Superintendent & Administrator Contract Issues Webinar – March 6, 2012
- NCSBA School Law Academy – March 12-13, 2012 – NCSBA Assembly Hall – Raleigh, NC

Ms. Beverly Underdue – Good evening everyone. I would like to address the Board before you move to adjournment. I would like to know what the Board intends to do with Garysburg Elementary School?

Chair Johnson: We as a Board voted to declare that property surplus and offered it to the County Commissioners and it is my understanding that they refused our offer. I cannot answer why, but we as a Board realize what Mr. Bell was trying to do and what the people in the Garysburg community was trying to do and we wanted to work with them closely.

Ms. Beverly Underdue – Are you saying that School Board still owns the property?

Chair Johnson: Yes, as of right now.

Ms. Beverly Underdue – Is it possible for the School Board to give the building to the Town of Garysburg?

Chair Johnson: We cannot do that.

Ms. Beverly Underdue – It is possible for the School Board to sell Garysburg Elementary School to the Town of Garysburg for \$1.00?

Chair Johnson: We entered into a contract with them on a lease and we are not able to do as you just said. We cannot give it to them for \$1.00.

Ms. Beverly Underdue – What will happen to the school?

Chair Johnson: At the present time the City of Garysburg is responsible for the school during their leasing time.

Ms. Beverly Underdue – What happens after the lease is up?

Chair Johnson: They can renew the lease for another ten years. By law that is all we can do, but the County could have done more.

Ms. Beverly Underdue – Can the Board re-offer the school of the Commissioners for \$1.00?

Chair Johnson: We have to give it back to them and if I am not mistaken if we transfer it to them or they buy it from us it has to be at fair market value.

Ms. Beverly Underdue – Thank you, but that is not what the paper said that I read. It was in the Daily Herald and I will bring you the paper.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I have a question regarding the contracted services under the Consent Agenda. I thought a contract of the amount of \$150,000 would have to be voted on under Business Before the Board for Approval.

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Approved: June 4, 2012

Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent