

**REGULAR MEETING  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Monday, April 2, 2012**

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 April 2, 2012 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 Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Majette and APPROVED, the Board convened in closed session at approximately 5:35 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 4-0. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram, Ms. Marjorie Edwards and Mr. Kelvin Edwards were not present for the vote.

**Open Session**

A motion was made and seconded to go into open session. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The closed session ended at approximately 6:45 p.m.

**Approval of Board Agenda**

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED to amend the agenda to add the following addendum items: senior class overnight field trip and a band/choir overnight field trip, 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.

**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 "Kindness" for the month of March:

Mikayla Edwards (absent), Central Elementary School  
Korea Tyler (absent), Conway Middle School  
Ty`Esha Simmons (absent), Gaston Elementary School  
David Barnes (absent), Northampton County Alternative School  
Makayla Hobbs (absent), Northampton County High School-East  
Jan Quonte Clayton (absent), Northampton West Stem High School  
A`lanta Squire, Squire Elementary School  
Alana Richardson, Willis Hare Elementary School

**Introduction of New Personnel**

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

Dawn Gonzales, Earth Science Teacher, NCHS-East

**Public Comments**

The following person addressed the Board during Public Comments:

*Mr. Richie Harding* – “Students, parents and citizens, we are not about the educational issues. Students’ time has run out because of excessive trials and poor educational performance. Once the new elementary school opens in Gaston, how many students do you anticipate will leave the public schools? With every student moved from one school to another to ensure that no more schools will have to close, will that child be placed on the eastern end or will they continue to be on the western end? How much money will you save by making NCHS-West a non-high school? Are you sure that the health issues that are at NCHS-East will not affect the students? When this decision was finally made at the end of the last meeting, how were you able to get a mascot name and school colors so fast? Is it that the decision had already been made? Is it possible that an answer can be given to any question that comes forward? Maybe one day when I see you in a grocery store or somewhere in one of our communities, you can pull me to the side and tell me how you really felt about the situation. You can tell me how you tossed and turned in bed at night and how you could not sleep because you knew this was wrong, but today we will move forward. It is time to allow the misfortunes of the past to be the past. I will continue to do all that I can for my community and hope that you will do the same. Thank you.”

Chair Johnson: Thank you Mr. Hardy.

**Break**

Chair Johnson announced that the Board would take a 5-minute break at this time.

**Consent Agenda**

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram SECONDED by Ms. M. 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 7-0.

Board Minutes – Closed Session – March 5, 2012

Regular Meeting – December 5, 2011

Request for Fund Raiser

NCHS-East – Civics & Economic Class – Community/School Project – April 3, 2012 – June 1, 2012

NCHS-West – Senior Class – Senior Class Scholarship Donations – April 3, 2012 – June 4, 2012

NCHS-West – Senior Class – Doughnut Sale – April 16-27, 2012

NCHS-West School-Wide – Alumni Game – April 21, 2012

**Business Before the Board for Information**

**Senior Report 2012** – Mr. Phil Matthews shared with the Board the Senior Report for the 2012 graduates as March 28, 2012. The report showed the following updated data:

	# Seniors	# Higher Ed. (accepted)	# Military (accepted)	# Higher Ed. or Military (applied)	# Scholarships (awarded)	% Seniors Higher Ed. or Military	% Seniors With Scholarships
NCHS-East	98	43	1	11	24	45%	24%

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I am glad to see the increase, but I am still concerned about the overall number. We have 45% of our students at East and 57% at West who are looking to move on from high school. Are there any incentives that were given to make sure all students have applied to at least one university or community college? Are there any competitions or in house incentives on place?

Mr. Matthews: I will have to contact the schools again to get an answer to that question.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: If you can check on that because they will be graduating in two months and we want to make sure that they move on from here. I personally would like to see 85-90% of our students having applied. I know we have some that are waiting for a decision to be made. They all need to be starting to do something or go somewhere by mid-May.

Mr. Majette: Are you saying, give them time to apply for it now or are you asking them did every child get the information to apply?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I guess what I am really requesting is that the guidance counselor at each school make sure that every student apply to a program, apprenticeship, community college, a four-year university or the military as another culminating event beyond high school. I am also asking if we could look at some incentives district-wide if that is what it takes for every senior to apply to at least one program beyond high school.

Mr. K. Edwards: The counselors and the principals are doing a good job. As we know, the State Employees Credit Union gives a \$10,000 scholarship and that is yet to be announced. We are looking for the numbers to definitely increase because the staff and faculty are working extremely hard.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: We did not have a column for how many students are still waiting so we could have a larger number, but we just want to make sure that we follow through.

**Directors' Updates** - Mr. Matthews also shared the Directors' Updates with the Board for the month of March 2012.

### **Business Before the Board for Approval**

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Proposed 2012-2013 Calendar, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The calendar includes 180 student days as allowed by the waiver of five student days for required training on the new Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards.

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Technology Plan for 2012-2014, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. Final approval of this plan will be granted by DPI after completion of their final review process. Plans must be submitted to DPI to allow LEAs to participate in all aspects of the federal Erate and state grant programs to make an LEA eligible to receive state technology funds and for an LEA to participate in the state connectivity project.

Mr. K. Edwards: this Technology Plan is a well thought out plan, especially the one-to-one laptops.

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board unanimously APPROVED the personnel list below as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

### **Personnel**

#### **Certified Recommendations:**

Torrey Nowell, Physical Education Teacher, Conway Middle School, March 29, 2012

Delmonte T. Griffin, Band/Music Teacher, Gaston Middle School, August 15, 2012

Jesus A. Mosquera, Spanish/French Teacher, NCHS-East, August 15, 2012

Classified Recommendations:

James Mason, Substitute Bus Monitor, NCS, April 16, 2012

Leave of Absence:

Hattie Hunter, P.E. Teacher, Gaston Elementary, March 13, 2012

Elaine Gwen Walton, P.E. Teacher, Willis Hare Elementary, March 9, 2012

Resignations:

Donald Winslow, Spanish Teacher, NCHS-East, March 28, 2012

Allison Heckler, P.E. Teacher, Conway Middle School, June 11, 2012

Kathryn Kendall, English/Language Arts, Conway Middle School, June 15, 2012

Lee Nadeau, Exceptional Children Teacher, NCHS-West Stem, June 15, 2012

Kenneth Polk, Music/Band Teacher, Conway Middle School, June 15, 2012

Retirements:

Ralph A. Graham, Social Studies Teacher, Northampton Co. Alternative School, July 1, 2012

H.T. Hutchenson, Health/P.E. Teacher, Northampton Co. Alternative School, July 1, 2012

Angie Merritt, English as Second Language Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, July 1, 2012

Regina Moody, Child Nutrition Assistant, NCHS-West Stem, July 1, 2012

Garland Ward, Custodian, NCHS-West Stem, July 1, 2012

Tenure Recommendations:

Edith Dimon, Elementary Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, Effective 2012-2013 School Year

Dequette Boyd, Exceptional Children Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, Effective 2012-2013 School Year

Marilyn Smith-Thompson, Kindergarten Teacher, Squire Elementary School, Effective 2012-2013 School Year

Rhonda Holmes, Art Teacher (Middle School), Conway Middle, Effective 2012-2013 School Year

Jasmine Turner, Language Arts Teacher (Middle School), Northampton Co. Alternative School, Effective 2012-2013 School Year

Willie Swain, Art Teacher (High School), NCHS-East, Effective 2012-2013 School Year

**Overnight Field Trips**

Mr. Matthews presented two overnight field trips with one for NCHS-East's senior class and one for NCHS-West's band and choir to the Board.

The Board held the following discussion regarding the overnight field trips:

Ms. Smith-Ingram: In regards to the trip for NCHS-West it looks like for grades 8-12, there is approximately a 5-1 ratio in terms of chaperones to students. Are there going to be special measures kept in place to keep the age group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders separated from the 12<sup>th</sup> graders?

Ms. Felisha Wyche addressed the Board as follows: I have met with Mr. Monte` Freeman and he has also had a meeting with all of the parents and chaperones. Measures have been taken to keep the middle school students from the high school students as far as lodging is concerned. Everyone will be traveling in a chartered bus and the middle school students normally sit at the front of the bus.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: In regards to NCHS-East it looks like the ration is about 15-1. Will you be able to take more chaperones?

Ms. Pamela Chamblee addressed the Board as follows: I don't think that will be necessary, because keep in mind that these students are seniors and we do prep our students on expectations prior to them leaving. If you go back and look at our discipline report, rarely do you see a senior at NCHS-East in

trouble or has given us any trouble. With these adults who are going, they are responsible people who were hand selected so we don't anticipate any problems with our seniors. Yes, the ratio is approximately 15-1 provided that all seniors participate.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Are you saying that any senior who has had any disciplinary incidents is not allowed to participate?

Ms. Pamela Chamblee: No, I am not saying that, but any senior who wants to participate will be able to participate.

Mr. Majette: I would like to ask if you have documentation from the parents for each student to keep in your file? I do believe that both of you keep pretty good records, but sometimes we do forget.

Ms. Pamela Chamblee: Parental permission is a standard part of the field trip package.

Ms. Felisha Wyche: Before they leave on Wednesday, Mr. Freeman will give me copies of all of the parental consent forms that they have. They all have my cell numbers. As I stated before, they met with all of the parents, chaperones and students last week and told them what the expectations are. They very well know that the same expected code of conduct that they adhere to at school will be adhered to away from school. Our students take this trip every year and we don't anticipate any problems.

Ms. Pamela Chamblee: Any medical needs of our students are kept on file and the chaperones will have these records also so that we can be prepared for any emergencies. Please be informed that the list does not mean that everyone on it will go.

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED the following Overnight Field Trips listed below, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

NCHS-West Stem Band/Choir (Grades 9-12) will travel to Orlando, Florida on April 5-8, 2012 – Mary's Tours, Inc. Bus Line

NCHS-East Senior Class will travel to Atlanta, Georgia on April 26-27, 2012 – Long Creek Bus Line

### **Board Information**

- April Calendar of Events
- NCSBA Teacher Tenure and Renewal Contracts Webinar – April 3, 2012
- NSBA 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference – April 21-23, 2012 – Boston, MA
- Next Regular Board Meeting – May 7, 2012 – Board Room – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: How many Board Members are going to the national conference?

Ms. Patricia Harris informed Ms. Smith-Ingram: We have four Board Members registered to attend the conference.

Ms. Rhonda Taylor: I would like to share that I had the opportunity to go out to Willis Hare Elementary School's Career Day. They had the entire student body to go through different stations and I thought it turned out pretty nice for the guidance counselor. If there are any other student events coming up, please invite me or any other Board Member, because I would love to take the time to attend.

Mr. K. Edwards: I feel that the SACS process at the schools went very well. I talked with the SACS Teams and I echo what they stated that things are moving well in the district. I wish to thank Dr. Bracy and all of our administrators for their leadership.

**Adjournment**

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Approved: July 16, 2012

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Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent