

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, May 7, 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 May 7, 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)(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 5-0. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram and Mr. Bill Little 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 6:28 p.m.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. Marjorie Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Board Agenda, 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:

North Carolina State University Check Presentation – On behalf of the **Upper Coastal Plain Learning Council of Rocky Mount** and **North Carolina State University**, **Dr. Kathy L. Lawson**, Community Outreach Specialist/Student Success and **Ms. Cindy Peck**, Teacher Development, presented a check to **Dr. Eric Bracy** for a **grant** in the amount **\$10,000**. The grant will be used to promote literacy development in grades 3, 4 and 5.

Chair Johnson: I would like to share that Dr. Lawson was my co-worker a few years ago when I worked in Weldon City Schools.

Dr. Kathy Lawson addressed the Board and audience as follows: “I am going to keep it a secret that someone was a student when I was teaching there. Isn’t that right Dr. Bracy? I would like to take this opportunity to say that we are so thrilled to be able to present this check to the

Northampton County Board of Education for the betterment of the students from North Carolina State University and the Upper Coastal Plain Learning Council. They wrote a wonderful grant, it was a pleasure to read it and we hope next year it will be an even bigger check. It was a great grant and we are very thrilled that we were able to do this for the students in Northampton County. I bring you greetings from Alice Warren, Vice Provost for Continuing Education, whose name is on the bottom of this check. Thank you so much and this was an honor to be able to do this.”

AIG Summer Camp – Kapstone Check Presentation – Ms. Tikisha Joyner, Interim Exceptional Children Director, was presented a **check donated** from **Kapstone** of Roanoke Rapids in the amount of **\$1,000** towards a **four-day AIG Summer Camp**. The funds will be used to support a summer venture for students who are Academically and Intellectually Gifted. This camp will empower students and engage them in hands on activities and guest speakers will be present to give the students more information about the environment.

Ms. Tikisha Joyner addressed the Board and audience as follows: “We do thank Kapstone for this \$1,000.00 donation and we will put it to good use. We thank them for helping the students in Northampton County.”

Chowan University Masters In Education Recognition – The following **Willis Hare Elementary School teachers** were recognized and presented Good News Award Certificates for recently graduating from **Chowan University** with a **Masters in Education Degrees: Ms. Marianna Cotten, Ms. Polly Morton Drake, Ms. Kimberly Daughtry, Ms. Wendy Howard, Ms. Roslyn Parker, Ms. Marian Morris and Ms. Marie Hasty.**

Northampton County Board of Education Members’ Recognition – The following **Northampton County Board of Education Members** were recognized and presented certificates for their achievement levels obtained while participating in the North Carolina School Boards Association Academy of School Boardsmanship for the 2010-2011 academy year: **Ms. Marjorie Edwards – Certificate of Achievement; Mr. Kelvin M. Edwards – Certificate of Merit; Mr. Lafayette Majette – Certificate of Achievement; and Mr. W. J. Little – Diploma of Honor.** These Board Members were recognized at the North Carolina School Boards Association 42nd Annual Conference for Board Member Development on November 13-16, 2011 in Greensboro, NC. Board members must earn 30 hours of training annually as approved by the local board and reviewed by NCSBA. Once this minimum requirement has been met, annual recognition is given.

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 “Perseverance” for the month of April:

Ashanti Stephens (absent), Central Elementary School

Rachel Davis, Conway Middle School

Victor Ransom, Gaston Elementary School

Teirra Bynum (absent), Northampton County Alternative School

Desirae Smith, Northampton County High School-East

Kidijah Robinson, Northampton West Stem High School

Saniya Mason, Squire Elementary School

Trickel Price, Willis Hare Elementary School

Introduction of New Personnel

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

Torrey Nowell, Physical Education Teacher, Conway Middle School

Break

Chair Johnson announced that no one signed up for Public Comments and that the Board will take a 5-minute break at this time.

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Little SECONDED by Mr. Majette, 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. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram abstained.

Board Minutes – Closed Session – April 2, 2012

Regular Meeting – January 9, 2012

Request for Fund Raiser

Squire Elementary School-wide – Mothers’ Day Gifts – May 10-11, 2012

Central Elementary School-wide – Field Day Concession Stand – May 11, 2012

NCHS-West – Senior Class – Basketball Game and Dance – May 26, 2012

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and Dequetta Boyd – Homebound Services –
Effective: May 2, 2012 through June 8, 2012

Northampton County Schools and Blythelm DeSare – Homebound Services –
Effective: May 2, 2012 through June 8, 2012

Northampton County Schools and PFH Contracting, Inc. – Psychological Services –
Effective: July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

Northampton County Schools and Carolina Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy, Inc. –
Physical Therapy Services – Effective: August 27, 2012 through June 7, 2013

Business Before the Board for Information

Senior Report 2012 – Mr. Phil Matthews shared with the Board the 2012 Senior Report for graduates as of May 2, 2012. The report showed the following updated data:

	# Seniors	# Higher Ed.	# Military	% Accepted	# Applied to	# Applied to	% Applied to	#-
%Scholarships				(accepted)	(accepted)	Higher Ed.	Higher Ed. or	Higher Ed. or
Higher Ed. or							or Military	Military,
but not	Military	Military						

					yet accepted			
NCHS-East	98	42	2	45%	14	58	60%	14/14%
NCHS-West	51	42	1	84%	8	51	100%	1/0.02%

Mr. Matthews explained the data to the Board as follows: (1) One student was accepted to college, but decided to go into the military. (2) Many students have been accepted into multiple colleges and were awarded scholarships along with acceptance, but decided to attend another

college, therefore turning down the scholarship. Fourteen (14) is the number of scholarships that have been awarded and accepted by our students. (3) Incentives used to encourage students to apply to college were trips to visit universities, college day, assistance with FAFSA and individual counseling.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I would sincerely request that the principals of NCHS-East and NCHS-West Stem commend your staff and you all are to be commended, because we have requested this information and you have delivered. You have several artifacts in this package that are just outstanding and it is good to see that we have such high percentages of our students who have applied to higher education over the military. It is good to know that our students have a plan after they graduate from high school.

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

Business Before the Board for Approval

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board APPROVED to change the school name of Northampton County High School-West STEM, currently serving grades 7-12, to Gaston Middle School to serve grades 5-8 for the 2012-2013 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram voted against. The name change would become effective beginning July 1, 2012.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: In regards to the locker renovations, I believe in 2010 there was some locker work done.

Mr. Phil Matthews: There were some lockers installed at Conway Middle School in 2010.

On a MOTION by Mr. Majette, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board APPROVED to award a bid to Alphin & Sons of Calypso, NC in the amount of \$9,935.00 to perform locker renovations at Northampton County High School, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram abstained. The locker renovation work will be performed during the summer of 2012 between the time school dismisses in the spring and reopens in the fall.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Is someone keeping a running spreadsheet of the cost to-date for the renovations at NCHS-East? Can we get a copy of that at the next Board Meeting? Do you know where we stand now Mr. Matthews with the cost of the renovations?

Mr. Matthews: I cannot answer that accurately at this time, but I can find that spreadsheet and provide you with an answer. I will have to do some calculations to give you an accurate answer as to where we stand right now. These items for tonight I have not subtracted from the spreadsheet and they have not been approved yet.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: As we make decisions and as we deliberate, can't we count cost and keep a running tab? We don't have a big supply of money and I don't think the Commissioners have approved the budget yet.

Ms. M. Edwards: Ms. Ingram, we did have a Facilities Committee Meeting the other day and those figures were in there as prior money that had been allocated. I don't believe you were at the last meeting, but you were at the one prior to that and we are staying within that budget. As Mr. Matthews stated, he has a copy of the spreadsheet because we have just met.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: We just need to keep a running tab so that we will know where we are.

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board APPROVED to award a bid to Sherwin Williams of Roanoke Rapids, NC in the amount of \$15,489.25 to replace the floor covering for the main office, media center and auditorium at Northampton County High School, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram abstained.

Mr. Matthews: As a point of information, I would like to mention that the floor covering in the band room will also be replaced, but it is being replaced through the FEMA reimbursement. That is not included in the bid. That business was handled through FEMA following the "hurricane".

Ms. M. Edwards: Mr. Matthews, in reference to the athletic uniforms, are we going to get any money back or any cuts from what we have? What will happen to the old uniforms?

Mr. Dexter Harris addressed the Board as follows: Nike has offered \$13,000 in promo gear. The plan now is to use the old uniforms for practice.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: That \$13,000 was listed as promo gear as an additional donation or is that something else?

Mr. Dexter Harris: That is something I worked out with Nike so that we would not have to purchase staff shirts and polo shirts for teachers, but they have offered to give us \$13,000 in promo gear that we will not have to purchase out of our budget.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Are you saying there is no rebate or return?

Ms. Taylor: The \$3,000 will be given back to the school and the \$10,000 is for the promo gear.

Mr. Dexter Harris: I believe Ms. Ingram is referring to the uniforms that we currently have and will we get anything for them. We will be using those as practice uniforms.

Ms. M. Edwards: I feel they gave us a good deal because they will be giving us the \$10,000 plus the \$3,000 just to work with them. We will still be able to use the old uniforms to practice in, which are still in good shape.

Mr. K. Edwards: It is my understanding that with this bid we have some sports included that we have never had before here in Northampton County, such as men and women's soccer and wrestling. With all of the things included, basically we are running a schedule for something we have never had.

Ms. Taylor: It also includes volleyball uniforms at home and away.

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board APPROVED to award a bid to Nike in the amount of \$54,243.75 to provide all athletic uniforms for Northampton County High School, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram abstained.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: This new scale is wonderful and I like how we have the bonuses for the coaches if they make it to the conference championship, advance to the state championship, etc. It is wonderful when you can do that for athletics, but I think it would be nice also if we could do it for academics for those teachers who exceed the state requirements. It is wonderful what we are doing for the coaches, but at the end of the day we are about academics.

Mr. K. Edwards: We looked at that during the Finance Committee Meeting and what we are doing for athletics is a result of the savings, therefore there is no additional cost. When we talked about combining athletics, the money was already there without having to find money.

Ms. M. Edwards: Ms. Ingram, we also looked at the other thing you mentioned and that was on the table as well.

On a MOTION by Mr. Little, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board unanimously APPROVED the proposed 2012-2013 Coaching Supplement Scale, as recommended by the Superintendent.

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram abstained.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED the FY 13 Continuing Resolution Authorization, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The Interim Budget is the same as the 2011-2012 school budget

until a new budget is adopted. Prudent spending will not exceed one-fourth of the amount in each fund code without prior consultation with the Superintendent.

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board unanimously APPROVED the proposed FY 2012-2013 Current Expense Budget, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. Upon approval, it will be forwarded to the County Commissioners before May 15, 2012 for consideration in their final allocation.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I have a question regarding the Capital Outlay Budget in reference to the line item purchase of vehicles in the amount of \$26,000. Do we know what that purchase is for? Did we ever get the wrecker we talked about?

Mr. Matthews: The purchase order for the wrecker has been cut, but we have not received it yet and we are still holding the funds until it is delivered.

Mr. Holloway: I wish to address Ms. Ingram's question regarding the line item, purchase of vehicles. We are hoping that the \$26,000 in the budget will cover the purchase of an activity bus, but we are looking at several options and we have discussed them such as, a used bus versus a new bus. A new bus would cost approximately \$96,000. We are looking at possibly purchasing some used buses from another area.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Are we talking coach buses?

Ms. M. Edwards: We were initially talking about coach, but we revisited it trying to save money.

Mr. Johnson has found someone who can get us two buses for that amount of money, which puts us in good shape. We are holding off right now about what we are going to do with that.

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board unanimously APPROVED the proposed FY 2012-2013 Capital Outlay Budget, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. Upon approval, it will be forwarded to the County Commissioners before May 15, 2012 for consideration in their final allocation.

Attorney Rod Malone: As you can see, the contract for Tharrington Smith states that the increase will become effective March 1st, but I would say that date would now become June 1st. As soon as it is approved, I will send you a new version of the agreement.

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Little, the Board unanimously APPROVED the agreement with Tharrington Smith, L.L.P. for a rate increase effective June 1, 2012, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

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

Personnel

Certified Recommendations:

Tikisha R. Joyner, Exceptional Children Director, Central Services, 5/8/12

Gwendolyn Bowser, Exceptional Children Teacher, Conway Middle School, 8/17/12

Lori N. Coggins, Elementary Teacher, Central Elementary School, 8/17/12

Kenneth Barnes II, PE Teacher, Conway Middle School, 8/17/12

Hollie Cannon, Kindergarten Teacher, Central Elementary School, 8/17/12

Classified Recommendations:

Ellis Squire, Interim School Resource Officer, NCHS-West STEM, May 9 – June 8, 2012

Leave of Absences:

Elizabeth Stephenson, Finance, Central Services, 3/26/12

Nancy Whitehead, Child Nutrition Assistant, NCHS-West STEM, 2/20/12

Catherine Thomason, Media Coordinator, Gaston Elementary School, 4/30/12

Retirements:

Dwander K. Dawson, Math Teacher, NCHS-East, 6/15/12

Charmie K. Wheeler, Reading Recovery Teacher, Central Elementary School, 6/15/12

Resignations:

Gwendolyn Bowser, Assistant Principal, Conway Middle School, 6/30/12 (Remains employed as an EC Teacher)

Katherine Ammann, Math Teacher, NCHS-West STEM, 6/15/12

Elizabeth Chen, Science Teacher, NCHS-West STEM, 6/15/12

Joshua Wallace, PE Teacher/Coach, NCHS-West STEM, 6/15/12

Altessie Taylor, SRO, NCHS-West STEM, 5/8/12

Thet-Shay Nyunt, JROTC, NCHS-West STEM, 6/15/12

Brelynn Thomas, Middle School Language Arts, NCHS-West STEM, 6/15/12

Derik Dean, Math Teacher, NCHS-East, 6/15/12

Harold E. Tillery, JROTC, NCHS-East, 6/15/12

Ashley Collins, Elementary Teacher, Central Elementary School, 6/15/12

Denise Dierolf, Elementary Teacher, Central Elementary School, 6/15/12

Daniel Shutt, Elementary Teacher, Central Elementary School, 6/15/12

Rebecca Ledebuhr, Math Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 6/15/12

Chyral Reinhardt, Counselor, Gaston Elementary School, 6/15/12

Erin Gaesser, K-1 Teacher, Squire Elementary School, 6/15/12

Evelyn Hambrecht, Elementary EC Teacher, Squire Elementary School, 6/15/12

Amanda Shaffer, K-1 Teacher, Squire Elementary School, 6/15/12

Tenure Recommendations for Approval:

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

Dequetta 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

Employees Recommended for Probationary Contract Employment for 2012-2012 School Year:

Julie Darden, Willis Hare Elementary School

Kerry Hanline, Willis Hare Elementary School

Emily Ringler, Gaston Middle School

Delmonte Griffin, Gaston Middle School

Danielle Smith, Northampton County High School

Alana Metheney, Northampton County High School

Amy Parks, Conway Middle School

Torrey Nowell, Conway Middle School

Gregory Kennedy, Northampton County High School

*Melanie Gile, Northampton County High School

*Dawn Gonzalez, Northampton County High School

*Joyce Stephenson, Northampton County High School

*Jamie Kendall, Northampton County High School

*Sheri Garner, Northampton County High School

*Licensure in Progress

Employees Recommended for Temporary Contract Employment for 2012-2012 School Year:

Emily Toutkousian, Central Elementary School

LaShonda McDade, Central Elementary School

Mary Ann Cipriano, Central Elementary School

Blythelm De Sare, Gaston Elementary School

William Malan, Gaston Elementary School

Yvonne Martin-Reid, Willis Hare Elementary School

Jibrell Davis, Gaston Middle School

Jeremy Wall, Gaston Middle School

Jaime Cannon McSteen, Gaston Middle School

Lauren Paul, Gaston Middle School

*Ellie Garner-Rhodes, Northampton County High School

Thomas Pope, Northampton County High School

Elaina Sabatine, Northampton County High School

Diane Jordan, Northampton County High School

Jesus Mosquera, Northampton County High School

Dale Hammer, Northampton County High School

Reyna Molina, Northampton County High School

Vichi Jagannathan, Northampton County High School

Lauren Light, Northampton County High School

Matthew Ryan, Northampton County High School

Rodney Anderson, Northampton County High School

*Licensure in Progress

Central Services Administrator Contracts Recommended Renewal for Four Years:

Tanya Byrd-Robinson

Rhonda Moses

Geneva Squire

Administrator Contracts Recommended Renewal for Four Years:

Pamela Chamblee, Principal

Barbara Drummond, Principal

Catina Hoggard, Principal

Felisha Wyche, Principal

Albert Bennett, Assistant Principal

Oliver Holley, Assistant Principal

Danny McCaw, Assistant Principal

Administrator Contract Recommended Extension for One Year:

Lindell Palmer, Assistant Principal

Superintendent's Information

Dr. Bracy addressed the Board and audience as follows:

- I wish to say “thank you” once again to Kapstone and North Carolina State University for their generous donations. We certainly appreciate all of the help and support we get here in Northampton County.
- By the time we meet again we would have begun our end-of-year test in Northampton County Schools. Our students have worked hard to prepare for those testing days and our teachers have also worked hard. They are ready to accept the challenge.
- This week is “Teacher Appreciation Week”! I would like to ask everyone to stand and applaud our teachers.
- Since we last met, we have also had “Administrative Assistants’ Day”! We certainly want to give our administrative assistants the praise that they are due as well. I will stand publicly to thank Ms. Harris for all of the wonderful work that you do for myself as well as the Board of Education. We appreciate all that you do. We appreciate all of the support we have received from all of our staffs.

Board Information

- May Calendar of Events
- Special Board Meeting (Personnel) – May 15, 2012 – Board Room – 5:30 p.m.
- Next Regular Board Meeting – June 4, 2012 – Board Room – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- NCSBA President’s Summer Leadership Seminars/Policy Conference – June 25-29, 2012 – Carolina Beach Courtyard, 100 Charlotte Ave., Carolina Beach, NC

Chair Johnson: Board Members, see Ms. Harris if you plan to attend the Summer Leadership Conference in June.

Adjournment

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

Approved: August 6, 2012

Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent