

DATE: July 15, 2013

PRESENT: Marc Whichard, Chair

Jill Camnitz
Mildred Council

Worth Forbes

Benjie Forrest

Sean Kenny

Jennifer Little

Robert Moore

TIME: 6:30 P. M.

Barbara Owens

Billy Peaden

Christine Waters

PLACE: Pitt County Office Building

Mary Williams

ABSENT:

Chair Marc Whichard called the Board of Education to order in Open Session at 6:30 P. M. in the Third Floor Board Room.

Ms. Mary Williams led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Worth Forbes followed with a Moment of Silence asking that we remember all students and staff safety during summer vacation and traveling, the central office staff as they are making preparations for the 2013-14 school year and the Board of Education as they work together making important decisions to move the system forward in a positive direction.

Chair Whichard then offered the Agenda for consideration with Mr. Billy Peaden, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, moving that the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion was unanimous.

Ms. Melissa Grimes signed up to speak during Public Expression, but declined when acknowledged by the Chair.

Under Consent Items, Mr. Billy Peaden, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, moved that the Board approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held June 17, 2013 and the Personnel Report for July 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Worth Forbes then moved, second by Ms. Jill Camnitz, that the Board go into Closed Session to: 1) consult with our attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege, 2) establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the amount of compensation or other terms of an employment contract, and 3) approval of Closed Session Minutes from June 3 and 17, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

Time was 6:35 P. M.

After a lengthy Closed Session, the Board returned to Open Session at 7:45 P. M. Chair Whichard called the meeting to order.

During New Business, Chair Whichard stated he would like to entertain a motion from a Board member. Mr. Billy Peaden, second by Mr. Robert Moore, moved that the Board approve the contract for the new superintendent of Pitt County Schools as discussed in Closed Session. A unanimous vote was given.

Chair Whichard then introduced Dr. Ethan Lenker as the new Superintendent of Pitt County Schools and asked would he introduce his family. Dr. Lenker introduced his wife, Alice, and his two daughters, Elle and Lexie, stating he is looking forward to being a part of this community and working with the Board of Education to move the district forward making the Pitt County Schools System the best it can be. Chair Whichard welcomed Dr. Lenker and his family on behalf of the Board, and invited them to remain during discussion of the next item on the agenda - which will be followed by Closed Session; or to wait in a comfortable location outside the Board room if they so choose. After they were seated in the Board Room, Chair Whichard remarked that it is certainly a happy time for our district to have a new leader on the way with outstanding credentials.

Chair Whichard stated the next item of business is discussion of the appointments of Pitt Community College Trustee members. Ms. Barbara Owens suggested and later moved that the Board use a procedure previously implemented by the Community Relations Committee to discuss the applications of the candidates and set up interviews for making recommendations to the full Board for approval. Ms. Owens asked that the Human Resources Committee conduct this process as the Community Relations Committee no longer exists. A second was voiced by Mr. Sean Kenny. Chair Whichard asked for discussion relative to the motion.

Ms. Christine Waters asked if there is an urgency to this issue as she believes the term was to begin July 1, 2013. Chair Whichard confirmed that the date is correct. Ms. Mildred Council commented that she prefers the candidates be interviewed by the full Board to assure that all members hear the same information as she does not trust a small group to make the decision for her. Ms. Mary Williams believes the process suggested by Ms. Owens is a more expeditious method in getting the job done as there is a Human Resources Committee Meeting scheduled for this week, which will be led by Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Delilah Jackson. She added that feedback from Board members can be sent via email for discussion. Mr. Benjie Forrest supports Ms. Owens' proposal also and thought it might be helpful to state who sits on the Human Resources Committee. Ms. Williams stated she's Chair with committee members being Ms. Barbara Owens, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little and Mr. Robert Moore. Ms. Jill Camnitz explained that the Human Resources Committee will make a recommendation to the full Board regarding the chosen candidates, but the full Board will have the responsibility of approving the candidates. Ms. Jennifer Little further added that like any committee meeting, any Board member may attend the meeting but only members of the committee may take action. Ms. Waters shared that interviewing all the listed candidates will be very time consuming, and suggested that a list of favored candidates be selected for interviews as has been done with the last two recent hirings. Mr. Moore asked is it correct that there are two trustees to select with Chair Whichard responding yes.

Chair Whichard then called for a vote by the Board. Ms. Mildred Council voted nay. Motion passed.

Mr. Worth Forbes, second by Ms. Jill Camnitz, moved that the Board go into Closed Session to 1) consult with our attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege on matters including Rhonda Everett , et. al. v. the Pitt County Board of Education and Cynthia Purvis v. the Pitt County Board of Education [N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) ; 2) establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the amount of compensation or other terms of an employment contract; and 3) consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of public officer or employee; to consider personnel information made confidential by G.S. 115C-319; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against a public officer or employee. Motion approval was unanimous. Time was 7:57 p.m.

Upon returning to Open Session with no discussion to follow, Ms. Barbara Owens moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that the Board adjourn. Time was 9:02 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Marc Whichard, Chair

Mr. Michael Cowin, Secretary