

DATE: August 4, 2014

TIME: 6:33 P.M.

PLACE: Pitt County Office Building

PRESENT: Thompson H. Forbes Jr., Chair
Billy Peaden
Jill Camnitz
Mildred Council
Benjie Forrest
Sean Kenny
Jennifer Little
Robert Moore
Barbara Owens
Christine Waters
Marc Whichard
Mary Williams

ABSENT:

ATTORNEY: Deborah Stagner

- 1) Chairman Forbes called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session on August 4, 2014 at 6:33 p.m. in the Pitt County Third Floor Board Room.
- 2) Roll Call was taken by Chairman Forbes. All board members were present.
- 3) Barbara Owens led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4) Chairman Forbes followed with a Moment of Silence.

5) Routine Business:

Adjustments to the Agenda:

Chairman Forbes requested two additions to the agenda, the first addition being a one year extension for the Superintendent's contract to be added as item D under routine business. The second item was to add to the consideration of the August 2014 personnel report, item B under the Consent Agenda, "as discussed in Closed Session." With a motion from Chairman Forbes and a second from Marc Whichard, and with no discussion needed, the motion to approve the additions to the agenda was approved unanimously.

Public Expression:

There were three individuals that addressed the Board for public expression: Marjorie Pearson, Candice Whitley and Karen Clark. They each shared their concerns of a recent employee dismissal. Each requested that the dismissed employee's side be heard. Don Cavellini, Co-Chair of the Coalition Against Racism, asked the question to the Board why do teachers have the right to have a Board hearing but classified employees are not guaranteed a hearing before the hearing panel? Mr. Cavellini requested that the Board change this personnel practice to make it fair for all employees.

Spotlight on Teaching and Learning:

1) Brock Letchworth introduced Matt Johnson, Executive Director of Operations. Mr. Johnson shared with the Board that on June 19, 2014 the first annual custodial appreciation luncheon was held at C.M.Eppes middle school with over 160 participating. Several awards were presented including the following:

- Recognition for cleanliness to the top 3 schools: Lakeforest Elementary, Farmville Middle, South Central High School
- Belvoir Elementary, the most improved school for cleanliness
- Travis Smith , custodian of the year
- Multiple schools without custodial injuries during last school year.

Mr. Johnson recognized Mr. Acklin, Mrs. Pitt, Mr. Battle and Ms. Staton as the custodial team of Lakeforest and presented the school with the first annual “Cleanliness School Trophy”. The trophy will travel each year to the winning school. Chairman Forbes, on behalf of the Board, presented the custodial staff from Lakeforest with a “Creating Excellence in the East” award.

2) Mr. Letchworth introduced Joey Weathington, Director of Transportation. Mr. Weathington introduced Dustin Wells and shared with the Board that Mr. Wells won, in June, the North Carolina’s Top Inspection Tech of the Year at North Carolina Pupil Transportation Association (NCPTA). Mr. Weathington shared that NCPTA will send Mr. Well to Kansas for the National America’s Best in November 2014. Chairman Forbes, on behalf of the Board, presented Mr. Wells with a “Creating Excellence in the East” award.

Mr. Letchworth invited the Board to the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony, on August 20th, at Ayden Middle School for the new STEM lab. He also invited the Board to the upcoming Education Network Luncheon.

Chairman Forbes presented an award from the Association of School Business Official International to the Pitt County Board of Education based on its annual financial report ending fiscal year 2013. Chairman Forbes, on behalf of the Board, recognized Michael Cowin, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, and the finance department with a “Creating Excellence in the East” award.

Extension of Superintendent’s Contact by 1 year:

Jill Camnitz moved, with a second from Marc Whichard, to extend Dr. Lenker’s contract until 2018 in recognition of the strong leadership he has provided to PCS with in the last year. With only positive comments, the motion to extend Dr. Lenker’s contract by one year was approved unanimously.

6) Consent Items:

Chairman Forbes asked for a motion to approve consent items. Barbara Owens made a motion to approve the consent items with a second from Mildred Council. With no discussion needed, the motion to approve consent items was approved unanimously.

7) New Business:

A) Cheryl Olmsted, Assistant Superintendent of EPS, shared with the Board highlights from the latest EPS committee meeting. Highlights consisted of the following:

- the Bridges program, a partnership between PCS and Building Hope as an alternative to short term suspension for students from E.B. Aycock, South Greenville and C.M.Eppes
- the Structured Day Program which is a collaboration with the Juvenile Justice System currently operating at Building Hope, but looking for a new location, and serves level two at-risk students
- the STEM labs have been installed, teachers have been trained
- Read to Achieve summer camp, 54 out of 360 summer camp students passed the year end test, we are waiting to find out the number of completed port folios which allows the students to pass as well
- High School principals have decided to focus on literacy and will be working with Max Thompson
- PCS had a successful trip to AVID this summer, 22 staff members attended

Ms. Olmsted introduced Bill Frazier, 9-12 Director. Mr. Frazier stated we are scheduled for opening the Early College High School in the fall of 2015. PCS Early College High School targets First Generation College bound, at-risk for dropping out and underrepresented in higher education students. The five year program will begin with 75 ninth grade students in the fall of 2015. Mr. Frazier told the Board that once finished, students will earn a high school diploma /associates degrees and /or course work that will transfer to a college. Mr. Frazier asked the Board to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between PCS and Pitt Community College for PCS Early College High School. Marc Whichard made a motion to approve the MOA between Pitt County Schools and Pitt Community College, with a second from Robert Moore. After some discussion, the vote to approve the MOA was unanimous.

B) Michael Cowin, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, shared the following projected financial impact with the Board. The projected impact included the following:

- An average of 7% increase to teacher salary
- Longevity is now built into salary schedule
- Step increases have been eliminated
- No language covering tenure, no requirements to complete a 25% within the budget
- Masters or advanced degrees are not reinstated in this budget
- Non certified personnel will receive a \$500 increase
- TA allotment has been reduced by \$105 million dollars, approx. 14.7 positions for Pitt County

Mr. Cowin told the Board that he will bring a new financial impact report to the Board once the state budget has been approved.

Delilah Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, gave the Board a Human Resources committee meeting update. The update included the following:

- At this time PCS has 10 various grade levels/areas of teacher vacancies
- Policy 7.111, evaluation of certified personnel, will not be able to be updated at this time, due to current status still being in litigation
- In an effort to help maximize the budget, the Human Resources committee discussed changing the rate of pay to teachers for remediation or other work

outside of their regular pay check. Retirees and current teachers hired for remediation will be paid up to \$25. an hour depending on their experience.

- Budget and Teacher Assistants
- Teachers already in a Master's Program will be grandfathered in if they have taken one class by August 2013

Matt Johnson, Executive Director of Operation, gave the Board an Operations update. Mr. Johnson shared there was not a quorum at the July 23rd Operations committee meeting. The update included the following:

- Three mobile units have been removed from DHC and have been moved to Lakeforest
- Mobile Unit set-up has begun at all sites
- The mobile units at Ridgewood will move to Lakeforest this week
- The 9 units we purchased from Wake County should arrive soon
- We are under the projected cost of \$850,000 by approx. \$425,000 due to purchasing used mobile units and value engineering
- Plan is to have all units ready for students by August 25th

Barbara Owens reminded the Board that several years ago the Board voted not to purchase mobile units again. Ms. Owens requested the reasoning for purchasing mobile units be made known to the public. Chairman Forbes stated an alternative would be redistricting. Mary Williams suggested we take a look at redistricting.

Sean Kenny motioned to adjourn with a second by Benjie Forrest. With no discussion needed, the motion passed unanimously. Time adjourned was 8:19 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Whichard, Vice-Chairman

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary