

Board Work Session Minutes

DATE: August 21, 2017

PRESENT: Chair Caroline W. Doherty, Mildred A. Council, Anna Barrett Smith, Robert Moore, Betsy Flanagan, Melinda Fagundus, and Benjie Forrest

ABSENT: Worth Forbes and Vice Chair Mary Blount Williams

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Ethan Lenker, Cheryl Olmsted, Dr. Ve-Lecia Council, Debra Baggett, Matt Johnson, Dr. Travis Lewis, Tim DeCresie, Towanda Wilkins, Tom Feller, Kay Weathington, Seth Brown and Lucas Simonds

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Facilities Department Meeting Room, 901 Sylvania Street, Winterville, NC 28590

Chair Doherty called the Board of Education Work Session to order at 10:00 am.

1) Lottery Funds

Debra Baggett, Chief Finance Officer, shared information concerning the North Carolina Educational Lottery funds with the Board members. Ms. Baggett stated in 2007, the first lottery year, funds disbursed were 40% School Construction, 26% Pre-Kindergarten, 24% Classroom Teachers and 10% College Scholarships, and in 2017 the funds disbursed were 58.7% Non-Instructional Support Personnel, 18.9% School Construction, 14.8% Pre-Kindergarten, 5.6% College Scholarships and 2.0% UNC Need-Based Aid. Ms. Baggett shared documentation from “Financing Education in North Carolina, a Budget, and Tax Guide”, by Kris Nordstrom, Education Finance & Policy Consultant. The author states that “the lottery now supports activities that had previously been supported by General fund which allows the General Assembly the ability to shift General Funding outside of the education budget” resulting in less funding allotted to Education.

2) Budget Flexibility

Ms. Baggett shared information concerning the changes made by the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) regarding Allowed Flexibility in the Biennial 2017-2019 State Budget with the Board members. Ms. Baggett explained the NCGA changes restrict the funds from four budget categories: Children with Disabilities, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Academically Gifted Children (AIG), and Textbooks and Digital Resources budgets. The restriction on transferring funds from LEP budget is effective for the 2017-2018 school year resulting in the loss of two or three LEP positions. The NCGA restriction on transferring funds from AIG budget is effective for the 2018-2019 school year. Advocacy efforts are under way in the State to address this change. However, if this legislation is implemented as written, funding for six AIG positions will be lost for the 2018-2019 school year.

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

3) OT/PT Salary Changes

Ms. Baggett shared information concerning General Statute 115C-316 that requires a minimum Salary Grade for Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist (OT/PT) positions. Ms. Baggett shared the proposed Salary Schedule for our current nine OT/PT positions resulting in a move from Salary Grade 76 to Salary Grade to 78 to comply with the Law. The estimated cost to the district will be approximately \$50,000, with no increase in funds from the State.

4) New-Hire Teacher Supplements

Ms. Baggett and Dr. Ve-Lecia Council, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared information concerning increasing new-hire teacher supplements from 3% to 5%. This move to help recruit new-hire teachers will cost PCS approximately \$86,000. Ms. Baggett requested the increase in teacher supplements be listed for approval on the September 5, 2017 Consent Agenda.

5) 2017-2018 Hiring Update

Dr. Council shared a hiring update as of August 18 with the Board members. The update included:

- PCS has 12 teaching positions vacant
- PCS has 5 support staff positions vacant
- PCS has hired 191 new certified teachers which includes: 36 Lateral Entry Teachers, 10 Teach for America Teachers, and 14 International Teachers

6) Volunteers in Schools

Rita Roy, Director of Community in Schools, shared a presentation of the history and improvements made to the Volunteer program with the Board members. Ms. Roy explained the enhancements to the program using Raptor software. As soon as the PCS staff is trained to use the new Raptor system, which checks against the sex offenders' registry, volunteers will be able to register through our PCS website for volunteering opportunities at all schools. The new I.D. scanning machines should be operational by October 1, 2017.

7) Dress Code Policy

Dr. Travis Lewis shared a Dress Code Video created to educate staff and parents concerning the recent changes to the Dress Code Policy, with the Board members. The Dress Code video is available on our PCS website. Benjie Forrest, Board member, led a discussion to better understand the Dress Code Policy as it pertains to monograms. After some discussion among the Board members, the consensus was to continue with Policy 4316 as written. Chair Doherty shared the policy allows principals to request changes from the Board on a yearly basis, in order for the Board to consider all of the requested changes at the same time.

8) Testing Calendar

Towanda Wilkins, LEA Testing Coordinator, shared the 2017-2018 Testing Calendar, which is mandated and required by DPI, with the Board members. Ms. Wilkins requested the 2017-2018 Testing Calendar be listed for approval on the September 5, 2017 Consent Agenda.

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

9) AIG Plan

Tim DeCresie, Director of Digital Learning, shared his background as a Special Education student and his desire to open a door for students who are not currently identified as AIG. Mr. DeCresie presented the Go Grow Approach to the Board members, stating Go Grow recognizes and provides services to K-8 students who do not qualify for the AIG criteria. Mr. DeCresie explained by using the Go Grow approach PCS can provide the opportunity for students to work with an AIG teacher to create a growth mindset by allowing students to explore areas of interest they choose. In the 2017-2018 school year, ½ day Go Grow programs are expanding to Bethel, Belvoir, G.R. Whitfield, Northwest, Pactolus, and Stokes; however, all students can utilize Go Grow activities which are offered on the PCS website.

10) MTSS- How

Due to time restraints, this topic was not discussed.

11) County Growth

Matt Johnson, Executive Director of Operations, shared draft information from July 2014- July 2017 regarding Pitt County development activity within the South Central and D.H. Conley attendance lines. Information shared included:

- 2138 residential building permits and 815 plot lots have been added in the South Central attendance area
- 885 residential build permits and 786 plot lots have been added in the D.H. Conley attendance area

Mr. Johnson shared he would have other attendance area maps and other information for the Board members in the near future. Board members were asked to identify any additional information they would like concerning Pitt County growth. Board members discussed the need to move forward regarding neighborhoods that do not attend their assigned school and the possible need to redistrict in the future.

12) R3 Overview

Tom Feller, Director of Professional Learning and Leadership Development, and Seth Brown, Director of Educator Support and Leadership Development, gave the Board members an update of the R3 Grant, which included:

- 54 Facilitating Teachers hired
- 172 Collaborating Teachers hired
- 23 Teacher Leadership Institute Graduates (TLI)
- Over 240 Teachers receiving supplements this year, ranging from \$1,200 to over \$10,000
- 7 full-time and 1 part-time district-level staff have been hired
- Approximately 250 teachers engaged in either Collaborative Action Research Project or completing a TLI Capstone project

13) Board Training Updates

Chair Doherty shared her NCSBA Training Notes from the July 'ReContext Data Boot Camp training' with the Board members to read at their convenience. The seven school districts in attendance learned about Data Informed Decision Making at the

school level. Chair Doherty invited the Board members to participate in the upcoming NCSBA webinars available to them and requested the entire Board plan to attend the NCSBA Annual Conference in November 12 through November 15 where we hope Dr. Lenker will be named the North Carolina Superintendent of the Year, for which he has been nominated. Dr. Lenker invited all the Board members to attend the NCSBA District 1 Regional meeting held on September 6, 2017 at South Central High School.

The Work Session adjourned at 1:01 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline W. Doherty, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary