

## **Board Work Session Minutes**

**DATE:** February 19, 2018

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Ethan Lenker, Cheryl Olmsted, Dr. Ve-Lecia Council, Debra Baggett, Matt Johnson, Dr. Travis Lewis, Tim DeCresie, Steven Hill, and Media

**ATTORNEY:** Emma J. Hodson

**ABSENT:** Mary Blount Williams

**TIME:** 11:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Pitt County Office Building, 1717 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Greenville, NC 27834

### 1) Welcome

Chair Council called the Board of Education Work Session to order at 11:00 A.M.

### 2) Facility Service Staffing

Matt Johnson, Executive Director of Operations, shared with the Board members his department has 18 open staff positions. Mr. Johnson said to help recruit and retain employees he is considering to offer an increase in salary to current employees and to new hires. He plans to use money in his budget by cutting 5 of the currently opened positions.

Other items Mr. Johnson shared included the following:

- PCS is exploring contracting custodial and/or facility services positions
- Allen Road Training Building Draft Contract to purchase paperwork is moving forward
- Chicod Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22 at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Johnson also shared general details concerning school security with the Board members. Mr. Johnson stated that Pitt County Schools uses every event that occurs as a learning experience to improve safety and security for students and staff. Security items and needs were discussed.

Mr. Johnson stated plans are to complete the installation of access control, increase hours for retired GPD officer, and continue to review and revise the PCS crisis manual. Once additional funds are secured plans include the completions of front entrance secure corridors for the remaining schools, and upgrade camera systems and servers.

Worth Forbes requested a Closed Session to discuss security, stating security for students and staff was a responsibility of the Board. Much discussion was had among

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

the Board members. Mr. Johnson and Dr. Lenker answered many questions from the Board members.

### 3) PCS History

Steven Hill, J.H. Rose history teacher and historian, gave the Board members an overview of his research into the history of Pitt County Schools and shared a PCS history website that he and Dr. Travis Lewis created. Mr. Hill shared many historical photos and stories with the Board members.

### 4) Update on Restart plans for Northwest and Falkland

Cheryl Olmsted, Assistant Superintendent of EPS, shared a refresher and review of the process involving the Restart program for Northwest and Falkland schools. Ms. Olmsted has met with the staff at Northwest but not at Falkland. She discussed Northwest's budget, staffing, expenses, and programming with the Board members. Information for Northwest included elements of the program and program details, related to staffing and other expenses, including:

- 42 teacher positions
- 10 teacher assistant positions
- 2 admin staff positions
- 3 instructional support staff positions
- Increase supplement by 3.25%
- School year will be 2 weeks longer with June 21, 2018 being the last day for students and June 24-26 being teacher workdays
- Go-Grow site
- Coding curriculum

Information related to Falkland included:

- Falkland has a larger more experienced staff
- Goal is to get Falkland on the same calendar as Northwest
- Same increase to supplement

Ms. Olmsted also shared that planning for Restart at Grifton will begin next year.

Ms. Olmsted gave the Board members a summary of the summer school program plan for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who qualify based on EVAAS data and summer twilight extended school year plan for high school students. Ms. Olmsted stated Board approval would be needed for both plans.

### 5) Teacher Contracts – July 2018 and beyond

Dr. Ve-Lecia Council, Assistant of Human Resources, shared information concerning discussions and recommendations for the upcoming state guided revisions to Policy 7140, Teacher Contracts. Dr. Council shared the steps Pitt County schools has taken to be competitive in recruiting and retaining qualified teachers with surrounding countries. Dr. Council plans to have the first reading for revised Policy 7140, Teacher Contracts on the March 5, 2018 Board meeting agenda and the second reading on the April 16, 2018 Board meeting agenda.

6) Preliminary Budget Discussion

Debra Baggett, Chief Finance Officer, shared a preliminary budget with the Board members. Items reviewed included the following.

- DPI has not released Planning Allotments for 2018-2019
- Do not have the impact of Low Wealth funding yet
- Adjustments for Charter Schools and ECU Lab School growth
- Adjustments to budget for Traffic Violation Implementation
- Reduction in Central Office funding
- Loss of AIG funding flexibility
- Average increase in teacher pay of 5%
- Health Insurance Rates increase 4%
- Retirement rate increase 7.65%
- Increase of Assistant Principal pay 2%
- Fixed Cost Increase
- New Money Requests
- Capital Appropriations
- House Bill 90

Ms. Baggett and Dr. Lenker answered many questions from the Board members.

The Board members discussed a date to hold a Closed Session for the purposes of discussing security needs.

7) Board Training Updates

Chair Council shared upcoming NCSBA Webinar schedule with the Board members. The Board members discussed participating in the North Carolina School Boards Action Center (NCSBAC). Consensus of the Board was not enough information had been shared to make a decision at this time.

The Work Session adjourned at 2:29 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mildred A. Council, Chair

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Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary