

## **Board Work Session Minutes**

**DATE:** May 21, 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

**ABSENT:** Mary Blount Williams

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Ethan Lenker, Cheryl Olmsted, Debra Baggett, Matt Johnson, Dr. Travis Lewis, Preston Bowers, Mary Carter, Beth Ann Trueblood, Dr. Seth Brown, and Media

**ATTORNEY:** Emma J. Hodson

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

**PLACE:** Facilities Meeting Room, 205 Sylvania Street, Winterville, NC 28590

### 1) Welcome

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

### 2) Finance

#### A) 2018-2019 Interim Budget Resolution

Debra Baggett, Chief Finance Officer, shared the 2018-2019 Interim Budget Resolution with the Board members. Ms. Baggett explained that North Carolina General Statute 115C-434 that supported the resolution. After some discussion, consensus of the Board members was to allow the 2018-2019 Interim Budget Resolution to be listed on the June 4, 2018 Board meeting Consent Agenda.

#### B) 2017-2018 Audit Contract

Ms. Baggett shared the 2017-2018 Audit Contract with the Board members. After some discussion, consensus of the Board members was to allow the 2017-2018 Interim Budget Resolution to be listed on the June 4, 2018 Board meeting Consent Agenda.

### 3) EPS

#### A) NCASCD Whole Child Resolution

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Superintendent, shared a resolution request from the North Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (NCASCD). The Resolution states "Whereas, the observance of North Carolina Whole Child Month in October of each year provides a fitting opportunity on how to best address the needs of our children." After some discussion, consensus of the Board members was to allow the NCASCD Whole Child Resolution to be listed on the June 4, 2018 Board meeting Consent Agenda.

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## B) Graduation

Mary Carter, Director of 9-12, shared with the Board members that, due to construction at ECU, Board members should park at Elmhurst Elementary for the upcoming graduation events. Ms. Carter said a shuttle to Minges Coliseum would be available for their use.

## C) Policy 3450, Class Rankings

Ms. Carter discussed the advantages of changing the student recognition from valedictorian and salutatorian to the Latin system. Some of the advantages to the Latin system that Ms. Carter shared included the following.

1. Latin honors recognize the academic accomplishments of more students. Instead of honoring only a handful of students whose performance may be based on relatively small differences in GPA, Latin honors recognize all students whose performance exceeded high academic standards.
2. Latin honors represent a much broader spectrum of academic accomplishment. The three levels of Latin honors—*Summa Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude*, and *Cum Laude*—can be adapted by schools to reflect their distinct academic standards, while also giving more students the opportunity to work hard and earn recognition for their achievements.
3. Latin honors are more fundamentally equitable. When academic recognition is based on relative measures and student-to-student comparisons, rather than the same consistent standards, one student's success is another student's failure, and vice versa. And when "success" and "failure" are defined by fractionally small differences in GPA, the fundamental fairness of the system is called into question.
4. Colleges, universities, and the general public are familiar with Latin honors. Instead of devising a new system of academic recognition that may be unfamiliar or confusing, schools can use Latin honors, which provide an established, understandable system with a long and storied academic tradition.

Ms. Carter asked the Board members to consider modifying the long-standing practice of recognizing the highest achieving graduates as valedictorian and salutatorian by adapting the Latin system. The Latin system would allow recognition, *Summa Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude*, and *Cum Laude*, of all high achieving students, not just the top two at each school. After much discussion, the Board members requested the Latin system be implemented and each high schools' valedictorian and salutatorian continue to be recognized until more feedback from stakeholders could be received.

## D) Business Advisory Council

Beth Ann Trueblood, Director of CTE, gave the Board members a report of the recent, newly formed, Business Advisory Council (BAC). Ms. Trueblood reported that the first BAC meeting was held on March 28, 2018 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom. Even though the policy states the BAC should meet once a year, two additional meetings are scheduled for June 19, 2018 and September 18, 2018.

The Committee members include:

1. Lisa Lassiter, Administrator of Vidant Health Careers, Vidant Health, chosen as BAC Chair

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2. Wayne Washington, Human Resources Manager, Hyster-Yale, chosen as BAC Vice Chair
3. Ashton Watkins, Vice President AgCarolina Farm Credit
4. Leo Corbin, President, Chamber of Commerce
5. Mark Flanagan, Vice President and Director of Operations, Jack A. Farrior Inc. Steel Works
6. Mark Phillips, Vice President, North Carolina Biotechnology Center
7. Rhesa Tucker, Chief Executive Officer, Greenville Convention Center
8. Ritchie Shreves, Director of Human Resources, Greenville Utilities Commission
9. Lena Preville, Human Resources, Greenville Utilities Commission
10. The new President, Pitt Community College
11. David Hollinger, Parent Representative
12. Janarde Cannon, Principal Representative
13. Dr. Ethan Lenker, PCS Superintendent
14. Beth Ann Trueblood, PCS Director of CTE

Ms. Trueblood also discussed the student apprenticeship program and asked Board members to contact her if they knew of any businesses that might be interested in partnering with PCS. Much discussion occurred between Ms. Trueblood and the Board members. A Board member requested that Ms. Trueblood provide to them a work plan and strategic objectives of the BAC.

#### E) AVID

Preston Bowers, High School Facilitator, shared a presentation and discussed the benefits of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Mr. Bowers stated AVID's mission is "to close the gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society". The presentation included the following.

- Currently 9 schools have the AVID program, serving 920 students
- AVID teaches students academic habits
- PCS Early College, H.B. Sugg, and Sam D. Bundy are AVID schools
- AVID provides support to students on campus
- AVID provides tours to college campuses to encourage students to attend
- AVID promotes leadership opportunities
- AVID encourages and supports students to take AP and college courses
- AVID promotes student facilitated study groups
- AVID conducts interview training to students
- Teachers are sent to AVID training

Mr. Bowers thanked the Board members for their support.

#### 4) Lunch

The Work Session stopped for lunch.

#### 5) Operations-Facilities Update

Matt Johnson, Executive Director of Operations, shared the following updates with the Board members.

#### A) Front Entry Secure Corridors Designs

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- Cost for all schools is approximately \$988,000 dollars
- Bids are in from 6 contractors
- 6 High Schools have designs
- Cost for the 6 high schools is approximately \$180,000 dollars
- Check-in windows, blocks, glass, and door materials for all 6 high schools have been ordered, with a 6-8-week delivery date expected
- Pre-wiring can be completed now
- Plans are to have walls and barriers completed this summer in the 6 high schools
- Site plans for Ayden Elementary, Falkland, and Wahl-Coates were available for the Board members to view
- Preliminary secure corridor design has been completed for all schools

#### B) Moye Building

- PCS has sent a Letter of Intent to Lease the building on Moye Boulevard across from Guy Smith stadium
- Working with the owner, CDC, and Jimmy Hite to design and build out the space for office use

#### C) Allen Road Building Design

- We are under contract to purchase the building which will become the PCS Training Center and DEEL Center
- PCS will close on June 20, 2018
- The design of the building was available for the Board members to review

#### D) Sadie Saulter

- Office Staff from Sadie will be moved to the Moye Boulevard location
- Sadie Salter will be utilized for educational purposes such as Pitt Academy, Alpha Center, and Day Treatment
- Plans are to have the site ready by next school year
- 3 Secure Corridors will separate the different parts of the building

#### E) OREd

- PCS is contracted OREd to give us a thorough evaluation of the school system
- OREd is in town this week meeting with Mr. Johnson, City and County planning and zoning
- PCS should have the report this summer

Much discussion occurred between Mr. Johnson and the Board members.

#### 6) Human Resources

Dr. Seth Brown, Director of Educator Support and Leadership Development, shared the recent Beginning Teacher Monitoring Visit report. Eight of the twelve areas were rated accomplished or distinguished. Three of the eight areas received Special Commendations and included innovative approach to beginning teacher support through the development of its R3 initiative (Recruit, Retain, Reward), use of technology to store and share resources for mentors and beginning teachers, and community partnerships to support beginning teachers. Four of the areas rated developing included observation, evaluations, and PDPs. Some discussion occurred between Dr. Brown and the Board members.

#### 7) Board Training

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Chair Council provided information and materials from her recent National School Board Conference that she, Mary Blount Williams, and Carol Rankin attended in San Antonio, Texas. Some discussion occurred between the Board members. Upcoming events included the 2019 Equity Symposium to be held in Washington D.C. on Saturday, January 26, 2019 and the National School Board Annual Conference to be held in Pittsburg from March 30 – April 1, 2019.

The Work Session adjourned at 1:38 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mildred A. Council, Chair

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Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary