

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** June 4, 2018

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Ethan Lenker, Cheryl Olmsted, Dr. Ve-Lecia Council, Debra Baggett, Matt Johnson, and Media

**ATTORNEY:** Emma J. Hodson

**TIME:** 6:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Greenville, NC 27834

### 1) Start of Meeting

A) Chair Council called the Board of Education Regular Board meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

B) Caroline Doherty led the Board members in the Pledge of Allegiance and ended with a prayer.

### 2) Routine Business

A) Adjustments to the Agenda

Caroline Doherty made a motion, with a second from Worth Forbes, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion to approve was unanimous.

B) Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

1) Ron Butler introduced Coach Paul Cornwell and the Ayden-Grifton High School Girls' Volleyball to the Board members. Coach Cornwell shared the accomplishments the team received this school year including, excellent sportsmanship at every game, winning the first Volleyball Championship for Ayden-Grifton High School in 41 years, and being recognized by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association for having the highest average GPA in the State of North Carolina with an average of 3.99. Worth Forbes, on behalf of the Board members, presented each team member with a "Creating Excellence in the East" Award.

2) Coach Cornwell recognized Coach Jeff Wooten for receiving the Amy Carroll/Sherry Little Award. The Amy Carroll/Sherry Little Award is presented to an educator who goes Above and Beyond in the field of Health and Physical

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

Education and serves as a memorial for Amy Carroll and Sherry Little, two Physical Educators whose untimely death occurred while en route to the 1990 NCAAPERDSM Convention. Worth Forbes, on behalf of the Board members, presented Jeff Wooten with the Amy Carroll/ Sherry Little Award.

3) Coach Robert Wolbert, Men's Track Head Coach at South Central High School, introduced Dexter McDuffie to the Board members for winning back-to-back State Championships, after being seeded fourth this year in the competition. Coach Wolbert also shared that Dexter is not only a great athlete but has a tremendous character, leadership abilities, is a team player, and very competitive. Dexter informed the Board members that he will be continuing his track career at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and will be signing next week. Betsy Flanagan, on behalf of the Board members, presented Dexter with a "Creating Excellence in the East" Award.

4) Mr. Janarde Cannon, South Central High School principal introduced Patrick Byrum. Patrick is a student at South Central and an accomplished cellist. He has been a member of the Pitt County All-Orchestra, performed twice with the World Honor Symphony at Carnegie Hall, and has been invited to perform with the World Honor Symphony at the Sydney Opera House in Australia. Betsy Flanagan, on behalf of the Board members, presented Patrick with a "Creating Excellence in the East" Award.

5) Jennifer James, previous Stokes' principal, and Jennifer Johnson, current Stokes' principal, came to share with the Board members that Stokes Elementary School has received Lighthouse status through the Leader in Me Process. Kayden Howell, a sixth grade student explained the Leader in Me process to the Board members. Kayden also shared the number of Leader in Me schools are 3894 in the world, 388 Nationwide, and only 9 in North Carolina. Mary Blount Williams, on behalf of the Board members, presented Kayden with a "Creating Excellence in the East" token.

6) Cheryl Olmsted, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services introduced Tim DeCresie, Director of Digital Learning, for receiving the North Carolina Association for Scholastic Activities' 2018 Administrator of the Year for his outstanding support of scholastic activities in Pitt County. Chair Council, on behalf of the Board members, presented Mr. DeCresie with a "Creating Excellence in the East" Award.

#### C) Public Expression

1) Reverend Rodney Coles and Reverend Bob Hudak with Pitt County Interfaith Clergy (PCIC) addressed the Board members stating the PCIC group was committed to promote unity and peace in the community to all of God's

children. Both gentlemen came to express support and introduce the Pitt County Youth for Justice and Change Group.

2) Lauren Bordeaux, President for Pitt County Youth for Justice and Change (PCYJC), a group of concerned students who come from an array of public and private schools, came to address the Board concerning three problems in the school system and ask that PCYJC be included in developing solutions. PCYJC member Jeevan Tewari addressed the Board concerning de-factor segregation. PCYJC member Jessica Gross addressed the Board concerning racial profiling, and PCYJC member Sireen Abayazid addressed the Board concerning school safety.

### 3) Consent Agenda

Mary Blount Williams made a motion to approve the consent items as presented, with a second from Robert Moore. The Consent Agenda items included the following:

- May 7, 2018 Board Meeting minutes,
- May 21, 2018 Board Work Session Meeting minutes,
- Personnel Report for June 4, 2018,
- Substitute Report for June 4, 2018,
- 2017-2018 Audit Contract,
- 2018-2019 Interim Budget Resolution,
- NCASCD Whole Child Resolution, and
- Administrator Contract Renewal for June 4, 2018.

With no discussion, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

### 4) New Business:

Kylene Dibble, Executive Director of Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County (PPSPC) shared, for the fourth year, PPSPC' Community Conversations Report with the Board members. Ms. Dibble shared that PPSPC is a group of more than 3000 parents, grandparents, and community members who share the belief that public schools are stronger when parents are actively involved. The PPSPC mission is to advance the role of families and communities in securing a high quality education for each child. From May 2017 to April 2018 PPSPC convened 21 Community Conversation Sessions with 262 participants. Ms. Dibble stated the community conversation events resulted in more positive responses than negative responses concerning Pitt County Schools. Accolades consisted of the ongoing collaborations between PCS and PCC and ECU, having multiple parent communication choices, and the behavior management programs provided by PCS. Concerns included the perception that resources are not evenly distributed among all schools, over-emphasis on testing, and

security mechanisms. Ms. Dibble thanked the Board members for being supportive of the PPSPC.

5) Closing Comments:

Closing comments were made by Dr. Lenker, Board Members, and Chair Council.

6) Closed Session:

At 8:03 P.M., Vice Chair Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to go into Closed Session for the following purpose: under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information, under subsection (a)(3) to consult with our attorney: to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action, to consider and give instructions concerning a judicial action titled McMillian v. Pitt County Schools and a judicial action titled Henry Williams II v. Pitt County Board of Education, and under subsection (a)(5) to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price and material terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property, with a second from Worth Forbes. The motion to go into Closed Session passed unanimously.

7) Additional Action Items, if Needed:

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:04 P.M., with no additional action items needed.

8) Adjourn:

Benjie Forrest made a motion to adjourn with a second by Caroline Doherty. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Time adjourned was 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mildred A. Council, Chair

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Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary