

Legislative Luncheon/Board Work Session Minutes

DATE: February 18, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Anna Barrett Smith, Vice Chair Betsy Flanagan, Amy Cole, Melinda Fagundus, Tracy Everette-Lenz, Worth Forbes, Benjie Forrest, and Caroline W. Doherty

ALSO PRESENT: Senator Don Davis, Representative Kandie Smith, Representative Chris Humphrey, Representative Greg Murphy, Dr. Ethan Lenker, Debra Baggett, Jennifer L. Johnson, Matt Johnson, Preston Bowers, Tom Feller, Dr. Seth Brown, Shannon Wainright, and Media

ABSENT: Mary Blount Williams

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL: Emma J. Hodson

TIME: 12:00 P.M.

PLACE: Media Center, South Central High School, 570 West Forlines Rd., Winterville, NC 28590

Chair Smith called the Legislative Luncheon/Discussion to order at 12:00 P.M. and welcomed the Legislators and Board members.

Lunch

A delicious lunch, catered and served by Sharon Surles' Culinary class, was enjoyed by all. Representative Greg Murphy excused himself at 12:35 P.M. due to an unexpected obligation.

Legislative Discussion

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Superintendent, led the discussion between the Legislators and the Board members focusing on the following topics.

- 1) A-F School Performance Grading System
 - PCS requested that the Legislators make 15-point for performance grades permanent
 - PCS requested that the Legislators give student growth greater impact in A-F Grading
 - PCS requested that the Legislators exclude schools that "meet growth" standards from definition of and penalties for low-performing status
 - PCS requested that the Legislators provide incentives for high performing schools

Tom Feller, Director of Professional Learning & Leadership Development, and Dr. Seth Brown, Director of Educator Support and Leadership Development, presented R3 Grant information to the Legislators and the Board members.

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

- 2) Increased Funding Needed for Mental Health, Security Personnel, and Facility Safety Enhancements
 - PCS strongly advocated that reductions to Pitt County's position and dollar allotment since 2008-09 be restored
 - PCS strongly advocated for Capital funds and/or a State Bond to support building new classrooms to meet new class size requirements created by House Bill 90
 - PCS strongly advocated for the return of flexibility for Academically & Intellectually Gifted (AIG) and English as a Second Language (ESL) funds
 - PCS strongly advocated for continued support of Low Wealth funding for Pitt county Schools and other Low Wealth counties
- 3) Align Public School Calendar with Community College Calendar
 - PCS requested that local control for school calendars be given back to districts
- 4) Consider Legislative Concerns
 - PCS respectfully requested that members of its legislative delegation introduce legislation to amend Section 15A-544.5(b)(7) of the North Carolina General Statutes to bar the set aside bail bond forfeitures if a criminal defendant is not incarcerated on the date of his or her failure to appear
 - PCS respectfully requested that members of its legislative delegation introduce legislation to amend Sections 7B-302 and 7B-3100 of the North Carolina General Statutes to enable Board and other local education agencies to take advantage of an exception to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- 5) Approve Renewal School District
 - Discussed legislation to become a Renewal school district was discussed
- 6) Fund Early Colleges
 - PCS requested that Legislators Fund Early High School Colleges

Much discussion occurred between the Legislators and the Board members. The Legislative Luncheon/Discussion concluded at 1:50 P.M. followed by a short break.

Chair Smith called the Board Work session to order at 1:57 P.M.

Finance Update

Debra Baggett, Chief Financial Officer, lead a 2019-2020 Budget Planning Discussion with the Board members. The discussion included the following.

- DPI has not released Planning Allotments for 2019-20
- Proposed Local Budget will be submitted to the County Commissioners on May 7, 2019
- Increase in retirement rate to 19.57% from 18.86%
- Increase in insurance cost 5%
- Potential classified staff increase of 2%
- Unassigned Fund balance
- Increase in teacher supplements

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

- Supplements for surrounding counties
- Needed counselor positions
- Capital Appropriations
- Capital needs for HB 90 requirements

Much discussion occurred between Ms. Baggett and the Board members. Ms. Baggett asked the Board members to let Dr. Lenker know if they had any budget priorities they would like to see in the budget for 2019-2020.

EPS Update

Steve Lassiter, Assistant Superintendent of EPS, shared a Restart Update for Falkland, Grifton, and Northwest Elementary with the Board members. Mr. Lassiter also shared a Restart application for South Greenville Elementary (SGE) and explained the benefits for SGE to become a Restart School. After some discussion, Mr. Lassiter requested the Restart application be allowed on the March 4, 2019 Consent Agenda. The consensus of the Board members was to allow the Restart application for South Greenville Elementary on the March 4th Consent Agenda.

Summer and Extended Learning

Shannon Wainright, Director of Accountability, shared the Summer and Extended Learning Plan with the Board members and requested both be listed on the March 4, 2019 Consent Agenda. After some discussion, consensus of the Board members was to allow the Summer and Extended Learning Plan be allowed on the March 4th Consent Agenda.

AVID Update

Preston Bowers, High School Facilitator, shared an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Overview with the Board members. Mr. Bower's presentation included the following

- AVID enrollment numbers
- Current AVID schools
- Expansion list of schools for 2019-2020
- AVID implementation of Profession Development

Mr. Bowers thanked the Board members for their support of the AVID program. Much discussion occurred between Mr. Bowers and the Board members.

Due to time restraints, Dr. Lenker suggested the agenda items not covered be added to the March 4, 2019 Board meeting Agenda. Agenda Items included School Turnaround Update and Operations Update.

Adjourn

The Board Work Session adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Barrett Smith, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary