

DATE: August 17, 2009 PRESENT: Mary Grace Bright, Chair  
Jill Camnitz  
Benjie Forrest  
Jennifer Little  
Ralph Love, Sr.  
Barbara Owens  
TIME: 7:25 P.M. Billy Peaden  
Roy Peaden  
Marcy Romary  
Dick Tolmie  
Mary Williams

PLACE: Pitt County Office Building ABSENT: Michael Dixon

Chair Mary Grace Bright called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session at 7:25 P.M.

Mr. Roy Peaden led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Bright then offered the Agenda for consideration. An Amendment was made to add under New Business C. Update on Facilities by Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu. Dr. Ralph Love, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, moved the Agenda be accepted including the Amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Public Expression, Public Information Officer Heather Mayo stated no one had signed up to speak from the audience.

For the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Superintendent Beverly Reep shared with the Board a video on Drop Out Prevention produced by Public Information Officer Heather Mayo and Technology Director Jeff Smith. Dr. Reep stated since the launch of the project August 7, \$18,000 had been donated with one business contributing \$10,000 of the total amount. She stated the community including businesses, churches, organizations, etc. had become involved. Dr. Reep thanked everyone for their participation and especially Heather Mayo and Jeff Smith for their hard work on this endeavor.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jill Camnitz motioned, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that the August 3, 2009 Minutes and the Second Personnel Report for August 2009 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Dr. Reep stated the external drop out campaign on August 7 provided a visible opportunity for the community to become involved. She thanked the Link Crew for providing ideas which came from Pitt County Schools' students who attended a conference on drop out prevention on a Saturday near the end of the 2008-09 school year with approximately 200 students present. The poster used for the Drop Out Prevention launch was designed by Mr. Randall Leach, Art Teacher at J. H. Rose, who combined 2 separate works of art by two different students to obtain the finished product. Dr. Reep stated work had begun to formulate a Credit Recovery Plan

for students to earn back lost credits which would be offered in the early evening or on Saturday.

The internal campaign will consist of showing the video to Pitt County Schools' staff creating ownership of this project for all principals, APs, teachers, TAs and support staff in grades K-12. All teachers influence a child's school experience, not just high school teachers. While attending the Link Conference, students wrote letters to a teacher who had a positive influence on them during their school years and also to a teacher who had a negative impact on their lives while attending school. A brochure, "Using Student "Voice" to Improve Instruction" was developed which shares positive comments by some of the students, then lists the Research Based Strategy/ies and Resources available pertaining to the comment.

Dr. Reep stated that a big piece of the puzzle for students dropping out of school is attendance. When a student is not in school, they receive no instruction and academically they suffer. This will ultimately affect End-of-Grade or End-of-Class scores. Wellcome Middle School has 27 subgroups and passed 26 of them, but missed AYP by one point. Wellcome has the highest poverty rate in the district and a high attendance problem.

Superintendent Reep stated that a link was being prepared on the Pitt County Schools website where teachers can log into a clearing house and receive assistance from other teachers regarding their particular area/s of concern. This assistance will not only benefit the teacher, but ultimately helps the students that teacher teaches. At the Link Conference, students voiced how much they enjoyed classroom discussions rather than continually reading from books, completing worksheets, etc.

Dr. Reep asked those in attendance to enlist help from churches, businesses, organizations, etc. to prevent students from dropping out of school.

Executive Director of Student Services Travis Lewis updated the Board on immunizations and FluMist. Mr. Lewis stated students who were not up-to-date on their immunizations by the thirtieth day of school, will be suspended until they have met State requirements. A report is forwarded to Health Services in Raleigh. Last year there seemed to be an outbreak in pertussis (whooping cough) so the State now requires a Tdap booster shot to be given to sixth grade students. Because of the lateness of this information last year and availability for students to receive the booster, the decision was made to mandate the booster for the 2009-10 school year. An ALERT NOW message and letters have been sent to parents of students who were in the fifth grade last year informing them of this immunization. During Open House August 20, 2009, the health department will help inform parents of this added immunization requirement, have permission forms available and will actually administer the Tdap booster.

Mr. Lewis then explained to the Board that the health department will dispense at no charge FluMist to the students who returned their permission forms from October 1-15. FluMist is a spray which is instilled in the nasal cavities instead of having to give each student a shot. Mr. Lewis stated the Daily Reflector had recently presented a really good overview of what's going on federally and in school districts on how to address the flu with the recent H1N1 flu scare. A cover letter from Dr. John Morrow,

Director of the Pitt County Health Department, and a parent permission form will be sent to parents explaining FluMist and how it is administered. Funding and staffing are provided by Recovery dollars received by the health department. The goal in this endeavor is to protect students and their families from the flu and increase instructional time by keeping more kids in school. Mr. Lewis stated the vaccine to protect the community from the H1N1 virus is still being developed and not available at this time. By putting into practice the administration of seasonal flu immunization for all students with a returned signed permission form, we would be ready to dispense the immunization for the H1N1 virus should such become available. He also informed the Board that Federal guidelines have changed regarding this virus and schools are closed only as a last resort. It is stressed that good hygiene, hand washing and covering the mouth when coughing are most important in preventing spread of a virus.

Ms. Barbara Owens asked would FluMist be offered to the staff and Mr. Lewis stated yes. He also stated if a staff member is over 49 years of age, they would have to receive the flu shot as FluMist is not appropriate after age 49.

Ms. Mary Williams asked if this was the same as Tamiflu? Mr. Travis answered no, this was a preventive vaccine that would be given in a doctor's office, the health department, etc.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated we are very fortunate to have Dr. John Morrow associated with the Pitt County Health Department. Mr. Lewis concurred and stated his entire staff is wonderful to work with.

Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu thanked everyone for the very productive Retreat on July 28 and the unanimous support for the Phase I projects. Mr. Beaulieu stated in beginning the actual construction of these projects, many details, coordination and planning are put into place in order for the schedules to be met. He announced that Chair of the Facilities Committee Roy Peaden has graciously agreed to host a Facilities Committee Meeting at 4:00 p.m. August 25, 2009 in the Board Room to address some of the issues that may have developed needing prior commitments. Mr. Beaulieu announced that the Resolution and application for the Qualified School Construction Bonds totaling approximately \$2.8 million dollars at zero or low interest bonds from the State presented at our July 28, 2009 meeting had been approved. He stated Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin had figured paying interest on these dollars over a 25-year period, and we will save approximately \$2.2 million in interest fees. Since all the funding in this Stimulus has not been used, the State is re-advertising \$86 million State wide. The State has guaranteed those who submitted applications during the first round will receive that much money or more based upon the second application submitted to them. With the Board's understanding, we would like to bring to the Facility Committee Meeting on August 25 what projects we designate as this will require a separate accounting and tracking of these funds in the information sent on to Washington, D.C. Mr. Beaulieu stated we will apply for the balance to finish the Farmville construction and identify another portion of a project to use this money. The application for this second round of funding must be postmarked by August 26, 2009. This funding is very time sensitive and the projects must be far enough along in planning to meet a December 31 deadline for bond issuance and construction start.

Mr. Beaulieu stated bid dates had been set for construction projects as follows: Eastern Elementary School - 9/16/09, Farmville Central High School – 9/24/09, D. H. Conley High School – 9/30/09 and the new elementary school – 10/7/09 (pending the ten and twenty day numbers). Once the bids are in, Mr. Beaulieu stated they had to be approved by the Board of Education, the County Commissioners, and then go before the LGC for approval. He stated he hoped to be prepared to present the projects for approval to the Board of Education and County Commissioners by October 19, 2009 with December 3, 2009 set for closing. Mr. Beaulieu stated the State did not prohibit construction money from sales tax, the lottery, or public school capitol funds, and money is in place to meet the December requirements.

Mr. Beaulieu stated that though the Board had approved the Eastern Elementary project in April with a proposal of using two modular units, only one was going to be necessary. He stated it would take ten to twelve weeks to set the modular unit up. At the Facility Committee Meeting set for August 25, he hopes to bring the modular unit specks and bids to present for approval. The plan is to start construction at Eastern in November or December and finish the first phase of construction before school starts next year. Then, the second phase of construction will begin in the old existing area with the parking area changes being done in the summer of 2011. Our goal is completion of the Eastern construction by the beginning of the 2011-12 school year.

Mr. Beaulieu informed the Board that D. H. Conley High School would follow a similar pattern. He hopes to have details for the land purchase behind D. H. Conley to present at the Facility Meeting on August 25 in order to be able to move forward with accepting bids for the Conley project.

Mr. Beaulieu also stated that Farmville Central High School construction may be complete by the opening of school in 2010-11.

Superintendent Reep advised the Board that at her quarterly meeting with the State Superintendent June Atkinson on July 30, everyone was reminded that the money just applied for by Mr. Beaulieu was offered in year one of the Stimulus – in July 2010, there will be a second round of Stimulus money offered. She stated many districts did not have construction plans in place or financial institutions that would float the bond, and therefore, did not apply for funds as the money could not be held over. Mr. Beaulieu stated between the two applications being submitted, there would be over \$4 million saved for the county. He also stated Stimulus money is helping with funding for the Stokes/Pactolus sewer project and similar funding is being sought for the Chicod sewer project. With help on funding from the resources as mentioned, we hope to only borrow somewhere in the low \$30 million during this first round of construction where originally we were looking at somewhere between \$70-\$80 million total available debt. We will continue to monitor these funds.

Mr. Dick Tolmie asked regarding a timeline in deciding further construction for our district. Dr. Reep reminded everyone that another workshop during the second meeting in October had been mentioned at the July Board Retreat. Mr. Tolmie asked how long were bids allowed before the closing date? Mr. Beaulieu stated four weeks were allowed. He also stated that the Eastern Elementary and new school projects were ready to be advertised and bids accepted. Work is being done to complete the D.

H. Conley and Farmville Central projects so that advertisement for construction bids could be placed in the near future.

Superintendent Reep welcomed back the teachers and staff for the 2009-10 school year. She is visiting all schools and commented on how great it is to see their excitement as well as how clean and refreshing the schools and campuses look. Dr. Reep also announced that Open House is August 20 with staggered times scheduled so parents/students can visit more than one school if necessary. And most importantly, students return Tuesday, August 25!

Chair Bright stated she had spoken to the new teachers and new employees last week who were having lots of fun and talked to many folks glad to be employed. She also mentioned the Drop Out Prevention launch August 7 and was impressed by the attendance from the community in support of this project.

Chair Bright also announced the breakfast meetings with the County Commissioners and Scott Elliott for anyone who would like to attend. She also stated she had received notice from the North Carolina School Board Association that they would like names given for voting delegates at the NCSBA Conference in November. If anyone plans to attend the conference, please contact her. Chair Bright received a letter from Mr. Ed Dunlap stating there were possible vacancies in our area for seats on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina School Board Association and asked if anyone was interested in serving. Chair Bright also welcomed back Ms. Mary Williams who had been out due to health issues.

Many of the Board members welcomed back teachers and staff for the 2009-10 school year.

Ms. Jennifer Little congratulated the 16 and under Babe Ruth All-Star girls, and Ms. Marcy Romary also congratulated Principal of C. M. Eppes Charlie Langley for coaching them.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked could members of the Board receive a copy of the brochure sent to all teachers which was designed following the Link Crew Conference regarding drop out prevention?

Ms. Mary Williams also mentioned hurricane season and reminded everyone to be aware of approaching storms and watchful of their neighbors.

There being no further business, Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Dr. Ralph Love, that the meeting adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted,

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Ms. Mary Grace Bright, Chair

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Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent