

a Smart Table, an iPod Touch and an iPad have proved effective in learning and assessment of the students. The fact that EC students' scores in a self-contained setting have been part of the three-year accomplishment award at Elmhurst demonstrate that our students have gained knowledge and maximized their understanding of the subject areas in which they have been instructed.

Ms. Lee expressed delight in sharing with the Board some of the strategies and tools staff at Elmhurst implement to make the students successful. She discussed Behavior Reflections, which not only involves behavior of a student through PBIS, but also academics. She explained that this tool involves the parent, the teacher and the student. Ms. Lee also shared an interactive folder which drives the students to become critical thinkers by introducing key concepts and learning how to interact with these concepts. She commented that a new math tool will be used in identifying why a student missed a problem and what the correct answer is.

Ms. Criswell believes the reason Elmhurst is so special and received this award is the constant collaboration between staff, parents, and administration. She shared that everyone worries about what is best for the students – stating that no one takes the spotlight, but everyone works together in achieving this goal. Ms. Criswell describes the relationships with staff members as vital, but also the relationships between teachers and students play an important role in Elmhurst being successful. She read a letter that a former student wrote about her; which expressed the push from her teacher to get her work done, but also demonstrated her teacher's concern and caring that she would succeed. Ms. Criswell voiced that different grade levels work together to make the student transition from grade to grade comfortable. She also expressed that Principal Gillam supports and trusts her staff and, though there are deadlines on paperwork and achievements, she is considerate of her staff's families and responsibilities outside of school – which makes them want to work harder for her and the school.

Superintendent Beverly Emory explained to the Board that Elmhurst is the only school in Pitt County who received this Title I reward and was recognized by the State.

Mr. Worth Forbes stated that when Ms. Gillam went to Elmhurst, he was her evaluator. He commented that she had certainly “taken the bull by the horns” and has produced excellent results with staff that support her. Mr. Forbes congratulated Ms. Gillam for the interactive tools, strong collaboration and outstanding staff/student relationships/success. Ms. Gillam stated it is great to go to work in her school each day.

Mr. Sean Kenny complimented Ms. Gillam on great relationships between the staff, parents and neighborhood stating he speaks as a parent of a student at Elmhurst. The EC Program was identified as supporting the special ed students as they are intermingled with regular ed students and the outstanding leadership Ms. Wainwright portrays in her school. Mr. Kenny added that a family environment at Elmhurst is evident throughout the school.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jennifer Little, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, moved that the Board approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held September 17, 2012 and the Personnel Report for October. Motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Chair Sean Kenny and Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu shared with the Board a discussion following an Operations Committee Meeting held September 24, 2012. Though a quorum was not present, Mr. Kenny shared that a local Girl Scout Troop was present to explain a project they have implemented at Elmhurst following Hurricane Irene last year. This project has the makings of an outdoor classroom and will enhance the academic activities at the school as well as involvement for the community.

Mr. Beaulieu stated the next item reviewed was the Chicod Construction Project stating the investment between Phase I site work and the sewer modifications is approximately \$5 million. He explained that the second and third phases for the project have been awarded to Hite and Associates and will proceed when the County rebounds economically and we consider our long range planning.

Next, the Committee discussed an unbiased review of our schools over a four-day period done by the State Energy Management Office. Mr. Beaulieu shared that representatives from the State will be presenting their findings at the October 15 Board meeting relative to where Pitt County Schools stands in our energy performance and their recommendations.

An update was given regarding textbook storage and surplus materials housed at the Third Street Warehouse, for which the Board ratified a lease with the present owners of the Third Street Property at our last meeting for a 12-month period and another 12-month option if needed. Mr. Beaulieu would like to keep this item on the forefront as 12 to 24 months can pass by quickly, and we need to think about what direction our school textbooks is going. The decision regarding textbooks will be determined by our curriculum people as far as storage space and needs. Mr. Beaulieu voiced that as Mr. Worth Forbes reminded us, Mr. Phil Ward does an excellent job handling textbooks; but it's easy for things to accumulate, and we probably need to implement a cleaning out of materials being stored.

Mr. Worth Forbes commented that we had the Third Street Property up for sale almost a year and he wished that during this time period, we had looked at some place to put the stored textbooks and old material so we would not have to pay out \$700 a month for 12 months. He further added that if old textbooks and materials that are no longer of use were removed, perhaps the remainder could be stored in another facility we own.

During the second item of business, Chair Benjie Forrest and Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin reported there was not a quorum present at the Finance Committee Meeting held September 27, 2012, but they did discuss informally a couple of projects in progress. Mr. Forrest stated the first discussion centered on the biodiesel project and asked Mr. Cowin to update the Board in this regard. Mr. Cowin commented that our agreement with Green Circle started in May, and since that time, 150 restaurants have become involved in the fundraiser. He reported that the company picks up the used cooking oil and converts it to biodiesel fuel which is sold at a profit for the school system. Mr. Cowin added that each school has received a check for \$1,000, but feels this is just the tip of the iceberg as we move forward. He reported that so far they have met with approximately 25 school PTAs,

booster clubs, and other organizations to share the great benefits of this fundraising program for purchasing instructional supplies, equipment or whatever their individual needs may be. Mr. Cowin stated the principals have a lot of outstanding ideas, and we are currently “cooking with gas!”

Mr. Marc Whichard asked are there any categorical conditions on how this money can be spent. Mr. Cowin replied that they have been looking at the instructional benefit to the schools, but are basically leaving the decision up to the administration at each school. He added that in the larger schools that do a lot with athletics, the extra money would be of benefit to the school in regards to fuel cost. Mr. Cowin commented that several schools will use the money for technology – putting iPads into the teachers’/ students’ hands. In calling this the “ultimate fundraiser,” schools have had mixed uses, but we hope these extra funds will help take burdens off parents for supporting fundraisers. Mr. Whichard asked, if input remains constant, how much revenue could be generated from this fundraiser? Mr. Cowin responded that at the level it is currently, which his goal is at a much higher level, he feels we’re looking at \$65,000- \$75,000/year. He stated that there are many more restaurants eligible to be involved with the program, and eventually he would like to see Pitt County Schools get 100% of the profits and not share them with a middle person.

Mr. Worth Forbes asked how long a period would it be before the system received 100% of the profits with Mr. Cowin stating it is hard to say but in guessing, maybe three to five years. Mr. Forbes asked if there are more restaurants that could be participating. Mr. Cowin responded that Green Circle’s representative, who is from the western part of the state, has carried out the engaging process to this point. He added that this is the reason we’re reaching out to the schools – the teachers, the students, the parents and others – so we can make more contacts with grass roots connection in Pitt County and get people excited about this fundraiser. Mr. Forbes feels it’s important that instructional field trips be considered as a use for this funding as many schools have had to cut back on these due to budget restrictions. He stated a lot of these students don’t have the hands on experience that these field trips would provide.

Ms. Mildred Council asked how was the biodiesel program marketed to the restaurants and how do people find out about it? Mr. Cowin explained that the company has actually done all the marketing, contacting restaurants and setting up meetings. He continued that now, we are coming on board at the school level, stating that approximately 150 of the 400+ restaurants in Pitt County are involved at this time. Mr. Forbes added that some restaurants have put up banners stating they are participants of the program. Ms. Barbara Owens stated that one man’s trash becomes another man’s treasure. Mr. Benjie Forrest commented that he could see this tied to curriculum based field trip expenses as the fundraiser relates to fuel and energy. He added that students ten years from now may not remember what happened in Ms. X’s algebra class, but they will remember the field trip they went on to experience applied learning skills.

Mr. Cowin then shared the second item discussed which was a financial update for the Board. He explained that after running the second teacher payroll for a school year, a budget resolution is finalized to be presented to the Board for formal adoption. As Mr. Cowin broke down the local fund balance appropriations into operational and

capital monies, he then explained that some on-going operational and capital projects started in the 2011-12 year, were completed after July in the 2012-13 school. He also discussed carryover money that occurs in case there are budget reductions in the new school year to cover capital, instructional and staff development budgeting as needed. Mr. Cowin reviewed one-time departmental needs involving transportation, on-line testing computers, legal fees related to Unitary Status, and others. He stated that of the total \$3.9 million, the vast majority of over 65% of the funds will be used for instructional programs. Mr. Cowin shared the dismal prospects of County Appropriation for Capital funding by FY2014-15 as budget monies stand at the current time.

Ms. Jill Camnitz questioned Mr. Cowin regarding the on-line testing computers item being a State mandate with the answer being yes. She asked had the State allocated any funding for the on-line testing computer expenses with Mr. Cowin stating no; adding that for the last four years, we have put at least \$750,000 into technology. He commented that we get the routine fine and forfeitures money, which we set aside for emergency use, i.e. servers going down. Regarding capital funding, Ms. Camnitz asked have we agreed not to put in a request for the \$750,000 for school year 2013 with Mr. Cowin responding that it was part of the \$800,000 cut in revenue this year; he's making the Board aware of what will happen to our local budget if this is not restored in our funding. Dr. Emory reminded everyone that if the budget reduction was absolute, we asked the County for the option to take funding from capital money rather than operational because we didn't want a potential impact on Low Wealth Funding. Mr. Cowin closed by saying the \$750,000 for capital funding would be placed back in the budget for next year's allocation.

Mr. Forbes asked about the ADM figures with Mr. Cowin responding that day 1-10 numbers were down from the State projected. He asked that we not look at these figures in isolation, but wait until the full 20-day numbers are completed. Dr. Emory clarified that enrollment over last year is up, but did not reach the projected numbers from the State. She commented that the 20-day numbers are in, but the schools are cleaning up their reports to send to central office for evaluation.

Mr. Marc Whichard commented that it's difficult for some students in the community to take on-line tests particularly in the area of reading where the entire passage cannot be viewed at the same time for underlining, highlighting, etc.

Mr. Forbes also mentioned many phone calls today from teachers at Northwest who believe they are due a stipend, but have not received one. Dr. Emory reminded the Board that they approved an incentive program during the summer and through miscommunication, some felt it was going to be retroactive. She stated she's offered to go and speak to the staff and bring Board members from that attendance area with her. Dr. Emory further commented that the school received significant Title dollars; adding that the issue is being worked on.

The last item of business was a Race-to-the-Top update by Coordinator Tom Feller who began with a brief recap of the staff development days used through the calendar waiver. He mentioned the Regional Education Service Agency where staff received training in a train-the-trainer model. Mr. Feller explained that during the Curriculum Review Week about 190 teachers were brought in to help develop the new curriculum

guides for staff which are available on-line so that teachers will always have the most current information. The first feedback regarding these guidelines will be October 26th, a waiver day from the State. Mr. Feller commented that an advantage for this training was that teachers were able to receive payment for their efforts with a total of \$167,000 being spent.

He then shared information regarding the Curriculum Summer Institute where training on the curriculum guides was presented. Mr. Feller shared that keynote speakers presented in the morning while breakout sessions led by teachers involved in creating the guides were held during the afternoon. He explained that a decision had been made to implement the training in small groups or Professional Learning Communities to learn the standards, develop lesson plans and complete assessments.

In moving forward, Mr. Feller shared that he has developed a video explaining where we need to go with professional development in terms of the new standards. He stated that there are three key factors related to teaching and learning – 1. Curriculum-what we teach, 2. Instruction-how we teach and 3. Assessment-how we know students know what they're supposed to know and do what they're supposed to do. Mr. Feller shared methods of interaction between the three key factors through content strategies, summative assessment and formative assessment. He continued stating that in the core of content strategies, summative assessment (what) and formative assessment (how), we have PLCs, Revised Blooms, 21st century skills and literacy to include academic vocabulary. Mr. Feller stated the focus at this particular time regarding 21st century skills is on technology. He shared that Dr. Mike Schmoker, who wrote the book *Focus* and presented at the Summer Institute, believes "literacy is the spine that holds together curriculum and instruction. Mr. Feller continued that we cannot assess a student if the student cannot read or write, thus literacy is a big focus for the Standard Course of Study. He closed by stating that all staff development during the 2012-13 school year will tie back to what has been presented tonight.

Mr. Worth Forbes asked could the Board receive a copy of what had been presented tonight with Mr. Feller responding that it is available on-line and he will send out the link.

Mr. Marc Whichard addressed Dr. Emory stating that one thing that helped PLCs be so successful is common planning time. He asked do the different grade levels have a common planning time, at least with the Common Core. Dr. Emory commented that this is a goal the schools are striving for; and during their evaluations this fall, this issue is being studied and schedules are checked. She stated that in high schools, this is difficult to accomplish; but in middle schools, this is readily available. Dr. Emory commented that the early release days and waiver days have enabled PLCs more available time. Mr. Whichard asked that on some early release days, could teachers have time to work alone in their classroom for lesson plans, assessments or grades and/or collaboration with teachers in their building other than always district-wide collaboration.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated that she visited Wahl-Coates today and learned that every teacher has a 90-minute PLC opportunity during the school day while students go to their encore classes back-to-back one day a week. She feels it's wonderful that they

can have this PLC opportunity during the day and not after school having taught all day. Ms. Camnitz shared that she sat in on one of the sessions and it was awesome to see the focus on the students and data and the professionalism displayed.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Emory commented that Mr. Feller is a one-man department and has done an outstanding job sharing this data with teachers as well as administrators during the Administrative Retreat. She emphasized that we would not have had funding for this extensive training described had it not been for the Race-to-the-Top Grant, adding that 1/3 of this money was used for staff development.

Dr. Emory also thanked the Elmhurst staff for all they do and the welcoming environment that exists in the school.

Superintendent Emory congratulated Ms. Mildred Council in that her son did an outstanding job presenting the convocation at Rose High last week stating she knew she was a proud mama.

Dr. Emory congratulated the whole biodiesel efforts and thanked Mr. Cowin, Ms. Heather Mayo, the restaurants in our community who are participating and others for their quick support of our school system.

Dr. Emory stated at our last meeting, we talked about the heroic efforts in Farmville after a bus incident and shared that a tragic bus accident at North Pitt occurred just over a week ago. She shared the phenomenal quick response of the entire North Pitt staff and how organized and prepared they were for this emergency; for assistance from Transportation Director Joey Weathington and Student Services Director Pokie Noland. Dr. Emory commented that 17 students were transported to the hospital and one was admitted for one night – which is unbelievable after seeing the photos of the accident. She added that there was Divine intervention after being at the scene and seeing the vehicles involved – though this may not be politically correct to voice. Dr. Emory stated that after the dust had settled and the emergency vehicles were gone, the teachers were ready and prepared to go to their PLCs as this was an early release day.

In closing, Dr. Emory shared that South Greenville Elementary had a symbolic graduation ceremony with students receiving their iPads at ECU last Friday. She thanked everyone for their efforts in preparing the event and ECU for their support. Superintendent Emory added that we will await the expectations from South Greenville with the technology made available for this school year. She voiced thanks to the Board and community for their support in this endeavor.

Vice-Chair Love recognized County Commissioner Tom Johnson for his attendance tonight.

Mr. Benjie Forrest encouraged restaurants to become involved in the biodiesel project and feels it's a great avenue for providing our students with necessary resources in school. As the proceeds increase, he looks forward to determining how the funding will be allocated. He also mentioned a committee of teachers from Career and Technical Education that was formed to determine why and when field trips will take

place and voiced a desire that at least one teacher from each department be involved with that or any future county-wide committees that are formed to discuss specific items.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated he saw in the Agenda book that Rev. Richard Mercer is retiring at Farmville Central High School. He shared that Rev. Mercer worked with students as a custodian and bus driver; often interacting with elementary to high school students - ministering to them in terms of getting their act together or their work done. Mr. Whichard commented that it is people like Rev. Mercer who make this district a great district.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated she has proof in a picture that Ms. Council was the proudest woman in Pitt County at Rose's convocation - as she should have been! She added that Logan is a great role model and did a great job. To South Greenville staff, teachers, students and everybody, as a South Greenville alumni mother Ms. Little stated it was another great moment to check off for that school and the great things that are going on in technology for their future. She remarked on the great behavior of the students as they waited over an hour to receive their iPads and thanked everyone who had a part in preparing for this celebration.

Ms. Mary Williams stated it was great to be back and thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the first Howard Lee Institute in Greensboro adding that six schools in our district were represented. She commented that she was really impressed with the emphasis on Common Core and felt comfortable in the discussion as Ms. Olmsted and Ms. Jones had assisted her in its meaning. Ms. Williams also shared the discussion of North Carolina's rising graduation rate and our dropout rate is now one of the lowest in the country. She added that faith based involvement in our schools was mentioned and felt proud that Pitt County Schools is one of the leaders in the East relative to this commitment. The importance of volunteers in our schools was also shared. One topic that surprised Ms. Williams at the conference is the fact that there are 294 different languages spoken in our schools and voiced that Common Core is the link between students from North Carolina to California.

Ms. Barbara Owens commented that from observation this past week, she noted that three committees could not meet because a quorum was not present. She also noted that the Agenda is light tonight, and wondered do we need to consider re-establishing some of these areas to build better efficiency for the Board and the staff.

Ms. Mildred Council dittoed Dr. Emory regarding South Greenville. She also shared her son, Logan, went to North Pitt High School where he spoke to two Spanish classes as well as ECU. Ms. Council remarked that the fair opened tonight and there are many good things available for the family to visit including the 4-H exhibits that involve Pitt County students.

Ms. Jill Camnitz thanked Mr. Feller for all his efforts. She also remarked that Elmhurst over the years does not care who walks through the doors or when attendance lines change - they do their job by helping students and they truly "continue a tradition of excellence."

Mr. Worth Forbes concurred with Mr. Forrest in discussing the CTE committee set up for field trips as he believes there is money in the system to spend on field trips. He also mentioned South Greenville using iPads stating that he brought his tonight and used it – telling Ms. Barbara Owens that it wasn't that hard and is looking forward to the transition. Mr. Forbes again stated appreciation to Elmhurst staff and parents and expressed to Ms. Gillam that her leadership is wonderful. In closing, Mr. Forbes told Mr. Feller he appreciates his vision and plans for staff development, as many times this can go in several different directions and he seems to have pulled staff development together.

Ms. Christine Waters stated last week was very exciting for Pitt County Schools with the art exhibit opening and the very next day having a front page article on South Greenville students receiving their iPads. She also thanked the community people, the administrators and teachers who have agreed to serve on the dress code committee for which we are working on a date to have our first meeting.

Mr. Benjie Forrest, second by Mr. Sean Kenny, moved that the Board go into Closed Session to: 1) consult with our attorney to consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure or judicial action, and 2) establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price and terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (5)]. Motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to Open Session and with no further business to discuss, Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, that the Board adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Time was 8:48 P. M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Ralph Love, Vice-Chair

Dr. Beverly Emory, Secretary