

Mr. Marc Whichard stated he sought his seat on the school board as a professional educator by day and school board member by night. When he first joined the board about two years ago, he stated he took a long look at: 1. the amount of time this position would take away from his family and 2. what could he offer Pitt County Schools. Mr. Whichard stated honestly, he is a little disappointed in terms of his past two years in some of the areas he's let go lacking in his attention to the children. He stated that people who know him know that he's not afraid to hold back in terms of saying what's right – teachers have had too much put on them with very high expectations from the legislature and he's willing to say that some of these things are not right. With new MSLs and new common core state standards – he works with these every single day. Mr. Whichard stated Mr. Forbes is a very intelligent young man. He commented that this is one of the most divided environments he's been in during his entire life; though as a principal with several different superintendents, he's been in places where there has been divisiveness and poor test scores – but within two years, he has turned these circumstances around by building a cohesive unit.

Mr. Whichard informed the Board that several people in the community he represents, some elected officials and some members on this Board asked him to consider being chair, though he had not given it much thought. He added that he prayed and thought long and hard about it, and the reason he decided to run is not for the title of chairman, as he has enough hats to wear on a daily basis; but he does want to right some wrongs and make this the highest performing district that he possibly can. Mr. Whichard commented that he cares about people and relationships and feels we need to look after each other. He stated we don't need this side against that side anymore - adding that if he has played a role in the past – it's the past and we need to move forward. Mr. Whichard stated that one elected official commented that we were elected to do our jobs; and if we can't do them, then we need to step aside. He added that he's reaffirming himself for his duties and will look after our pre-Ks to seniors, bus drivers to senior level administrators – if they are doing their jobs, he will make it his business to support them to the highest degree possible. Mr. Whichard expressed that if someone is falling short of his/her job, he will make it his business to come after them. He stated that people are looking at us around this table, whether it is one of us or twelve of us doing something improper – we are all called the Board. Mr. Whichard commented that he works in a district where the Board members could not get along any better, and it's a great group of seven people. When he sits in on their meetings the second Monday of each month, they have a good time, work together and educational achievement is at the forefront. Mr. Whichard closed by saying if we don't start doing this, we shortchange the kids and the people who put us here.

Ms. Mary Williams stated there are two reasons she voted for Mr. Forbes: 1. Bishop Ralph Love's opinion is very important to her; and feels if it were not for his health problems, we would be voting for Bishop Ralph Love for Chair. Upon speaking to Bishop seeking his opinion and hearing his confidence in Mr. Forbes, is the first reason she voted for Mr. Forbes. 2. She really does not believe that Mr. Whichard can do the job as Chair as that person has to be on the same plain as our superintendent, board attorney and other administrators throughout the central office – whether called for emergencies or called by students and the communities - and Mr. Whichard works full time in another county. Ms. Williams also feels his experience as a principal is less than Mr. Forbes experience as an associate superintendent serving our county and our students well. She mentioned the word dysfunctional stating that

the Board has to do what is in the best interest of all our students and feels Mr. Whichard does not have the time to get these things done. Ms. Williams also feels we are at a crossroads in serving our students and feels the chair needs to be a person who is accessible at all times.

Ms. Christine Waters stated within the last several months, Mr. Forbes has taken an interim position as Pastor of the Ayden Freewill Baptist Church where he works seven days a week on a job. She commented that she remembers Mr. Whichard when he was a “little thing” in the ninth grade in her homeroom. (Mr. Whichard remarked that he’d never been “little”!) Ms. Waters stated that she’s always been amazed at the breadth of Mr. Whichard’s knowledge – with his work in county and state programs. For the sake of the Board and the school system, she stated we do not need another year of what we’ve had in the past two – looking for leadership who will include every member of the board, not take offense to other people’s opinions and certainly will not take part in intimidation of another board member (as Mr. Forbes did find himself involved in). Ms. Waters stated his close association with the previous administration and his steadfast agenda leave his motives perhaps wanting, and she for one, would like to see some team building, full participation of the board and enough diverse representation that people could get a reasonable hearing. She added that lots of things have gone on the last two years, and she does not believe the voters are going to ignore them. Ms. Waters closed by stating she supports Mr. Whichard for this position.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated that he appreciates everybody around the table who chose to serve, and he appreciates the opportunity that the constituents in southern Pitt County gave him to be one of those to serve. He added that he’s been in education for 35 ½ years and has seen it all. Mr. Forrest commented that there is not a person with more integrity, character, truth and loyalty than Mr. Forbes. He believes Mr. Forbes can move the board forward and listed many accomplishments of Pitt County Schools over the last two years, i.e. the READ 3-D Programs, accreditation by AdvancED, establishing a Moment of Silence led by Mr. Forbes, and many others. Yes, Mr. Forrest stated, there have been times when we could have run more smoothly as a board, but all boards have their challenges. He added that from this, we will be stronger and have more unity. Mr. Forrest commented that Mr. Forbes has served this school system in many capacities and has undying support from his community, church and fellow educators. He stated that Mr. Forbes has the time and energy to do the job, and does it well; adding that the superintendent and Mr. Forbes will work together being frank with one another.

Ms. Jill Camnitz commented that she heard the long list of accomplishments cited by Mr. Forrest and at times during the last two years, she felt these accomplishments were achieved despite the board not because of the board. She strongly believes that no one could argue that a key component to the accomplishments is due to our present superintendent and leadership team outside the board. Ms. Camnitz stated that as she heard Mr. Forrest list all these things, she remembered a vote held about a year ago when the board decided to extend the superintendent’s contract and recalled that Mr. Forbes voted against the extension - which raised a question in her mind as to his ability to work with the current leadership of our school system. She added that most of those sitting around this table are supportive of our leadership. In regards to

Mr. Whichard and his leadership of this board, she stated the first thing he talked about was finding ways to bring us together; and being able to disagree with each other without taking it personally, but rather talk about issues and not personalities. Ms. Camnitz closed by stating she believes Mr. Whichard can help us find a way to do business with each other in a respectful way that will bring dignity back to the board.

Attorney Sonnenberg stated that with no further comments, the Board will do another round of votes. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Mr. Sonnenberg again gave the Board choices of more discussion, a brief recess or to open nominations for Chair.

Mr. Forbes stated this current situation demonstrates divisiveness in the board – a perfect picture of divisiveness. He commented that it's important that the board be united with integrity instilled back in the Board of Education. Mr. Forbes added that all board members need to be represented on committees, that the ranking of Pitt County Schools needs to rise to the top 10% across the State, and that we strengthen our policies regarding athletics and public expression so citizens can voice their opinions. He strongly believes that our discipline needs better control and teachers are “screaming” for it. Mr. Forbes commented that current programs which are not effective need to be eliminated and paperwork needs to be lessened so teachers can do their jobs of teaching our students. He believes that cursive writing needs support in our schools, the dropout rate needs to keep improving, and **ALL** employees should be treated fairly. Mr. Forbes believes bullying needs to be addressed to ensure the safety of students and faculty, and communication and working relationships with the superintendent need to improve. He commented that he's worked with Dr. Emory for years and has not always agreed with her. Mr. Forbes stated that he's a man of conviction, and people will know how he feels. At the time of voting for extending the superintendent's contract, he did vote against the extension because he thought change was needed. However, the majority of the board did not agree. This event, however, will not keep Dr. Emory and him from working together. Mr. Forbes asked how can he sit here as a pastor of a church and hear what some individuals have said, though they don't know what's in his heart. He stated he worked for the system 26 years, ran for the Board of Education winning with almost 70% - the highest of any board member in Pitt County, and is here to serve the people of this county in the best way he feels he's able. Mr. Forbes added that he's not a “yes” man, and will do what he feels is best for kids and our employees.

Ms. Waters reminded the board that Mr. Whichard was the one who asked Ms. Camnitz and Ms. Owens to join his committee when they were not assigned to a committee or hearing panel. She also pointed out that Mr. Whichard has chaired the EPS Committee for the last two years and it's probably the only committee that is still functioning. Ms. Waters added that there have been more canceled committee meetings since April than probably what has met. She stated that Mr. Forbes

accepted positions on almost every committee, while some of the board members were shut out - which is a bad reflection. Ms. Waters believes that voting for Mr. Forbes will not change anything that's going on. She asked about School Board 101 and what the task is before us; what can the group do as a board – not a single member.

Ms. Williams questioned Ms. Waters about no other committees functioning when the Human Resources Committee, which she is on, is functioning well. Ms. Williams stated therein lies a major problem as a board – miscommunication. She added despite the fact that certain board members do not serve on a committee does not mean that the work is not being done – insofar as the HR or transfer hearing panels, which she chairs and co-chairs – have not missed their meetings. Ms. Williams feels the board, parents and students are working to get things done and that we don't give ourselves enough credit for getting the work done. She voiced that certain people want to wait until the camera is on before voicing their opinion, which most of the time is negative. Ms. Williams stated that she's not had a reason to call Mr. Whichard on her committee and has not seen him step up to the plate, but confirmed that Mr. Forbes has. She stated in regards to Ms. Owens and Ms. Camnitz not serving on a committee, if you don't want to work for the chairman then you will not do your best. Ms. Williams stated that they let it be known that they didn't want to work for Chair Peaden though he asked what committees everyone would like to work on. If someone chose not to serve, then they chose not to serve their constituents. She added that Dr. Ward stepped in and stated sometimes we have to do things that are uncomfortable. Ms. Williams commented that Mr. Whichard has not asked her for her vote and has shown no interest in her opinion of him being chair. She stated that Mr. Forbes had asked for her opinion in what kind of job she thought he might do. Ms. Camnitz interjected that Mr. Forbes did not ask her. Ms. Williams again stated that she holds Bishop Love and his opinion in high regard and what he thinks is good enough for her.

Ms. Barbara Owens stated that we do not need to get into personalities nor rehash what has happened. She commented that she is glad to serve anywhere and always came to a committee meeting whether she was on it or not. Ms. Owens stated that rejection is a hard thing to swallow when you really want to be a part and feel like you were elected to be that part. As far as people asking what you said or what I said, we all have the right to our opinion. Being the Chair is a great honor she commented, and it's not micro-managing or going out and getting people to support your opinion of this, that or the other. It's about the twelve of us. Ms. Owens challenged the two people who have been nominated – Can you bring the twelve of us together? She challenged each of the board members asking if this is the right way to go about this process and do we have the right person. Ms. Owens stated she didn't have the opportunity of being asked her opinion by a second person, she was only asked by one person and had to think about all that person had or had not done. She added that all the things Mr. Forrest said involved each of us and everybody in the county. Ms. Owens commented that they were wonderful accomplishments which were done in spite of the board. She added that she's tired of in spite of us and wants to be one of us – one of you and work like she's supposed to as well as everyone else.

Mr. Sean Kenny congratulated both candidates on their nomination, which is an honor. He added that a school system and our society always need to move forward. Mr. Kenny commented that he had a very good conversation with Mr. Whichard about

moving forward; and has a great appreciation for having difficult conversations with Mr. Whichard as two adults when speaking of employees and students of Pitt County Schools during the past two years. Because of this, Mr. Kenny stated he will support Mr. Whichard's candidacy. He added that this is not taking anything away from Mr. Forbes as we will all have to work together for our faculty and our students.

Ms. Mildred Council commented that she, as the newest member of the board, has questions for both candidates. She stated that the majority of the Republican government does not value education as we practice here as they are looking at more charter schools, private schools, etc. Ms. Council asked how each candidate will lobby our state and national legislators to ask for more funding for public education, how will you handle race issues, how will you handle adult issues in our schools and how will you assist the superintendent in getting things done in terms of going forward. Some issues I'm concerned about stated Ms. Council, are bullying and the principals equally respecting all employees of his/her school.

Mr. Whichard responded that in North Carolina, he represents the central Carolina RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) with Mr. Neil Peterson (former Superintendent of the Chapel High/Carrboro City Schools), a forward thinking and bright individual. Mr. Peterson has put together a group to advise and give information regarding the MSL (Measure of Student Learning) process – tests that are going to be given across the state. Mr. Whichard stated that he believes Pitt County Schools opted early on to participate in this process which he personally feels is a mistake and hopes it can be revisited. The thought process initially was that by opting into it, you would get a chance to look at the tests and get a feel for where the assessments were going giving the teachers a better chance of basically understanding what was going to be assessed. Mr. Whichard commented that the State is rolling out the process with very little forethought, and most of the people participating in Common Core (48 states) realize there is quite a bit wrong with the system. He added that North Carolina is running lock, stock and barrel forward with it. Mr. Whichard stated that he is an advisor through Neil Peterson to the State Board of Education in terms of a principal reporting issues and problems that we have. He stated he hears daily from teachers asking for help and how to get relief from this. Mr. Whichard stated he will not say that we need to second guess what our principals are doing in our district or take another look at what our teachers are doing in the classroom – as they are doing the best that they can under the circumstances. He added that some out there may not be pulling their weight and if there are issues, he would support reprimand if needed; but feels teachers and administrators in education today are getting beat up mighty hard. Mr. Whichard stated he has a problem when state legislators sit back and constantly say we need to take money away from public schools and put it in charter schools or pay for kids to go to private schools. In doing so, they keep telling public schools we have to do better with less and include students who are not accepted in charter or private schools. They may pull out the top students and we are left with students who are chronically struggling, students on free and reduced lunch or students who come from broken homes. Mr. Whichard stated our schools are overwhelmed with the amount of resources that we don't have to support these students as seen in the picture included in our board packet of the State textbook warehouse, which was empty except for a single box of books. He commented that we have an entire brand new curriculum for K-12 with no resources – we've got to do better. Mr. Whichard explained that he looked at himself over the past

two years, and he's not pleased. He added that he looked at his grandfather, who is a rock to him, and was told to stop being wishy-washy. Mr. Whichard said the Board is not a "political sandbox" and we ought to be embarrassed. He stated he does have a double role – to the students and staff in his building and the students of Pitt County Schools – but he's committed and will continue to work long and hard hours and do the job that needs to be done – whatever that may be. He closed by saying "if teachers see you working in the trenches with them, they will bend over backwards" to do the work for you.

Mr. Forbes responded to Ms. Council stating you "have to be a man of action." He added that if you are going to be influential at the State level, you have to be able to go to the State level and talk to someone face to face. Mr. Forbes commented that you have to be able to state what's needed and what's not needed. With seeing what's happening in Pitt County, Mr. Forbes stated he attended a meeting of the Coalition Against Racism, along with Ms. Williams, where he was told he was the first white individual who has ever shown up at one of the meetings and listened to what they said. He stated we've turned our backs on the bullying issues, on how employees have been treated in this system and on how discipline is handled in our schools. Yes, Mr. Forbes said, it hurts to hear these things, but these issues need to be addressed and a board leader who will listen needs to be in place.

Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated she had a comment. She continued that since being on the board, the position of chair is something she's approached like a job interview. In going through the pros and cons of each person and thinking who would serve as the best chair, she knows it's harder for Ms. Council as she hasn't been on the board long and doesn't know the members very well. Ms. Little commented that she believes the public does perceive the board as dysfunctional with a lot of baggage. She feels to "unpack the baggage" and move forward, we need to grow through professionalism with a spirit of cooperation and integrity, and select someone who believes in accountability, rolls up their sleeves to work hard and brings in a lot of trust. Ms. Little stated there have been a lot of accomplishments, but we can't rest on these and need to move forward without baggage. She feels between the two candidates, there is baggage with Mr. Forbes related to inner board situations that went on pertaining to Mr. Kenny and other things which diminished the trust level. Ms. Little does not believe that Mr. Whichard has that baggage with anyone on the board as far as demonstrating cooperation, trust, integrity and holding us all accountable for our actions - which she appreciates. She feels with Mr. Forbes, we'll have business as usual; with Mr. Whichard, we'll move forward with a spirit of cooperation.

Mr. Whichard commented that when several people approached him about this position, he knew there would be misgivings and upset feelings. He believes Mr.

Forbes is knowledgeable, a good person and a fine Christian man. When “the other side” (which the term “sides” bothers him) talked to him about thinking about chairmanship, he appreciated their consideration as for the most part, his votes have been with the seven majority group. Mr. Whichard felt this was a real opportunity because it gave him a good feeling as he wants to give back and do something productive. In sitting on the board, his feelings coming in were a lot different as he felt we’re supposed to be helpers in working for teachers, students, the community and doing what’s right. Mr. Whichard added that there is too much politicking, but asked how do you separate the two – politics and education. You get local, state and federal money, and all want to say how the money will be spent. He commented that he could honestly say: 1. He respects Mr. Forbes and all members of the board; but there needs to be a time when we stop taking each other’s votes for granted and individual merits should be determined. Mr. Whichard stated he will not say anything negative about Mr. Forbes or anyone on the board as he respects each one and what he/she has done. 2. He has plans to move the group together and be productive in team building. Mr. Whichard added that we will not become a rubber stamp, but we will see our district in the top ten percent. He said at the end of the day when he meets his Maker, he wants to be rightly accounted for and do his best to be in order.

Mr. Forbes commented that he has not called anyone on either side and asked for their vote. He has called some and asked for their opinion. Mr. Whichard added that he had not either.

Ms. Waters stated that it’s time for the Board to consider our place in the Climate Survey. She commented that teachers and staff members pointed out that the Board members make inappropriate demands on school staff, walk through the buildings on their own, directly ask staff members to get information on central office employees and principals, have specific grudges against central office employees and principals, show up at principal association meetings and micromanage schools telling principals what to do. Ms. Waters added that the Board has the lowest rank of satisfaction rating of anyone in the school system and obviously employees in this system don’t think we’ve been doing what we ought to be doing and doing a lot of things we ought not to be doing. She stressed that it’s time for change and stated that Mr. Whichard’s proven he can work with the other six and we know that. Ms. Waters stated that the fact that Mr. Whichard’s been asked by folks on the other side means that we want to be led out of this kind of public perception. She added that we can sit here all night and vote six to six, but stressed that we have to have some change. In closing, Ms. Waters shared that it’s obvious that one of the candidates is acceptable to the whole group and another candidate is acceptable to only half the group.

With no further comments, Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Ms. Waters asked if there is anything in our policy that allows for co-chairs with Attorney Sonnenberg stating no, this is a one-person office. She asked could we make an amendment to accept one man as chair and the other as vice-chair. Mr. Sonnenberg stated that the process is already in place – once someone is elected as chair, the new chair will run the election for the vice-chair. Ms. Waters commented that she's searching for a way to end the stalemate. Mr. Sonnenberg stated that he understands, but the board elects the chair with a majority vote of the quorum.

Ms. Jill Camnitz echoed Ms. Waters stating everyone would like to move forward and do what we were elected to do in taking our appropriate role within the school system. She added that all have admitted pretty openly that we've been divided into two groups, and stated it just seems obvious to her that one person has the possibility and opportunity to bring us all together and move us forward – Mr. Whichard is the only one who can move us forward bringing us together.

Ms. Mildred Council asked can the board do a straw vote with Attorney Sonnenberg stating there is no permitted private vote – people would have to sign their names. Ms. Council then asked could we continue with the rest of the Agenda with Mr. Sonnenberg responding no. She inquired as to thanking the out-going Chair for the work he has done with our attorney responding that this would be done later in the meeting.

Mr. Kenny stated Mr. Whichard spoke with him extensively about eliminating sides. He stated that the communities voted on the twelve members respectively, and the citizens deserve better than to have sides. Mr. Kenny commented that when an individual states we need to stop having sides that is an individual who is bound to do great things. We worked toward this not too long ago when we implemented the school dress code policy, to eliminate sides with our socioeconomic boundaries which was a good move by the board. Mr. Kenny believes when we look to eliminate sides in our society, we are moving in the right direction collectively in the spirit of unity. For this reason, I'm supporting Mr. Marc Whichard.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated he's one of twelve, not one of one side or the other though we have definitely had our issues. Within this framework, he stated both men who have been nominated are men of character, honesty and integrity. Mr. Forrest remarked that if we took all our principals in the system and polled them, they would probably say how in the world could I take the time, energy and effort to make a commitment to be Chairman of the Pitt County Board of Education. He added that it has been mentioned that Mr. Forbes is an acting pastor in a church and that's a tremendous responsibility, too; but within the church, there is an organization of members in place that provides for members of the congregation to be ministered to in addition to the acting pastor. Mr. Forrest stated that he knows when you work for a superintendent and school board in an adjoining county, there will have to be a tremendous amount of understanding and appreciation to be able to accomplish tasks and move our schools forward. In closing, Mr. Forrest stated he believes both men can pull us through and be tremendous advocates for Pitt County Schools, but feels the timing for Mr. Forbes right now is better as he's free to attend to a matter when called – no matter the time of day or night.

With no further comments, Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Mr. Sean Kenny stated that he's heard comments about Mr. Whichard's employment, adding that Mr. Whichard has given no indication that he will not be able to give the chairmanship 100% effort. As someone who not too long ago had people attempt to judge his employment; unless he feels he cannot accomplish the job, it's a little bit out of bounds for us to discuss his employment and I support Mr. Marc Whichard to be the Chairman of the Pitt County Board of Education.

With no further comments or motions, Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Mr. Forrest asked for clarification of Robert's Rules in this unique situation. Attorney Sonnenberg stated that he's examined our by-laws and has spoken with the school boards association. He added that based on our by-laws and Robert's Rules, we continue to vote as we have until we reach a conclusion. The only option we have is to change the by-law. Mr. Forrest mentioned the audience and if they wanted to stay or leave or possibly may have a part in our Agenda, and asked could we by 2/3 vote move to suspend the rules in order to place the election of the chair and vice-chair at the end of the meeting. Mr. Sonnenberg informed Mr. Forrest that we cannot suspend by-laws – by Robert's Rules you can only modify them. By-Law 1.105, paragraph C states at the annual organizational meeting, the superintendent or board attorney shall preside until the new chair is elected. Attorney Sonnenberg stated the board by a 2/3 vote can amend a by-law. Mr. Forrest mentioned the present chair serving to continue with the Agenda until a new chair has been elected and stated he appeals the acting chair's decision that this cannot be worked out through our present policy which is a 2/3 vote requirement. Ms. Mary Williams gave a second. Attorney Sonnenberg called for a vote for the motion. Those in favor of the motion were: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mary Williams, Mr. Worth Forbes, Mr. Billy Peaden, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Ralph Love. Motion did not carry.

Mr. Sonnenberg opened up the floor for further comments or motions from the Board.

Ms. Mary Williams moved that the Board recess for ten minutes. Mr. Benjie Forrest gave a second. Those in favor of the motion were: Ms. Mary Williams, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Mr. Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Worth Forbes and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry.

With no further comments, Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Bishop Ralph Love stated he has been pastoring in Pitt County for 33 years and a pastor has a responsibility to his church. He did add that he sets his own calendar and can attend to outside commitments as needed.

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Mr. Kenny voiced that it's good that we can have this sort of mature discussion adding that he appreciates the spirit and tone of the discussion.

Ms. Waters asked why is it that the board is so hopelessly deadlocked.

Mr. Sonnenberg asked did any members have questions of the two nominees.

Ms. Camnitz stated that she has heard Mr. Whichard speak of the primary need for us to reunite and move forward. Yet, Mr. Forbes spoke mostly about what his agendas were as a board member, but she did not hear him make any reference as to what he will do to help us heal and move us forward.

Mr. Forbes stated he opened his comments by stating a desire to unite the board. He mentioned that everyone will serve on committees and there will be no behind the scene communication without the total board being aware of what's going on. Mr. Forbes believes lack of communication occurred tonight and it needs to stop.

Mr. Whichard stated that we continue to erode the trust of our district. He believes the comment he heard today was, "Pitt County Board will elect a new chairman – dysfunction electing dysfunction." Mr. Whichard said this troubles him as he did not come on this board to be dysfunctional or make deals. He stated his purpose for being here from this point forward is to fair, open and accountable while serving everybody. Mr. Whichard closed by stating that in educational circles, the "perfect storm" is coming.

Ms. Mildred Council asked could our by-laws be amended to have co-chairs. Attorney Sonnenberg stated he has never heard of this idea, but added that these are Pitt County Schools' by-laws and the Board sets the rules by a 2/3 vote. He did mention a possible concern: If there was a division between the two, who would have the final

say as a voice for the board. Ms. Council proposed one co-chair presiding at one meeting and the other, the next. She stated that if this is possible, she will be glad to make a motion to that effect where we elect both candidates as co-chairs, and they work together learning from each other - and we learn from them. Ms. Council commented that we need diversity on the board and each of us has a different style of leadership and different perspectives, but the bottom line is that we're all here for the same reason - the children.

Attorney Sonnenberg informed the Board that the first motion would be to motion that we amend By-Law 1.105, paragraph B, the officers of the board shall be the chair and vice-chair might read the officers of the board shall be a chair and/or co-chair and a vice-chair passed by a 2/3 vote. Ms. Council motioned that the Board consider amending its by-laws to allow for the first time in the history of this county, co-chairs for the Pitt County Board of Education since we can't get past a six-six tie. Mr. Billy Peaden stated he will give a second to the motion if vice-chair is dropped. Ms. Council amended her motion to state that we have two co-chairs for the Pitt County Board of Education. Mr. Billy Peaden seconded the motion.

During the discussion, Ms. Waters asked Dr. Emory for her input. Superintendent Emory stated she works for the Board, and it is not her position to say.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated she can only imagine what the superintendent may feel - who will she call first, how will senior staff be involved - she believes this would confuse the matter and cause problems down the road of who is really in charge. Ms. Little believes we need strong leadership to move forward.

Ms. Camnitz is confused about the language in the motion. To her it sounds that going forward, we will always elect a co-chair. Ms. Camnitz added that having once been chair of the board, she cannot image a co-chair arrangement. She agrees that Ms. Council is working toward a symbolic positive image of the co-chairs, but practically does not believe it's workable. Ms. Camnitz stated this feeling has nothing to do with the two individuals, it's just the co-chair arrangement that she's discussing. Mr. Peaden asked of Ms. Camnitz if she would entertain the idea for one year with Ms. Camnitz responding no.

Ms. Council stated that the two positions could rotate their duties.

Attorney Sonnenberg asked for a vote of all in favor of Ms. Council's motion. Those in favor were Ms. Mildred Council, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Ralph Love and Ms. Mary Williams. Motion did not carry.

Mr. Whichard moved that we hold the rest of the Agenda until our next scheduled meeting for the sake of those who are to present. Mr. Sean Kenny seconded the motion. Dr. Emory asked of Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu if there are action items that need discussion tonight with Mr. Beaulieu responding that they could wait.

For discussion, Mr. Forrest asked for a point of clarification - he believes what Mr. Whichard just offered is the same as what he offered earlier. He commented that if we

act on this then, the board is acting on an Agenda item prior to the election of chair and vice-chair. He proposed and asked Dr. Emory if she would consider acting as chair for a few minutes in order to move the Agenda item of elections to the end. Dr. Emory stated she will not second guess our board attorney. Attorney Sonnenberg stated he's not an elected member from Pitt County and it's not appropriate for him to preside and govern a meeting that is dealing with business – other than the election. This, he stated, is why he's hesitant to move forward with any further action. Dr. Emory commented that once a chair is elected, if it's 10:30 or 11:00 p.m., the board could then agree to table the rest of the items to the next meeting.

Attorney Sonnenberg stated that we need to find middle ground here. Mr. Kenny asked had the motion been rescinded. Mr. Sonnenberg stated he feels the motion is out of order without a chair. He did offer the public a chance to leave if they so choose.

Ms. Camnitz stated that at the annual meeting, the acting chair (which in this case is our attorney) will preside until the new chair is elected. She stated it did not state that no business can be conducted until the new chair is elected. Attorney Sonnenberg replied that in speaking with Attorney Allison Schafer and others, he was cautioned that he's not an elected member and should be cautious regarding governing the board. Ms. Camnitz stated that if they had known, the Agenda could have been amended and the election been moved to the last item.

Ms. Mary Williams asked could we motion to adjourn the meeting until December 17th with Mr. Sonnenberg stating yes, the meeting could be adjourned to a later date. Mr. Billy Peaden seconded the motion. Those voting for the motion were: Ms. Mary Williams, Mr. Billy Peaden and Mr. Ralph Love. Motion did not carry.

With no further comments, Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Ms. Williams asked if it is possible to keep the present chair. Attorney Sonnenberg responded no as he's capped on his two terms. Ms. Williams asked if that is a state or local rule with Mr. Sonnenberg stating that it's the board's by-laws. She asked can the by-laws be amended with Mr. Sonnenberg responding yes. Ms. Williams then moved that we amend the by-laws to keep the present chair another year. Attorney Sonnenberg suggested amending the by-laws to remove the cap of two consecutive terms for chair. If this is removed from the by-laws, someone may open nominations again by majority vote and Mr. Peaden could be nominated and voted on by the board. Ms. Williams moved that the by-laws be amended for By-Law 1.105, paragraph D, to remove the cap for the chair serving two consecutive terms. Ms. Mildred Council seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Ms. Mary Williams and Ms. Mildred Council.

Mr. Benjie Forrest moved that the board recess for five minutes. Second was made by Ms. Mary Williams. Those in favor of the motion were: Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council, Mr. Ralph Love, Ms. Mary Williams and Mr. Marc Whichard.

With no further comments, Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Ms. Christine Waters moved that we withdraw names given and nominate someone else. Attorney Sonnenberg stated the candidates have to withdraw their names. Ms. Camnitz stated that someone could nominate a third person.

With no further comments, Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mildred Council and Mr. Worth Forbes. Motion did not carry.

Mr. Forrest moved that in a spirit of unity and harmony - which will require a by-law change - we elect one candidate for chair and the other for vice-chair; then next year, flip the positions if the candidates will consider this option for this one unique period. Mr. Forbes and Mr. Whichard concurred with the thought.

Mr. Forbes and Mr. Whichard asked to be excused for a few moments while they discussed the situation. In-House Counsel Sonnenberg asked for a motion to have a short recess. Ms. Mildred Council asked for a motion to have a five minute recess which was seconded by Mr. Benjie Forrest. Those in favor of the motion were: Mr. Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Ms. Mary Williams, Ms. Mildred Council and Ms. Christine Waters. Motion did not carry.

With no further comments, Attorney Sonnenberg then called for a vote by the Board. He asked for a vote by the Board for Candidate Marc Whichard for Chair. Those voting for Mr. Whichard for Chair were: Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Christine Waters and Ms. Barbara Owens. Motion did not carry. Those voting for Mr. Worth Forbes for Chair were: Ms. Mary Williams, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Benjie Forrest and Ms. Mildred Council. Motion did not carry.

Upon Mr. Whichard and Mr. Forbes returning to the board room, Attorney Sonnenberg asked was there further discussion. Mr. Whichard stated that he and Mr. Forbes have made a decision to work together for the board and have a proposal to present. For this year, Mr. Whichard will serve as chair, Mr. Forbes will serve as vice-chair. For

next year, there will be a flip arrangement in terms of serving together. He stated for some, this is not the most amenable decision; but he and Mr. Forbes have agreed that there may be on occasion a need for him to be away for a meeting. Mr. Whichard stated their hearts are in the right place and in the interest of expediting this board, staff and individuals still here, we will make it work this year.

Mr. Forbes stated he prayed that there would be no additional changes in the by-laws next year, they would just flip positions next December.

Mr. Forrest stated he's trying to get by a 2/3 vote with one method, and a majority vote through another method. Mr. Forest moved that we nominate Mr. Marc Whichard as Chair and Mr. Worth Forbes as Vice-Chair for the 2013 school year; and that we nominate Mr. Worth Forbes as the Chair and Mr. Marc Whichard as the Vice-Chair for the 2014 school year - as provided by the by-laws that officers of the board shall be a chair and vice-chair in that order. Attorney Sonnenberg read By-Law 1.105 paragraph A which states that on the first Monday of each December the board shall organize and elect its officers from its members. He stated the board will have to modify paragraph A.

Mr. Whichard asked could we have discussion on this proposal just to see if the board supports the motion to save twenty minutes looking into this to find out it doesn't pass. Ms. Camnitz stated she's confused on how we can commit a future vote. Mr. Whichard stated that for those who support him, he's asking that in the spirit of togetherness we work through this and make it happen. He reported that he and Mr. Forbes had a good, gentleman like discussion.

For clarification, Ms. Camnitz asked would there still have to be a vote a year from now with the response being no. Ms. Little asked about negating that vote a year from now if the board is not in a good place. Ms. Camnitz commented that there may not be the same twelve people serving a year from now - things happen. She asked how can you commit for something that's a year away. Mr. Forrest stated this would begin with the first Monday in December so it will comply with paragraph A of our policy. He stated the board will have to be liberal in its ruling stating that they have provided for election of officers - which we would actually be doing tonight. Attorney Sonnenberg stated that he's hearing this is a one-time event, and we can actually insert the years 2013 and 2014 only. Ms. Council stated if both candidates support this idea, she's willing to agree with the proposal. Mr. Forbes stressed that they will be working together the entire period.

Mr. Kenny stated that he's not willing to give up his future vote in December 2013. Ms. Barbara Owens stated that next year would be basically a mock trial or mock vote as the vote will be taken this evening. She continued by stating that if the board should change, that new person would not have the value of his/her vote. Mr. Forrest believes this is true for any event that happens with the board; if a new person comes in, they accept what has already been established by previous members of the board. Ms. Camnitz stated that this is concerning one finite vote that occurs once yearly. Mr. Forrest commented that we can add the statement that this could be changed by a 2/3 vote which means that the arrangement could be altered. Ms. Owens is concerned as it takes away someone's opportunity to be nominated as vice-chair

adding that we're not doing well at getting a 2/3 vote from the Board. Mr. Forrest believes the Board is growing in Parliamentary Procedure. He mentioned the idea of each candidate serving six months and then flipping positions for the last six months. Thus, the next election could be held in December 2013 according to the by-laws.

Mr. Forbes commented that he and Mr. Whichard are trying to work together on behalf of the board. Ms. Camnitz stated she's having a hard time making a commitment for next year. Mr. Forrest removed his motion from the floor. Attorney Sonnenberg stated the board would have to change the by-laws to concur with six-month terms. It was asked did this mean a change in policy with Mr. Forrest stating no, this was just a change in terms for one year. Ms. Owens responded that it takes six months for a new chair to be acclimated as chairman. It was stated that some want things just right, but sometimes we all have to bend. Mr. Forbes commented that he and Mr. Whichard are willing to work together for one year or two years, and hopes the board will work together also.

Mr. Benjie Forrest moved that Mr. Whichard become Chair of the Board for the first six months, then Mr. Forbes will become Chair the last six months – with the other candidate being Vice-Chair respectfully. Ms. Little stated she's not comfortable with someone serving six months and is not in favor of Mr. Forbes being Chair. Ms. Owens asked how other members of the board feel. Ms. Council responded if both candidates are willing to serve for six months and do a good job, they could be voted in again. Mr. Forbes said he's fine with either – he just wants to bring unity to the board. Mr. Whichard stated that he's concerned that the board is hopelessly deadlocked and that we all need to give. Ms. Waters stated she is willing to support any positive changes. Mr. Whichard commented that he can only give his word to make positive changes, and he will stand behind it. Mr. Forbes concurred and again stated he and Mr. Whichard are willing to work together for these changes to occur.

Ms. Mary Williams stated she thought the purpose of the two candidates going outside the board room was to work out a solution. After returning, she believed the board would vote to agree with their solution. But, she stated, nothing has happened. She added that she will support Mr. Whichard becoming chair with Mr. Forbes as vice-chair; and then switching positions. Mr. Whichard stated that if he does not carry out what he said he would, he will step down next year. He added that we are a strong-willed group and could be here indefinitely.

Again, Mr. Forrest spoke of modifying the by-law beginning with the first Monday in December 2012 through the first Monday in December 2013.

Mr. Marc Whichard moved that we take a 15 minute recess, with a second from Mr. Benjie Forrest. Those voting for the motion were: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Mr. Marc Whichard, Mr. Worth Forbes, Ms. Mary Williams, Ms. Mildred Council, Mr. Ralph Love and Mr. Billy Peaden.

The meeting convened at 9:55 p.m. During the recess, Attorney Sonnenberg stated he researched the North Carolina Statute that dealt with the organization of the board because we were going into an area that had not been anticipated. He read, "At the organizational meeting, the members of a board shall select one of their members as

chairman for a period of one year or until his successor is elected and qualified.” Mr. Sonnenberg felt this said that the term could be no less than one year with the second part, “or until his successor is elected or qualified.” He added that he has not heard of this situation in his 15 years of practice and there are two ways to read this statute. Attorney Sonnenberg informed the board that they will have to make a decision regarding the interpretation. Dr. Emory asked in his legal opinion regarding this, does the law prohibit the action that was discussed between the two board members. Mr. Sonnenberg stated he does not believe it is prohibited from the information he has processed tonight.

Mr. Benjie Forrest then moved that we amend the by-laws for a period of two years, beginning the first Monday in December 2012 through the first Monday in December 2013, to provide for a chairman and vice-chairman to be elected the first year with a flip in roles the second year. Mr. Billy Peaden seconded the motion.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked for the voting cap with Mr. Sonnenberg responding a 2/3 vote.

Attorney Sonnenberg stated there would not be an election next year, and the number to pass the motion would be eight voting in favor of the motion.

Attorney Sonnenberg asked all those in favor of the amendment to the by-laws to raise their hands: Mr. Worth Forbes, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Mildred Council, Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Ralph Love, Ms. Mary Williams, Ms. Christine Waters and Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion passed.

Mr. Sonnenberg informed the board that their current nominations are null and void as the roles are spelled out differently in the amendment. Ms. Camnitz had questions regarding the length of time involved with Mr. Sonnenberg stating the amendment specified a two-year period. Administrative Assistant Brenda Pippin read the proposed amendment as stated by Mr. Benjie Forrest. Ms. Camnitz commented that either candidate could be chair – neither of the two candidates has been elected chair at the current time. Mr. Whichard stated that we have two nominees for chair.

Dr. Emory stated that we have two nominations on the floor – the first two we started with that have not been able to get a majority vote. Then there is a two-year amendment to our by-laws that has been passed with a 2/3 majority vote. Ms. Camnitz asked did Mr. Forrest’s motion include Mr. Whichard’s and Mr. Forbe’s names with Mr. Sonnenberg responding no. Then, Ms. Camnitz stated, there is not a motion on the floor. Attorney Sonnenberg stated that the two nominees have to withdraw their names; thus Mr. Whichard and Mr. Forbes withdrew their names as nominations for board chair.

Attorney Sonnenberg then opened the floor for nominations based on the by-law change. The first nomination is for the person to be Chair the first year (2013) and Vice-Chair the second year (2014). Ms. Christine Waters nominated Mr. Marc Whichard for Chair, then Vice-Chair. A question of the year was raised with Mr. Sonnenberg commenting as previously stated – chair the first year and vice-chair the second year. Superintendent Emory commented that we need to be specific and have the motion stated as dictated by the amended by-law which nominates a chair and a

vice-chair for a specific period of time, and then flipped – that’s all one motion based on the by-law just amended. Attorney Sonnenberg stated on the first nomination, we are looking at two years with the first year (2013) for that person being chair and the second year (2014), being the vice-chair.

Mr. Benjie Forrest nominated Mr. Marc Whichard as Chairman of the Board of Education from this date, December 3, 2012, until next year; then he will become the Vice-Chair from the first Monday in December 2013 until the first Monday in December 2014: and he nominated Mr. Worth Forbes as Vice-Chairman from today’s date, December 3, 2012, until the first Monday in December 2013 when he will become Chairman from that date until the first Monday in December 2014. Mr. Billy Peaden seconded the motion. Mr. Forrest stated he made one nomination to comply with our amended by-law. Attorney Sonnenberg asked Administrative Assistant Brenda Pippin to read the motion to the Board. Mr. Sonnenberg asked were there any other nominations at this time. With none given, he declared the nominations closed. As such, Attorney Sonnenberg called for a vote on the nomination. Those voting for the nomination as stated by Mr. Forrest were: Ms. Mildred Council, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Mr. Worth Forbes, Mr. Marc Whichard, Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Mary Williams, Mr. Billy Peaden and Mr. Ralph Love. Motion carried.

Mr. Sonnenberg informed Mr. Whichard that he will happily pass his seat as acting Chair to him. Several Board members congratulated Mr. Whichard as the new Chair.

In-House Counsel Rob Sonnenberg then swore Mr. Marc Whichard in as the Chair of the Pitt County Board of Education for 2013.

Chair Whichard asked what is the pleasure of the Board as far as carrying on with the Agenda for tonight. He stated he suspected, as the others had stayed, that would be an indication of their willingness to continue with the Agenda. Ms. Jennifer Little moved that the Agenda be continued.

Chair Whichard asked Ms. Jennifer Little to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Whichard asked for an agreement of the Board to amend the Agenda so as to recognize past Chairman Billy Peaden prior to his leaving this evening. Mr. Benjie Forrest so moved. A second was given by Ms. Mary Williams and a unanimous vote followed. Chair Whichard presented a plaque to past Chair Billy Peaden on behalf of Pitt County Schools in grateful appreciation for outstanding service as Chair to the Board of Education during the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years.

Bishop Ralph Love followed with a Moment of Silence asking that we remember anyone who has suffered a tragedy, sickness or loss of a loved one in our Pitt County Schools system.

Chair Whichard offered the Agenda for consideration. Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Agenda be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Though two people signed up to speak during Public Expression, they left before the meeting ended.

For the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services Cheryl Olmsted presented to the Board the AdvancED Plaque signifying accreditation for Pitt County Schools for the next five years. She also informed the Board that our schools worked really hard toward this goal so they were also given a framed certificate stating the accreditation to hang in each office.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Barbara Owens, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, moved that the Board approve Item A and Item C. Motion passed unanimously. Chair Whichard discussed Item B Personnel Report for December 2012, Ms. Barbara Owens moved that the Board approve Item B, second by Ms. Mildred Council. Mr. Sean Kenny voted against Item B. Motion carried.

Under New Business, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services Cheryl Olmsted reported following an EPS Committee Meeting held November 1, 2012. She shared that four items were discussed. Upon Board recommendation, Ms. Olmsted commented that we are now members of AVID and have assigned a new district coordinator, Mr. Preston Bowers, as well as checking into setting up training for administration in the schools housing the AVID Program. Ms. Olmsted commented that the budget for AVID teachers had been kept in place.

The second item discussed was AP exams and results as comparison data. 9-12 Director David Jenkins shared this information with committee members and discussed ways to increase the number enrolled in AP classes. SAT results were also discussed as well as a new test ACT, which all juniors are now taking. Ms. Olmsted explained that this will be part of the new high school accountability model.

Ms. Olmsted stated that Ms. Mary Williams had requested information regarding STEM schools and certification for them which was shared. Mr. Worth Forbes reported that the new BioTech and AgriScience School in Washington County is a STEM school. A representative from the school will be invited to attend the December meeting.

Chair Sean Kenny asked Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu to present a fast update for the Board regarding operations. Mr. Beaulieu related that a Memo was sent out to the full Board on November 28 outlining the Agenda items for last meeting, which was canceled due to a scheduling conflict. He reported the first item involved a buyer for the bus garage who is investigating environmental issues and property value, and will be brought before the Board at a later date.

The second item pertained to one-time money to be used by Facility Services. In the budget, Mr. Beaulieu shared that the Board had approved \$425,000 for one-time project money and \$600,000 for transportation. He stated both monies are being held in anticipation that the bus garage property may be sold. Mr. Beaulieu stated by combining these revenues with the sale of the current bus garage site, we are looking at a solution for a bus garage replacement and also the textbook surplus warehouse facility which we no longer have at Third Street. He did discuss three pending projects totaling \$56,000. Ms. Jill Camnitz moved to approve the pending projects, with a second by Mr. Sean Kenny, the one-time spending as discussed by Mr. Beaulieu – Northwest electrical bank, soil test at the bus garage and Creekside backflow. Ms.

Barbara Owens asked during the presentation for the County Commissioners when funding for the bus garage was shared, was this plan clearly outlined. Mr. Beaulieu responded that the Commissioners were told we are anticipating a \$3.5 million replacement site. The Commissioners passed on the first right use of the present property. Questions were asked regarding reserve funding for the bus garage with Mr. Beaulieu repeating the previously outlined plan. Chair Whichard called for a vote with unanimous approval of the motion.

The next item was an update on the GPS systems approved for Facility Services to include nine additional vehicles. Mr. Beaulieu commented that Transportation Director Joey Weathington will do a pilot for 25 buses in the Farmville attendance area at a cost of \$1700 for two months to explore the value of having GPS systems on buses for tracking and payroll purposes. Mr. Kenny moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the GPS systems be approved as stated. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beaulieu shared that a group from the Pirate Railroad Station has met with them on numerous occasions and are interested in the property that borders 14th Street and the railroad tracks along the Elmhurst Campus, which is a gravel lot. He reported this area is only used by the school system to allow the Facility Workers stationed at C. M. Eppes that are ECU employees to park there during the day and ECU tailgating. Their intent is to provide a tailgating atmosphere using cabooses - more details will be provided at a later date.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Beverly Emory thanked Arts Director Jane Behan for the wonderful Margaret L. Blount Memorial Art Competition Reception held before the regular board meeting tonight and the wonderful art work displayed. She particularly mentioned the art teacher who recognized the art work of a young man from Farmville Central who passed away last week.

Superintendent Emory thanked former Chair Billy Peaden for his two years of service as Chair and highlighted the policy that allows our students to graduate who are 19 years of age with 21 graduation credits that he moved along - which has had a positive impact on our dropout and graduation rates.

Dr. Emory stated that the Feds have extended SIG money in our schools to include another \$1.4 million next year and the following year, a little over \$700,000 in the three SIG high schools and Northwest Elementary.

Dr. Emory congratulated Ms. Avery Johnson from H. B. Sugg Elementary School for having her artwork in the NC Farm to School Calendar, which was a statewide competition.

Superintendent Emory thanked the teachers who are doing some really awesome things in the Professional Learning Communities. She reported that last week, South Central had an evening where they showcased student work and what the students are doing with technology, which was amazing.

In closing, Dr. Emory congratulated Mr. Whichard on his Chairmanship and stated she looks forward to working with him. She also congratulated Mr. Forbes and likewise stated she looks forward to working with both men in the new year.

Chair Whichard commented that this was a difficult time for us tonight, and he thinks all would be kidding themselves if they didn't come to some realization of that. He stated that Mr. Forbes' heart is in the right place and his is as well. Chair Whichard commented that we have big fences to mend and a lot of heavy lifting to do – but not unlike teachers and folks in our district do on a daily basis. He closed by stating he thinks we can do it together and for the right reasons making the people in our communities proud.

Mr. Worth Forbes stated he's looking forward to working together and is glad we were able to come to a consensus. He realizes this is a unique situation, but we were able to work together which is what it will take for all of us to be successful – working as a team to give and take.

Mr. Forbes thanked Ms. Behan who is most dedicated to the arts and gives 110%. He added that our students are able to express themselves through art when they can't express themselves academically or in other ways.

Mr. Forbes thanked Mr. Billy Peaden for his job as chair and had also written down the 21 credits for graduating students as it does help our dropout rate, allowing the students to be successful and move on.

Mr. Forbes closed by stating he enjoyed working with the blood drive at Ayden-Grifton High School.

Ms. Christine Waters congratulated Chair Whichard and Mr. Forbes stating she looks forward to good things. She stated she would like to see School Board 101 come to all of us to redefine our roles reviewing what our ethics obligations are. Ms. Waters voiced an interest in people who came to our meetings and could not say anything they wanted. She believes it's important that the public understands it would be a rare person indeed who would stand up in a public meeting and speak negatively against someone. To even the playing field, she also mentioned people coming in and calling someone's name speaking positively. Ms. Waters stated she prefers to get e-mails because then she feels she has a balanced opinion. She feels it's important that the public know what the policy says and what our limitations are.

Ms. Waters stated when the art disappeared out of the board room, it was like we were in a vacuum. She stated it was a very long day today and wished the art exhibit was any other night besides the first Monday in December, though it was a nice diversion.

Ms. Mary Williams congratulated Chair Whichard and Mr. Forbes stating that she has no doubt in her mind that both men will do a good job. She also thanked Mr. Peaden for his hard and dedicated work toward the 19 year old 21 credit policy which has impacted the lives of many students throughout the county. Ms. Williams thanked Bishop Love for his service as vice-chair in spite of everything that has gone on this past year with his health. She commented that she admires and respects Bishop Love and Mr. Peaden.

Ms. Williams thanked the students and parents for coming out tonight. She remarked on the parental influence on our children and stated the art work is most impressive.

Ms. Williams mentioned that last night she took her Godmother to a gospel concert at a Baptist Church where the NC A&T State University Gospel Choir performed. She stated when children leave home, we state they are doing this or that; but commented that these kids, some of them former Pitt County students, filled the room with love and joy making everyone proud.

Ms. Williams added that at the last board meeting, she did not have the opportunity to thank the students from the Rose High Jazz Band, but they did an excellent job.

Mr. Benjie Forrest congratulated Chair Whichard and Mr. Forbes and stated they set a standard for a moment of history. He also thanked Mr. Peaden and Bishop Love for their services of chair and vice-chair. Mr. Forrest thanked Ms. Brenda Pippin for her present and her continued role as secretary to the Board and feels he's grown to appreciate what she does adding that her friendship is invaluable. He stated that she always works toward harmony for our Board.

Mr. Forrest stated he has three things he would like discussed at the next committee meetings or placed on the agendas. One is for the EPS Committee, to look at the End-of-Course Testing as it relates to the Career and Technical Education versus the credentialing that some of our program areas have. Chair Whichard commented that it is on the Agenda. For the Policy Committee, he would like Public Comment studied. Mr. Forrest believes that at the last meeting, part of the issues were that some people were very, very limited as to what they could say due more to Pitt County Schools policy. He believes we should make this policy as liberal as we possibly can without jeopardy to ourselves so that our public feels free to come before us and make comments that in some cases might temper some of the contiguousness that develops.

Mr. Forrest stated the Finance Committee still has field trips on their agenda, and he's looking forward to finding ways that we can improve on finding resources to make these happen.

Finally, Mr. Forrest wished a very, very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the citizens of Pitt County, the faculty and staff of Pitt County Schools and all the students and parents involved. Regarding tonight, he felt we might not have started well, but we sure did finish well stating the real inspiration comes with how it ends.

Ms. Mildred Council thanked our outgoing chair and vice-chair, Mr. Peaden and Bishop Love for their services. She congratulated Chair Whichard and Vice-Chair Forbes. Ms. Council mentioned that the Black College and Coalition of Pitt County had their Recruitment Drive for students in November which was most successful. She shared other upcoming events.

Ms. Council stated she was in Parkers Barbecue and saw wonderful thank you letters written by Pitt County Schools' students for being a biodiesel partner for recycling.

Ms. Council closed by mentioning cursive writing not being required, which she believes is awful and shared a personal experience regarding this. She stressed that this is a skill we need to keep alive.

In closing, Ms. Council wished Happy Holidays to everyone in the community.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated she's optimistic that we have embarked on a fresh start.

Mr. Sean Kenny congratulated the gentlemen and felt the process went pretty well. He wished everyone Happy Holidays. Over Thanksgiving break, Mr. Kenny stated several Pitt County students who are part of the Pitt-Greenville Soccer Association participated in a national soccer tournament at the ESPN fields in Disneyworld. Though they lost in the finals, he feels this says something about our community which they represented well.

Ms. Barbara Owens asked are we going to meet on December 17 with Chair Whichard responding that this question is the next item for discussion. She congratulated the two gentlemen and stated she's excited we can all come and work together. Ms. Owens commented that we all have our opinions and feels we should respect each other's opinions believing that with manipulation, discussion and recall of policy and Robert's Rules, this can be accomplished.

Ms. Jennifer Little congratulated both gentlemen stating she's looking forward to a new year of staying involved in the school system as a parent. She mentioned a feeling of there being a Conflict of Interest with her being involved in her children's education, but she pledged to her children and others that she will continue to be involved in any organization, PTA or whatever there might be.

Chair Whichard stated his intentions of keeping the committees as they are for the month of December so we can carry on. He stated he, along with Ms. Pippin, will draft a document to send out to Board members in terms of serving on committees and go from there. He also commented that Dr. Emory has conveyed there is no particular substance for a meeting on December 17 that will need action. Mr. Whichard asked for the pleasure of the Board in terms of canceling the meeting. Mr. Benjie Forrest moved that we cancel the meeting for December 17, second was made by Ms. Barbara Owens. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mary Williams wished to all a Merry Christmas!

Mr. Benjie Forrest moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Mary Williams. Motion passed unanimously. Time was 11:00 P. M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Marc Whichard, Chair

Dr. Beverly Emory, Secretary