

DATE: February 20, 2012 PRESENT: Billy Peaden, Chair
Jill Camnitz
Worth Forbes
Benjie Forrest
Sean Kenny
TIME: 7:02 P.M. Ralph Love, Sr.
Barbara Owens
Christine Waters
PLACE: J. H. Rose High School Cafeteria Marc Whichard
Mary Williams
ABSENT: Jennifer Little

Chair Billy Peaden called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session at 7:02 P. M. in the Cafeteria at J. H. Rose High School.

Ms. Mary Williams led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Worth Forbes 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. He specifically mentioned Chair Billy Peaden and his recent health issues.

Chair Peaden then offered the Agenda for consideration. Bishop Ralph Love moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion was unanimous.

One person asked to speak during Public Expression. The Town Commissioners and Town Manager were present as Farmville Mayor Robert Evans stated the town government is passionate about education and supports all Farmville schools, staff and students. He added that the community takes pride in our schools and feels these values exist today in part due to the effective representation from our past Farmville area Board Members. In striving to become a great school system, we must have hard-working and dedicated representation from our elected Board members who are allowed to function as total participants.

To that end, Mayor Evans stated that Farmville government members have concerns about the marginalization of our duly elected representative, Ms. Barbara Owens. He said it seems that Ms. Owens and Ms. Jill Camnitz have been frozen out of the decision making process of the Board. He added that a letter had been sent requesting that the Board of Education address this issue; but after a month has passed with no response, we decided to follow-up with this personal request tonight.

Mayor Evans commented that Ms. Owens and Ms. Camnitz may often be outside the main stream thinking of the majority of the Board of Education, but we feel that this factor could be a strength for the BOE rather than a weakness. Different philosophies and diverse opinions from all members of the Board can generate healthy debates and should be valued. In closing, Mayor Evans firmly stated that the citizens and students

of Farmville, Falkland and Fountain deserve full representation on the Board of Education.

Under Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu and Director of Transportation Joey Weathington shared with the Board information related to the Department of Transportation. Mr. Beaulieu thanked all present who supported the Bus Drivers at the Reception held for them earlier this evening. He added that the Transportation Department is a “thankless department” in that the calls they receive are not positive, though they do an outstanding job. He shared that there are 218 buses on the road from early in the morning until early evening each day covering approximately 2.6 million miles each year. Mr. Beaulieu informed the Board that the buses run throughout the day due to all the programs involved and during the summer. He then introduced the Director of Transportation Joey Weathington and also Ms. Cassandra Tripp, an employee of the Transportation Department.

Mr. Weathington informed the Board that Governor Perdue approved the School Bus Appreciation Week in February, and stated the expression “Love the Bus” was implemented by the national School Bus Safety Counsel. He commented that we have 301 committed regular drivers and safety assistants with a bus driver pool of 650 people. Mr. Weathington added that there are 21 personnel working in the Department, excluding himself and Assistant Transportation Director Chris Setser. He reported that there are 148 local Facility Services units including vehicles, trailers, and activity buses. Mr. Weathington quoted the phrase, “ Education begins with Transportation”, and followed by naming the different school areas who depend on their help – child nutrition, facility services, textbooks, athletics, CTE events, art events, health science academy, special needs’ children, community schools and recreation – to name a few. He informed the Board that two people – Mr. Thurman Savage and Mr. Vick Clark run the bus routes consisting of 652 trips each day – 544 regular routes and 108 exceptional children routes. Mr. Weathington also provided updates for the transportation budget, fuel used, drug screening, classes and reports mandated by the State and Federal Governments and Pitt County Schools.

Under Consent Items, Bishop Ralph Love, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, moved that the Board approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held February 6, 2012, the second Personnel Report for February 2012 and the Property to be Declared Surplus List. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Chair Worth Forbes and In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg shared that two revised policies were further discussed at the Policy Committee Meeting as requested following their first reading at the February 6 BOE meeting. With no changes being made, Mr. Forbes moved, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, that the Second Reading of revised policy: Policy 7.014 – Conflict of Interest be approved by the Board.

Chair Peaden asked for discussion. Ms. Christine Waters stated, that though she was a small minority of one at the meeting, she felt the language in the policy needed to be strengthened to protect any future Board Chairman or Vice-Chairman, and asked to present an amendment to the policy. Thus Ms. Waters moved, second by Ms. Jill Camnitz, that an amendment to the previous motion regarding Policy 7.014 – Conflict

of Interest be approved by the Board in the following manner: The wording under VII. Discipline/Sanctions B. Board Members be changed to read - Suspected Board Member violations will be reported to the Board Chairperson who shall immediately direct the Board Attorney to investigate the allegations. The results of such an investigation will be shared with the Board Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, who shall then confer with the Attorney to determine whether a violation has occurred. If there is a violation, the issue will be resolved using one or more of the following options:

1. Conversation in a private setting between the Board Member, the Board Chairperson, and the Board Attorney. The full Board will be informed of this action.
2. Discussion between the Board Member and the full Board.
3. Public censure of the Board Member.
4. In appropriate circumstances, submission of a report to the State Board of Education pursuant to NCGS 115C-39 or notification of legal authorities.

Ms. Waters feels this will identify who investigates the issue and gives the Board options on how it will be resolved. Ms. Jill Camnitz added that this amendment will remedy the vagueness of language in the current policy as mentioned by Attorney Allison Schafer in asking for clarity of our policies. Ms. Waters stated that the Board expressed serious concerns recently regarding following policy to the letter – and the amendment would help accomplish this concern in this particular policy.

Ms. Barbara Owens asked was this vote on the amendment to the original motion with Attorney Sonnenberg stating yes – this vote was for or against the amendment as requested by Ms. Waters.

Without further discussion, Chair Peaden asked the Board to vote on the amendment as stated by Ms. Christine Waters. Those in favor of the amendment were: Ms. Christine Waters, Ms. Barbara Owens and Ms. Jill Camnitz. Those against the amendment were: Mr. Worth Forbes, Mr. Marc Whichard, Mr. Sean Kenny, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Bishop Ralph Love, Chair Billy Peaden and Ms. Mary Williams. Motion failed.

Chair Peaden then asked for Mr. Forbes to repeat his motion. Mr. Worth Forbes moved, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, that the Second Reading of revised policy: Policy 7.014 – Conflict of Interest be approved by the Board. Chair Peaden asked for any discussion regarding the original motion. Ms. Waters asked were any changes made in this policy with Attorney Sonnenberg stating yes, there was a change in Section IV. Conflicts of Interest, Part B.

Ms. Barbara Owens commented that when someone spends effort and extra time to try to strengthen a policy and does it for the good of the Board, we should move forward with that purpose.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated what concerns him is receiving this amendment just prior to this discussion, as has been pointed out at previous meetings. He stated he spent considerable time studying this policy this past weekend and feels the policy as it is clearly spells out the role of the Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Whichard believes we have to have faith in the individuals serving as our Chair and Vice-Chair, and the policy is strong as it is.

Ms. Waters responded that she did ask in the Committee meeting that changes in the language be considered, but this thought died without a second. She added that bringing this up tonight appeared to be the only way to bring up the language for discussion.

Chair Peaden asked for the Board to vote on Policy 7.014 – Conflict of Interest as it is currently written. Those against the Policy were: Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Barbara Owens and Ms. Christine Waters. Those voting for the Policy were: Mr. Worth Forbes, Mr. Marc Whichard, Mr. Sean Kenny, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Bishop Ralph Love, Chair Billy Peaden, and Ms. Mary Williams.

Mr. Forbes stated the second policy discussed regarding student transfers changed wording from distance learning to virtual learning. Mr. Forbes moved, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, that Policy 10.111- Student Transfers Within Pitt County Schools be adopted as presented. Ms. Waters asked were other changes made in this policy with Mr. Forbes responding yes, these were discussed during the First Reading. The vote of the Board for this policy as presented was unanimous.

Superintendent Beverly Emory asked Mr. Sean Kenny to share the annual report of the Diversity Task Force with the Board. Mr. Kenny stated this task force had been established in 2008 according to Policy 9.306, and is a great committee to be on as they accomplish a great deal while having lots of fun during the process. He then introduced Dr. Gloria Snead to explain this year's targets of the Diversity Task Force. Dr. Snead stated the three main goals of the task force this year are to: Improve attendance, improve family and community relationships and create a more positive school atmosphere for our families. She commented that in grades K-8, our goal, which is in support of one of our district goals, is to decrease the number of students who miss ten days or more by at least 5%. Dr. Snead explained that an Attendance Team consisting of a counselor, social worker, nurse, data manager and an administrator will monitor student attendance and find the reason why a student is out. She shared that there will be quarterly large group meetings, while the Attendance Team in each school will meet weekly. Then a selected person from the Team will gather the information for Student Services Director Pokie Noland, and a report will be presented to the Board quarterly. Steps of strategies to implement this process have been taken. Dr. Snead also mentioned a plan to have the Superintendent or Public Information Officer insert tips or suggestions for families to have their children in school on the Report Cards. She closed by stating these processes could be started immediately or at the beginning of the next school year – that decision will be made by the principal and/or Attendance Team at each school.

Mr. Mark Woodson informed the Board that another goal for the Diversity Task Force is linked with Pitt County Schools District Goal #5, raising the graduation rate from 70 to 80%. He stated the focus will be on grade 9 for individual conferences and setting his/her pathway with a counselor, and increasing instructional support for grades K-2. Mr. Woodson stated the task force feels feedback is needed relative to staff development and curriculum development. The task force members also discussed creating a rubric of measurement to be used across the district. He added that the timeline for this process can be started at any time. Mr. Woodson explained that barriers for graduation should be identified, and success of the Twilight Academy, Pitt

Academy and other programs should be shared within the schools, the central office and the community. He stated we need to continue to build our programs and get parents engaged and involved in their children's schools – especially the English as a Second Language community.

Ms. Lilly Smith discussed Pitt County Schools District Goal #6 – increase family involvement. She stated the task force feels there should be at least two events in each school to increase family engagement. The task force thinks a section for comments from parents regarding their experience in the schools should be placed on the Climate Survey. Ms. Smith said the task force also discussed office staff being trained regarding greeting and working with parents so they leave the school having a positive experience. She added that many times office staff give the parents their first impression of the school. Ms. Smith closed by saying that we should use all communication resources available to keep in touch with our parents.

Dr. Snead stressed again that student absences should decrease, the graduation rate should increase and family involvement should increase. She added that the goals are measurable with strategies in place, and the timeline may be implemented immediately or at the beginning of the next school year.

Mr. Kenny introduced other members of the Diversity Task Force present in the audience including Dr. Virginia Hardy and Ms. Caroline Sutton, as well as Ms. Woodson who also was in attendance. Ms. Jill Camnitz commented that the task force developed wonderful ideas and asked what the next step is in implementing them. Superintendent Emory stated their goals are doable and asked was the Board in favor of formally accepting their proposal tonight.

Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Ms. Mary Williams, that the Board approve the Diversity Task Force goals as presented. Motion was unanimous.

The next item of business on the Agenda was presented by Mr. Sean Kenny regarding Procedures for Graduation Ceremonies. He thanked Ms. Barbara Owens as Chair of the Graduation Task Force, Student Services Representative Beverly Roberson and Public Information Officer Heather Mayo for their input and efforts on the task force. Mr. Kenny asked for comments regarding the procedures. Ms. Mary Williams asked about the number of salaried central office staff who would be helping at graduation ceremonies. Superintendent Emory answered that there would be approximately 14 staff members from the central office who will be split between the six high schools and partner with school personnel for the ceremonies. Ms. Williams asked how far are we reaching into our public sector. She also asked about the pledge letter mentioned - no pledge, no ticket - and asked what will this contain. Mr. Kenny responded that there will be a sample letter, which includes expectations for the ceremony, shared with the Board. He added that in the past, there has been a problem with counterfeit tickets, and the new process will eliminate this. The tickets this year will be handled differently with information regarding the graduation ceremony printed on the back so parents will know what is expected. Ms. Williams stated she's still concerned with these proposed changes and asked who defines decorum and etiquette. Mr. Kenny informed the Board that videos made by students in each high school will be produced regarding their graduation ceremony and shown on public media as well as before the seniors march in. He also commented that Alert

Now can be used in spreading the graduation ceremony changes. Ms. Williams then asked how do you set standards for folks attending from Pitt County, out of the county or out of state. Chair Peaden then asked that the procedures be taken back to the Graduation Task Force for further development.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated his concern is to get the procedure right before sending it out to the schools and community. One question he stated he would ask is what does it mean when it says unsolicited shouting, whistling and applauding will not be tolerated. He feels everyone should understand “not be tolerated” and the resultant action from the point of going in to the point of going out. Mr. Whichard added that proper decorum means good behavior and utmost respect for the graduates – meaning each parent should be able to hear their child’s name called to receive his/her diploma. Ms. Williams stated that she agrees with this statement, but feels audience responses are going to occur. She commented that a parent can go to the web site/screen and see their child’s name called and acceptance of his/her diploma after the ceremony is over. Mr. Whichard said some children have only one person in the audience to watch them graduate, and often are over-powered by a student who has many family members present. He feels that every child should have his/her moment and that this will occur in a quiet and dignified ceremony.

Mr. Worth Forbes moved, second by Bishop Ralph Love, that the graduation ceremony procedures go back to the Graduation Task Force for further review. He asked that anyone with concerns regarding graduation attend the Graduation Task Force Meeting.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated she attended the last graduation meeting and heard that each section before graduation will be informed of what is to take place and the consequences for anyone failing to follow the instructions. Ms. Williams feels decorum needs to be spelled out so there will be no questions asked with Ms. Camnitz responding that this is very well stated in the procedures. Mr. Kenny stated a letter will be written and sent to the parents with details regarding the graduation ceremony. He added that all six high school principals, students, Board members, administrative staff, community members and other representatives helped devise and signed off on these procedures.

Mr. Whichard feels the threshold needs to be clear, and it needs to be said publically that all six principals and the Board are all on the same page regarding graduation ceremonies. Public Information Officer Heather Mayo informed the Board that staff members in the schools and central office will be trained by the ECU police on how to approach someone who is being disruptive and asking them to be compliant with the described procedures. Only if they say they will not agree to the procedures, will a call be made to security for help. Mr. Whichard responded that if it gets to this point, it will be too late. Ms. Mayo commented that the promotional videos made in all six high schools will consist of members of the senior class stating that graduation is “our day” and asking that the audience help make in special for them with respectful behavior. Again, this will be played before the seniors march in for the ceremony. Ms. Camnitz stated that this year will be our most difficult with a new message being sent, but should be better accepted in years to come.

Ms. Mayo added that with the pledge letters being sent and the tickets having bullet points of what's expected during the service, we feel students will take ownership of actions and people attending will know what's expected. Mr. Forbes stated the instructions on the tickets are a good idea and having an adult in each section during graduation will help. Ms. Mayo commented that stubbing the tickets will eliminate counterfeiting, and each person with a ticket attending the graduation ceremonies will have main topics regarding what's expected during the service printed on the back of their individual pass. Mr. Kenny also mentioned that many items discussed by the task force have not been addressed tonight, i.e. slowing down when calling graduate's name.

Superintendent Emory reminded everyone that these are procedures which can be improved and changed as we go along. Basically, they are used for guidance and can be clarified as deemed necessary. She added that the Board will receive a copy of the pledge letter and the ticket before they are sent out to parents. Mr. Worth Forbes again moved that the Graduation Task Force review the procedures and make any changes deemed necessary, second was made by Bishop Ralph Love. The revision will be forwarded to the Board for discussion. Motion was unanimous.

Chair Peaden discussed with the Board that a date for interviewing the candidates applying for the District I, Seat A vacancy needs to be set. Dates mentioned were March 1, 6 or 8. He asked if Board members would want to begin our March 5 Board meeting at an earlier time, depending on the number of candidates, and interview the candidates on that date. Ms. Camnitz asked regarding the time with Chair Peaden responding 3:00 p.m. in order to have a break period before the Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. She asked what time will the interviews start on the previously mentioned dates with Chair Peaden stating 6:00 p.m. Several members offered that they could not attend meetings on specific dates. Mr. Worth Forbes moved that we have interviews set for Monday, March 5, before the regular BOE meeting. Second was made by Mr. Marc Whichard. Ms. Camnitz added that we might hold March 1 also, depending on the number of candidates we have. Mr. Forbes moved that we will hold March 1 at 6:00 p.m. if there are a large number of candidates to interview. If the number is small, he stated we will interview them March 5, our primary date, with a time to be determined. Second was made by Mr. Marc Whichard. Motion was unanimous.

In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg announced that closing for applications for candidates is February 27 at 12:00 noon. He stated that Administrative Assistant Brenda Pippin will receive questions for the candidates from Board members through February 24th. Following receipt of the questions, he commented that a committee consisting of Superintendent Emory, Ms. Pippin and himself will compile the questions to be used during the interview process. Ms. Barbara Owens informed the Board that she had asked Ms. Pippin to contact the North Carolina School Boards Association for their input, and this information is available at your seat tonight.

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services Cheryl Olmsted discussed with the Board that in December, the EPS Committee recommended that Foods I and II and Culinary Arts I and II, which are Career and Technical Education courses, be approved as substitutes for Math credits for graduation with a diploma. She stated that this has been approved by DPI, and added both classes in the specified course are needed to receive one unit of math credit. Mr. Marc Whichard

moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that Foods I and II and Culinary Arts I and II be approved by the Board as substitutes to earn credits in Math. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ralph Love asked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Delilah Jackson to present the proposed recommended changes in the 2012-13 School Calendar for Second Reading and give an overview of dates. With two calendar options to consider, Ms. Jackson specified which option the Board should focus on during a detailed breakdown of Calendar 1 and Calendar 2. Ms. Jackson explained to the Board a schedule of dates for early release, and end of the 9-week and 6-week periods. On Calendar 1, she commented that the December 20th annual leave day is now an early release day for students in order to make Good Friday a holiday. She also highlighted that January 2nd and 22rd will be late start days for students, allowing teachers to have extra time to work in their classrooms before their classes begin. In discussing adding an additional day for a teacher workday; Ms. Jackson stated she called DPI and was told that once we start student attendance with NC WISE, the clock starts ticking. Before, there was no way to monitor exactly when a district started school across the state; but with NC WISE and student attendance, it's very easy to see when schools start from a state level.

As Ms. Jackson started to describe Calendar 2 as the "what if calendar", and asked Dr. Emory to present the information to the Board. Superintendent Emory explained to the Board that when a risk is involved, she becomes the "go to person". She shared that she had talked to senior staff about the possibility of starting school on August 23rd as August 25th falls on a Saturday this year; but it was felt with the use of NC WISE and locking of the systems, we could not carry this thought through. However, in the second calendar option presented, we are extending the last day of school to June 11 versus the State guideline of June 10. By making this change in the calendar, we can place a teacher workday in the calendar for January 22nd in the middle of the school year. Dr. Emory stated there is a risk in forging ahead with this plan, but asked what can they do to us. She stated Attorney Sonnenberg had checked into this, and though it may not send a good message to folks who will ask what else can we do in modifying legislation, no clear disciplinary action or funding adjustment was noted. Dr. Emory stated for more than a year, we have lobbied our thoughts and sent a Resolution, but have been sent no response. She stated the State has given no flexibility in the calendar, but it's just not right to go a full year without a full teacher workday included during a 185-day period. Mr. Marc Whichard stated he supports this action 100%; and feels there comes a time when politics need to be set aside and we do what's right for the children. Mr. Sean Kenny also agreed with this move.

Mr. Marc Whichard moved, second by Mr. Sean Kenny, that the Board approve proposed calendar #2 for the Pitt County Schools 2012-2013 School Calendar.

Mr. Kenny told Dr. Emory that she's done a good job with Superintendent Emory stating she hopes he will say that when she's reprimanded at the end of next school year. Ms. Christine Waters added that we will still have Memorial Day to use at the end of the year should it be necessary. Dr. Emory commented that we are being open and transparent about this move and taking a stand; and feels if the State is monitoring the media, we will hear about this before school begins. Ms. Jackson reminded everyone that we still have not heard from the State regarding the requested

waiver. Dr. Emory added that we should send a copy of the approved calendar to Ms. Jean Woolard, State Board of Education member.

Chair Peaden called for the vote. Motion was unanimous.

Superintendent Emory stated she welcomes input from Board members regarding the proposed Unitary Status Plan strategies and said some have brought up the reassignment plan not being included. She explained that the Reassignment Notebook will be part of the Unitary Status Plan; and that reassignment is in fact one of the green factors and the methodology used will be carried out during future reassignment plans. Dr. Emory informed the Board that outside Legal Counsel Ken Soo will come during Closed Session March 19 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to discuss our approach and preparation for Federal Court. She shared that three public sessions for community input will be held March 15, 22 and 29 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at various locations throughout the district. Superintendent Emory stated that Attorney Soo will also provide an educational opportunity for laying the foundation of Unitary Status for the community so the public will be familiar with what the court expects.

Mr. Worth Forbes stated that these dates need to be highly publicized with Dr. Emory responding that this is true, and added that the plaintiffs will be personally invited to the meetings. Ms. Mary Williams asked about locations with Superintendent Emory responding that the locations will be spread in various locations across the district.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Emory thanked Mr. Weathington and the Transportation Department, as well as the bus drivers, for a job well done. She added that there is a lot of work done by 21 people in a working site that is not in good condition.

Dr. Emory stated that it must be by Divine Intervention as she sits by our Chair tonight who looks good. She shared that we often take so much for granted while serving 23,000 students. Superintendent Emory commented that she appreciates Billy and his leadership, and asked all Board of Education members to take care of themselves.

Chair Peaden commented that he is sorry his health issues occurred on Dr. Emory's birthday, which was Friday. He expressed to the Board his thanks for the flowers and phone calls, and added that he is going to try to be a better man.

Ms. Barbara Owens stated she's glad that you're better. She also expressed that the Diversity Task Force was great and helpful with regards to their work for education. She commented that stress is not good; and asked Chair Peaden should he find the answer for dealing with stress, to please share it with the Board.

Ms. Jill Camnitz commented that the Diversity Task Force is a great example of how the community supports the work of the Board and thanked them for their endeavors.

Ms. Mary Williams stated she is glad to see the Chair back and in good health, and asked him not to scare us again. She thanked Ms. Cole and Ms. Gorham-White for inviting her to speak at A. G. Cox's Black History Performance and mentioned other special guests present. Ms. Williams also expressed thanks to the Diversity Task

Force for all they do. In closing, she asked that we remember the family of Mr. J. B. Smith who worked in the Pitt County Schools system for many years.

Bishop Ralph Love thanked the Lord for blessing Chair Peaden and stated he's concerned with the number of Board members who have been sick or passed in the last few years. He reminded everyone to take care of themselves and limit the stress involved with this position. Bishop Love also remembered Mr. J. B. Smith and his wife who served the students of Pitt County for many years.

Mr. Benjie Forrest thanked The Daily Reflector and Reporter Jackie Drake for the outstanding article regarding Ms. Jean Woolard. He also expressed thanks to all bus drivers who were honored at a reception prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Forrest stated he had received a call from Chair Peaden as he was on his way to the hospital; adding it is great to see him leading the meeting tonight and expressed thanks for all he does.

Mr. Sean Kenny stated he spoke with Chair Peaden yesterday, and the Chair stated he felt good and added that we have work to do. Mr. Kenny commented that Chair Peaden is doing a good job as Chair, and he will keep him in his thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Kenny shared information related to PAGE of Pitt County and named several areas for which Pitt County participants may be receive awards at the North Carolina Association of Gifted and Talented Awards Ceremony on March 16 . He stated this Program has made tremendous progress over the years.

Ms. Christine Waters thanked J. H. Rose High School for hosting us tonight and also expressed thanks to all bus drivers.

Mr. Marc Whichard thanked all bus drivers saying they do an outstanding job. He remembered the great job they did when he worked at Farmville Central High School.

Mr. Whichard stated Mayor Bobby Evans is a good friend and strong supporter of education; adding that he listened to the message Mayor Evans spoke tonight. He then asked Ms. Barbara Owens and Ms. Jill Camnitz to become members of the EPS Committee, which he chairs.

Mr. Worth Forbes told Chair Peaden that he's glad he's here. Mr. Forbes thanked the Calendar Committee for their hard work and feels the calendar the Board adopted is well worth the risk and a great idea. He also expressed thanks to the volunteers who work on the Graduation Task Force and the Diversity Task Force. Mr. Forbes said he enjoyed seeing the Robotics Event this past week, stating there are some proud kids at C. M. Eppes Middle School. He made closing comments regarding Mr. J. B. Smith and their relationship through the years.

Ms. Barbara Owens congratulated Public Information Officer Heather Mayo for all the rewards received at the State Ceremony for herself and Pitt County Schools.

Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, that the Board adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Time was 8:50 P. M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Billy Peaden, Chair

Dr. Beverly Emory, Secretary