

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 5, 2018

Present: Vice Chair Anna Barrett Smith, Caroline W. Doherty, Betsy Flanagan, Benjie Forrest, Worth Forbes, Robert Moore, and Mary Blount Williams

Absent: Chair Mildred A. Council and Melinda Fagundus

Attorney: Emma J. Hodson

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Pitt County Office Building, 3rd Floor Boardroom

1) Start of Meeting:

A) Due to Chair Mildred A. Council attending the National School Board Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C., Vice Chair Anna Barrett Smith served as the Chair.

Vice Chair Smith called the Board of Education meeting to order in Regular Session on February 5, 2018 at 6:30 P.M.

Vice Chair Smith introduced and welcomed Emma J. Hodson our new In-House Counsel.

B) Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Mary Blount Williams led the Board members in the Pledge of Allegiance and ended with a Moment of Silence.

2) Routine Business:

Worth Forbes made a motion, with a second from Mary Blount Williams, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion to approve the Agenda passed unanimously.

3) Special Recognition

Kirby Maness, Athletic Director at J.H. Rose High School, recognized Grant Humphreys, a junior at J. H. Rose High School for saving a life. Mr. Maness shared that during a swim meet on January 13, 2018 an official, due to a medical condition, fell into the 12 foot end of the pool. Even though Grant was not the closest to the official he dove into the pool and rescued him. Many students and staff from J.H. Rose were present to honor Grant as he was being recognized by the Board members. Robert Moore, on behalf of the Board members, presented Grant with a "Creating Excellence in the East" Award.

Next, three Pitt County Schools, Ayden-Grifton High School, Hope Middle School, and E.B. Aycock Middle School recently placed in a regional Twelve Competition. Coach Will Trye shared with the Board members that Ayden-Grifton hosted the competition which consisted of twelve teams answering twelve questions in twelve minutes. The team members from Ayden-Grifton High School were Austin Sutton, Mikayla Cox, Caleb Benson, Mary Francis Lutz, Anna Saulter, Daphne Meyer, Iris Meyer, Lauryn Arnold, John Ascencio, Ryan Baxter, and James Griffin. Worth Forbes, on behalf of

the Board members, recognized each team member and Coach Will Trye with a “Creating Excellence in the East” Award.

Coach Jessica Mullen introduced the team members from Hope Middle School. The team members were Remy Foeller, Matthew Tennant, Emily Fleming, Anna Rosenberg, Caitlyn Kim, Evan Burke, Declan Mullen, Linda Xue, Joshua Mills, Abby Campbell, Swarup Sharma, and Carter Adrias. Benjie Forrest, on behalf of the Board members, recognized each team member and Coach Jessica Mullen with a “Creating Excellence in the East” Award.

The team members from E.B. Aycock were unable to attend. The team members were Cecilia Richardson, Anisha Sadhale, Nikita Sadhale, Maximillian Jones, Stephen Peo, Joseph Sowers, Hetvi Patel, Aaliyah Smith, Will Jenkins, Kayson Garn, Luke Metzger, and Coach Stephanie Woolard.

Dr. Travis Lewis, Director of Student and Community Services, shared with the Board members that 63 schools in the nation received a School of Character Award from Character.org. Pitt County School Ridgewood Elementary and one other North Carolina school were recognized as Schools of Character. Dr. Lewis introduced Leslie Hayes, Ridgewood Elementary School principal, and Olivia Salter, Ridgewood Counselor. Ms. Hayes and Ms. Salter shared the importance that Ridgewood places on character education and how proud they were of their students and staff for receiving this national recognition. Robert Moore, on behalf of the Board members, presented Ms. Salter for Ridgewood Elementary with a “Creating Excellence in the East” Award.

Kevin Smith, Grifton School principal, and Ms. Amy Hahn, Grifton School Media Coordinator, shared with the Board members that Grifton School recently received a \$10,000 literacy grant from the Dollar General Foundation. Ms. Hahn shared that the school will be purchasing many titles for the K-2 book section, bilingual books for all grade levels, and replacing the much loved Berenstain Bears collection.

Stephanie McLean, Director of Regional Development for Goodwill Community Foundation (GCF), shared that GCF has created packets containing 3 composition books, scissors, crayons, pencils, and hand sanitizer as mid-year school supplies for PCS students. Ms. McLean invited the Board members to join her in delivering the packets to all students at seven schools. The schools receiving the packets are South Greenville Elementary, Belvoir School, Lakeforest Elementary, Northwest Elementary, Pactolus School, Grifton School, Falkland Elementary. GCF will deliver 3300 packets at a cost of \$7.00 each at an approximately total of \$24,000 dollars.

4) Public Expression:

No one requested to participate in Public Expression.

5) Consent Items:

Benjie Forrest made a motion to approve the consent items as presented, with a second from Worth Forbes. Betsy Flanagan objected to the inclusion of the 2018-2019 Open Enrollment School List on the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Smith removed the 2018-2019 Open Enrollment list from the Consent Agenda and made it item “D” under New Business. Following Ms. Flanagan’s objection, the Consent Agenda items included the following:

- January 22, 2018 Board Work Session minutes,
- December 4, 2017 Board Meeting minutes,
- December 18, 2017 Special Called Board Meeting minutes,
- December 18, 2017 Board Work Session minutes,
- Student Transfer Panel Hearing List,
- Combined Personnel Report for January 8, 2018/February 5, 2018,
- 2017 Annual Comprehensive Audit Report,
- Grifton Restart School Application,
- 2017-2018 Budget Amendment #1, and
- Amended Policy 4150, School Assignment

With no discussion, the motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

6) New Business

A) Cheryl Olmsted, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services, shared a video presentation titled “2031.” Ms. Olmsted shared that today’s kindergarten students will graduate in the year 2031. Ms. Olmsted explained that Pitt County Schools has to educate students with skills needed to be qualified for employment opportunities in the future. Ms. Olmsted shared that PCS would be creating a Strategic Plan with the students of 2031 in mind. Ms. Olmsted stated PCS would be providing each Board member with a video and flyers for them to use to help educate the community about the educational needs of students in the future. Ms. Olmsted stated that she and Dr. Travis Lewis would be available to attend and assist any Board member’s public forum. Ms. Olmsted gave the Board members a timeline for the strategic planning process. Ms. Olmsted answered several questions from the Board members.

B) Tim DeCresie, Director of Digital Learning, continued the High School Counselors presentation from the recent Board Work Session. Mr. DeCresie introduced Jonathan Delege, Acceleration Advisor for Pitt County Virtual Academy, who shared how Pitt County Virtual Academy is working to open up virtual course opportunities to middle school students and their parents. Mr. Delege answered questions from the Board members.

C) Mary Blount Williams, made a motion to approve the statement affirming the Pitt County Board of Education’s commitment to funding interior bus cameras as presented, with a second from Worth Forbes. The vote to approve the statement was unanimous.

D) 2018-2019 Open Enrollment School List

Betsy Flanagan read a prepared statement justifying her decision to remove the 2018-2019 open enrollment list from the Consent Agenda and accept Dr. Lenker’s original recommendation to remove two schools and add three. Ms. Flanagan made a motion to accept the 2018-2019 Open Enrollment List to include Ayden-Grifton High School, Farmville Central High School, J.H. Rose High School, North Pitt High School, South Central High School, Ayden Middle, C.M. Eppes Middle School, Farmville Middle School, Wellcome Middle School, Ayden Elementary, Belvoir, Bethel School, Elmhurst Elementary, G.R. Whitfield, H.B. Sugg, Northwest Elementary, Pactolus, Sam D. Bundy, South Greenville Elementary, Stokes School, Wahl-Coates, and W.H. Robinson with a second from Robert Moore.

After much discussion, Benjie Forrest made a motion to amend the motion to add Eastern and D.H. Conley High School to the Open Enrollment list with a second from Worth Forbes. After much more discussion, the amended motion to include Eastern Elementary and D.H. Conley on the 2018-2019 Open Enrollment list failed 3 to 4 with Mary Blount Williams, Benjie Forrest, and Worth Forbes voting in favor and Robert Moore, Caroline Doherty, Betsy Flanagan, and Anna Barrett Smith voting against.

Betsy Flanagan's original motion to include Ayden-Grifton High School, Farmville Central High School, J.H. Rose High School, North Pitt High School, South Central High School, Ayden Middle, C.M. Eppes Middle School, Farmville Middle School, Wellcome Middle School, Ayden Elementary, Belvoir, Bethel School, Elmhurst Elementary, G.R. Whitfield, H.B. Sugg, Northwest Elementary, Pactolus, Sam D. Bundy, South Greenville Elementary, Stokes School, Wahl-Coates, and W.H. Robinson on the 2018-2019 Open Enrollment List passed 4 to 3 with Robert Moore, Betsy Flanagan, Caroline Doherty, and Anna Barrett Smith voting in favor and Mary Blount Williams, Benjie Forrest, and Worth Forbes voting against.

Closing Comments:

Closing comments were made by Dr. Lenker, Board Members, and Vice Chair Smith.

6) Closed Session 8:49P.M.

Benjie Forrest made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to General Statute 143.318.11 for the following purposes: under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information. (G.S. 115C-319 et.seq.) and under subsection (a)(3) to consult with our attorney: to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to consider and give instructions concerning a judicial action titled Billy Walls v. Pitt County Schools.

Adjourn:

Worth Forbes made a motion to adjourn with a second by Caroline Doherty. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Time adjourned was 9:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Barrett Smith, Vice Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Carol Rankin