

DATE:	March 19, 2012	PRESENT:	Billy Peaden, Chair Jill Camnitz Mildred Council Worth Forbes Benjie Forrest Sean Kenny Jennifer Little
TIME:	6:00 P.M.		Ralph Love, Sr. Barbara Owens Christine Waters Marc Whichard
PLACE:	Pitt County Office Building		Mary Williams

ABSENT:

Chair Billy Peaden called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session at 6:00 P. M. in the Third Floor Board Room.

Chair Peaden stated the first Order of Business was the swearing in of our new Board member and called Judge David Leech forward to issue the Oath of Office to Ms. Mildred A. Council. As Judge Leech began the Ceremony, he informed everyone that this is a happy occasion for him as it's one of the few times when he acts officially that someone doesn't leave unhappy. Ms. Council's husband, Walter, was by her side during the swearing in oath. After being sworn in, Ms. Council thanked the Board of Education for appointing her to fill the vacant District I, Seat A position, and thanked family members, her pastor, a network of friends from 4-H, social workers, Shaw alumni and others who were present in the audience for their support. She also thanked The Raleigh Graduate Chapter of Swing Phi Swing Social Fellowship, Inc. for the Congratulatory Resolution in her honor.

Mr. Benjie Forrest led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There was no one present in the audience who wished to speak during Public Expression.

Under Consent Items, Bishop Ralph Love, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, moved that the Board approve the Minutes from the Special Session and Regular Meeting held March 5, 2012 and the second Personnel Report for March. Motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, the first item discussed was the recommendation to approve a Resolution Regarding Discretionary Reversion. Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin explained discretionary as: when the burden of making a reduction by line item for the instructional category is placed on the school system. He shared that a state-wide reduction in allocations for the 2011-12 school year totaled \$428.9 million with an additional planned reduction for the 2012-13 school year totaling \$74 million. Pitt County Schools' portion of these reductions was \$6.8 million for the 2011-12 school year and will be \$1.178 million for the 2012-13 school year. Regarding instructional personnel, Mr. Cowin commented that 4,200 teachers and 3,145 teacher assistants lost their jobs state-wide; Pitt County Schools lost 69 teaching positions and 92 teacher assistant positions. He stated we politely ask with the Resolution that the State Legislators eliminate the discretionary reversion as it does represent a direct hit to our classrooms at a time of increased accountability. Mr. Marc Whichard, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, moved that the Board approve the Resolution Regarding Discretionary Reversion. Motion carried unanimously.

The second item of business was a report following the Educational Programs and Services Committee Meeting held March 1, 2012. Chair Marc Whichard asked that Assistant Superintendent of EPS Cheryl Olmsted report to the Board regarding the items discussed. Ms. Olmsted stated that two procedures were changed to match State Board adjustments – one change involved Policy GCSM-001 related to middle school students taking high school courses for graduation credits. She stated in the meeting for Pitt County Schools Procedure 9.303-P, the committee approved middle school students taking high school second language, math, social studies and science classes will receive high school course credit for these subjects. They did not include English I as scores in this subject will not transfer to high school for credit.

The second procedure adjustment was related to AP classes and not counting or requiring the College Board AP exams to get the weighted AP credit for the course. Ms. Olmsted reported that these scores do not come back to the school until July; thus it does not play into whether or not the student passed the course or for any kind of grade in the course, but is strictly for receiving college credit. She added that if the student passed the course and passed the teacher's exam, they receive credit for the AP course.

The last item presented at the committee meeting was shared by Federal Director Sylvia Mizzelle related to a waiver going to the US Department of Education for No Child Left Behind. Criteria necessary for the waiver includes:

- a. College and career ready expectations which the State met by adopting the Common Core/Essential Standards.
- b. The State has a differentiated recognition system for schools: priority schools where the composite proficiency level is less than 50% or they received a School Improvement Grant; focus schools which have an achievement gap in their subgroup performance larger than the State average at 38.7%; reward schools.
- c. Effective instruction and leadership (new teacher evaluation model and new principal evaluation model and why they are pushing so fast in getting the teacher effectiveness out there).
- d. Duplication and unnecessary burden of paper work – choice schools, busing.

Ms. Olmsted also asked if the waiver passes and a district does not have to offer Choice, who is affected. Do students stay in the Choice school; if they do, we don't have to furnish transportation. Also, what do we do with siblings not given a Choice school, i.e. new kindergarten student who has a sibling in a Choice school? She further asked who will make these decisions, the State or the LEA; and who will be grandfathered in. Some changes are already being made by the Feds, i.e. said sub groups are too large and we've been told to decrease the number in sub groups.

Ms. Mildred Council asked regarding AP classes, if they do not take the AP exam, how does the student verify that he/she took the course. Ms. Olmsted replied that the AP course will be on a student's high school transcript with a weighted GPA score. She explained if a student does not want to receive college credit, there is no need to waste time preparing for that exam and its cost. If a student wants college credit, he/she takes the College Board AP Exam and if passed, gets college credit.

Mr. Marc Whichard voiced that the State is rushing through the Common Core/Essential Standards to implement this new curriculum which is problematic. He commented that it's upsetting to see how fast things are pushed when so much is at stake for the state, the school district, the principal and the individual teacher - just for the sake of having something in place.

Mr. Worth Forbes added that even the DPI folks are not on the same page.

Mr. Whichard commented that he attended an informational session called by the State Superintendent for principals and staff members this week, and she could not answer a single question asked by members of the group.

The third item on the Agenda discussed was Open Enrollment Schools for the 2012-13 school year. Superintendent Emory explained that open enrollment schools have to be approved by the Board by April 1 each year. The list of Open Enrollment Schools for 2012-13 includes:

Ayden-Grifton High School  
Farmville Central High School  
North Pitt High School  
Ayden Middle School  
Bethel K-8 School

Mr. Sean Kenny moved, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, that the Board approve the Open Enrollment Schools as presented. Ms. Jennifer Little asked if a child is attending an Open Enrollment School currently, does he/she have to apply to go to the same school the following year. Dr. Emory stated annual enrollment is held for Open Enrollment Schools with Student Assignment Director Kay Weathington commenting that once a child has been accepted in an Open Enrollment School, they may stay in that school through the exit grade of the school. Ms. Jill Camnitz asked if a student is in an Open Enrollment High School, i.e. Farmville Central; can they transfer to another Open Enrollment School, i.e. North Pitt. Superintendent Emory explained it is Board policy that if a student is in a designated Open Enrollment School, he/she cannot switch to another Open Enrollment School; unless a curriculum option is used where another school offers a course the student needs and the designated school he's attending does

not. Ms. Camnitz asked what is the rationale for not allowing a student in an open enrollment high school transfer to another open enrollment high school. Dr. Emory responded that her understanding of the original intent was to allow students in the three larger high schools the opportunity to switch to one of the three smaller high schools due to capacity issues. She added that Open Enrollment had really helped Bethel School's attendance. With no further discussion, Chair Peaden asked for a vote of the Board regarding the Open Enrollment Schools with the motion passing unanimously.

Under Old Business, the first item discussed was a school calendar update by Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Delilah Jackson. Ms. Jackson first welcomed Ms. Council to the Board. She then reminded the Board that February 20, 2012, a school calendar, which included 185 instructional days as mandated by the State, had been presented. During the week of March 5, Ms. Jackson shared that State Superintendent June Atkinson had been given the authority to approve waiver requests regarding the five instructional days added to the calendar. She commented that our district had sent in a waiver regarding four of the five additional instructional days being used for professional development on November 14, 2011. Ms. Jackson added that she is now working on the fourth revision of the school calendar for when we are notified that our waiver has been approved by the State Board of Education. She explained that Common Core/Essential Standards will be shared in the professional development workdays. Dr. Emory commented that the revised calendar will be presented at the April 2 Board meeting if the waiver has been accepted; and if not, the calendar will be presented contingent upon a waiver to the Board for approval so that if the waiver is approved at a later date, action can be taken to send out information regarding the 2012-13 calendar to parents.

Ms. Christine Waters stated that efforts have been made by the Board and staff to add time for teachers to be in their classrooms. She asked if we go back to the proposed original calendar, will we lose those opportunities for the teachers? Ms. Jackson stated that Early Release days will remain in the calendar as discussed previously with the exception of the two late start days in January. She added that much discussion had arisen regarding these two days, and work in this area is currently ongoing. Ms. Jill Camnitz had some questions regarding professional development and Dr. Emory responding that there are many areas of professional development with different coding, i.e. teacher, PLC, CC/ES, which will meet State guidelines.

Superintendent Beverly Emory presented a revision of the dates planned for a public educational session on March 26 at the Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation Center by Attorney Ken Soo to explain the history, process and methodology used to achieve Unitary Status, and three public input sessions to be held March 29 at South Central High School Media Center, April 5 at J. H. Rose High School Lecture Hall and April 19 at North Pitt High School Media Center. The sessions will be held from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Dr. Emory reported that all plaintiffs in the case as well as key community leaders have been sent invitations.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Emory commented that over 160 positions were lost in our system this school year due to budget shortfalls. She stated that good management by our finance and human resources departments had kept folks from losing their jobs, though the positions were cut. Dr. Emory added that with

the use of low wealth funding, more positions were allotted in our schools than the State formula provided.

Superintendent Emory congratulated AIG Coordinator Tim DeCresie and his wife, Terri, an AIG teacher, on being the State AIG Coordinator and teacher of the year. She added that Pitt County also had the State AIG Parent Association for the year. Dr. Emory informed everyone that low wealth dollars funded 10 ½ AIG positions this year.

Dr. Emory reminded members that North Carolina has been recognized as a leader for placing emphasis on students graduating from high school with Pitt County having a 12% improvement in our graduation rate in the last two and one-half years. She added that in our district goals for 2011-12, the graduation rate has been increased from 70% to 80%. Superintendent Emory thanked everyone across the district, not just high school personnel, who assist in this effort.

Chair Peaden stated that he had been approached by several people regarding changing our Board meeting starting time to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Worth Forbes moved, second by Mr. Sean Kenny, that the Board meeting start time be changed to 6:00 p.m. A number of Board of Education members voiced that they would have a hard time getting to the meetings at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Sean Kenny also asked what would happen when we have training prior to our meetings. Dr. Emory commented that at one time, the second meeting of the month was devoted to non-action items and wondered if the Board would be in favor of doing trainings or updating reports during the second Board meeting of the month. Mr. Forbes then revised his original motion, second by Ms. Mary Williams, asking the Board to approve changing start time for Board meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. effective with our next Board meeting, April 2, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Several Board members had no comments tonight.

Ms. Mary Williams thanked everyone for their cards and kind words with the recent passing of her sister-in-law.

Bishop Ralph Love welcomed Ms. Council to the Board of Education and also as a member of the Human Resources Committee.

Mr. Worth Forbes expressed sympathy to Ms. Williams as he was not aware of the death in her family.

Mr. Marc Whichard also expressed condolences to Ms. Williams. He commented that he attended Open House at Ridgewood Elementary which was very well organized and stated lots of activities were planned for the students and their families to participate in. In closing, Mr. Whichard thanked all educational personnel – teachers, TAs, office staff, bus drivers, central office personnel, and others for all their hard work. He expressed concern with the breakneck speed the State is using to push Common Core/Essential Standards, re-establishing a new K-12 curriculum and pacing guides for our schools. Mr. Whichard stated his hat is off to everyone involved and hopes the State will reward our personnel in terms of resources for which many schools are already struggling.

Ms. Christine Waters stated she's glad to be back and welcomed Ms. Council as a member of the Board.

Mr. Sean Kenny echoed his welcome to the Board family for Ms. Council and her husband. He thanked Ms. Williams for their informative time together recently. Mr. Kenny commented that it was great to see Pitt County sweep the awards at the State PAGE meeting recently. He said it was a sad day when he read Mr. DeCresie's resignation letter last fall, but a glad day when he saw the letter resending his resignation; and congratulated Mr. and Mrs. DeCresie for their honors stating they truly earned them.

Mr. Benjie Forrest also expressed condolences to Ms. Williams and added he will remember her and her family in his prayers. He congratulated Ms. Council stating she really had his attention when he heard of her involvement with 4-H, the program at NC A&T State University and her interest in Career and Technical Education. Mr. Forrest closed by congratulating the DECA Programs at D. H. Conley, Ayden-Grifton and J. H. Rose High Schools, who all won in State Competitions and will soon be moving to National Competitions. He added that he hopes these students will be supported in some way for their endeavors.

Bishop Ralph Love moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that the Board go into Closed Session to 1. prevent the disclosure of privileged information under FERPA 20 USC §1232G of the regulations or laws of United States. [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (1)], and 2. consider and give instructions concerning a judicial action titled Rhonda Everett, et. al. v. Juvenile Female 1, et. al. v. The Pitt County Board of Education, et. al. [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (3)].

Bishop Ralph Love moved, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, that the Board return to Open Session. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, Bishop Ralph Love moved, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, that the Board adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Time was 7:50 P. M.

Respectively Submitted,

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Mr. Billy Peaden, Chair

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Dr. Beverly Emory, Secretary