

Member Ralph Love relative to his health, and our newest Board Member Robert Moore as he takes his seat on the Board of Education.

Chair Whichard then offered the Agenda for consideration. Mr. Worth Forbes moved, second by Ms. Mildred Council, that the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

During Public Expression, three members of the audience signed up to speak. The first to speak was Ms. Kathy Herring who came to support reducing the number of Board of Education members, shortening the term length for Board of Education members and reducing the time length between election and taking office. She thanked Rep. Brian Brown for his leadership in representing his constituents on this very heated issue. Ms. Herring believes a smaller Board will lead to more transparency and accountability, encourage a broader range of citizens to run for the office and increase the chance that the Board of Education can act with a system-wide vision for our schools. She asked that the Board reach out to stakeholders in our communities and gather feedback regarding how they feel about this issue. Another suggestion voiced by Ms. Herring is to hold listening sessions or a public forum regarding this legislation. In closing, she commented that this issue has divided our system too long and needs to be put to rest so that we can focus on the students in this county.

The second speaker was Chairman Phil Ahlschlager representing the Greenville -Pitt County Chamber of Commerce who also spoke regarding reducing the Board size, length of term and the gap time between election and taking office. He commented that Chamber members believe education is a top priority and shared events relative to education that the Chamber sponsors. Mr. Ahlschlager asked that the Board consider reducing Board members from twelve to nine, reduce term length from six years to four years and have newly elected members take office thirty days after election. He mentioned Senate Bill 260 introduced in 2011 that promoted similar changes and was approved by the NC General Assembly, but was not granted preclearance by the US Department of Justice. Mr. Ahlschlager shared current support from the Chamber's Issues Committee and the Board of Directors for Rep. Brian Brown's decision to introduce new legislation regarding this issue during the present session. He commented that the large number of Board members dates back to the merge of the Greenville City and Pitt County School Districts when the proposed reduction to nine members never occurred. Mr. Ahlschlager stated the community has watched a divided school board that has created negative energy and much concern. The Chamber members believe that a smaller Board will have better focus and more effective decision making and alleviate dissention amongst members to create consensus building. He asked that Board members whose platforms supported a reduction in Board size honor that pledge. Mr. Ahlschlager affirmed business community support for Pitt County Schools in building the most advanced school system in the state for our children that will ensure mastering the skills necessary for success as life-long learners in our rapidly changing world. In closing, he asked that Pitt County Schools send a resolution to our legislative delegation supporting the three changes outlined tonight.

The last speaker was the Mayor of Ayden Steve Tripp. Mayor Tripp thanked Board members for what they do and addressed Mr. Benjie Forrest and Mr. Worth Forbes for

their representation of the Ayden community. He welcomed Mr. Moore as a newly appointed member of the Board of Education. Mayor Tripp stated that he did not come tonight representing the Town of Ayden, but only representing himself. He shared that he was a former Board of Education member during the period that the two school districts merged into one and voiced that Mr. Mark Owens was a great leader of the Board during the transition. Mayor Tripp commented that conversation back then was one of county and city, separation, confrontation – not unity, except at the school board level where unity represented the child. He shared that in making the move many years ago, look at how we've progressed and how our school system has progressed. Mayor Tripp commented that he left something unfinished 25 years ago, and tonight he wants to finish it out. He shared that when he was on the Board, there were a large number of members making it cumbersome and hard to maneuver. Mayor Tripp had hoped that within five or six years, the number would have been reduced to nine. He closed by saying the merger was the right decision to make when he served on the Board, and he hopes that the Board will make a responsible decision in reducing the size of the Board.

For Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, North Pitt High School Principal Mike King introduced Assistant Principals Jennifer James and Willie Joyner and Math Teacher Mary Carson to share methods of positive changes made in the school for student achievement. Mr. King explained a flex time period which has been put in place to extend instructional time within the school day. He shared that all three SIG high school principals met to discuss how to add 30 minutes of remediation, enrichment or basic skills within each day and extend the semester to the middle of June. Mr. King added that there is a Guiding Good Choices class for parents and students who have attendance issues. He also shared details on how data is being used to move forward through teacher collaboration and PLCs. Mr. King stated that algebra scores are rising, and our graduation rate has increased over the last three years. He commented that the 19 year old, 21 credit diploma helped increase the graduation rate as well and thanked the Board for supporting this program.

Ms. James came forward and stated it was great to come, share the changes in our school and let our teachers shine. She explained a Connecting the DOTS (Development of Teacher Success) Program implemented at North Pitt to improve high quality instruction in the building. Three of the strategies in this program which have had the most impact for our students and teachers at North Pitt are professional development which focuses on the Common Core/Essential Standards, data, assessments, helping students think critically and technology; PLCs or Professional Learning Communities through which we saw major growth in math by focusing on data and student learning; and the last strategy we will share are out data talks and data blue prints. Using SAT, PSAT, ACT, EOC and CTE scores in addition to individual data for each student, helps our teachers have an overall view of how a student is performing and how to improve instructional strategies for a particular student.

Ms. Carson informed the Board that she started teaching two years ago and shared that though PLCs are wonderful, their beginning was rough. She explained the process of finding what works and what does not, setting ground rules, classifying students, switching topics for teachers to teach as one excelled in one area while someone else did better in another area and sharing data results.

Mr. Joyner then informed the Board that he's the "new kid on the block" and believes he's seen curriculum and instruction at its best at North Pitt High School. He commented that teachers there learn how to use data to drive instruction, not only through data blue prints, as mentioned earlier, but through websites such as Insight 360.

In summing up, Mr. King stated there are three key factors for our teachers – they teach and make formative assessments in the classroom; look at data blue prints, make common assessments and decide what strategy a student needs in the PLCs; and then determine the needed flex class.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, moved that the Board approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held February 18, 2013, the Personnel Report for March, and the Property to be Declared Surplus List. Motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Chair Whichard asked Representative Brian Brown to lead Board discussion regarding the size of the Pitt County Board of Education. Rep. Brown thanked the Board for allowing him to come tonight and share his concerns regarding the Board of Education adding that he himself attended college to become a teacher. He commented that education is the foundation for everything we do. Though paths of life have taken him down different roads, first as a small business owner and now as a legislator, he comes tonight representing many constituents who have contacted him regarding the reduction of the Board size. As he campaigned and went through the process of becoming an elected official, Rep. Brown thought he would be questioned about job creation or tax reform; but his major contact has been relative to the size of the Board of Education and the dysfunction surrounding the Board in representing our children. He asked the Board to listen to the community and hold a public hearing for input from constituents regarding this issue. Rep. Brown did state that the way this issue was handled by the legislature previously was probably not the way it should have been done. He did affirm that he will initiate and fully support a bill for the reduction of this Board to nine members serving a four-year term taking office 30 days after election. Rep. Brown stated that he's holding a round table forum on Friday, March 15, 2013, to discuss this issue as well as others so that all voices can be represented and address this concern. He shared two e-mails he's received supporting these reductions and asked the Board to consider real education reform in Pitt County. Rep. Brown requested that the Board respectfully reflect on this issue, but added that he will move forward with this legislation. He commented that this action might affect Unitary Status as the Court will look at student assignment, quality of education, faculty/staff assignment, transportation, physical facilities and extracurricular activities – but nowhere does it state that the size of the Board is a factor. Rep. Brown stated that clear, effective representation will equal a better and more effective school system with more transparency. He asked that the Board move forward with this issue using a swift hand adding that we don't know if we will receive Unitary Status. We do know that school doors will open tomorrow, teachers will stand before our students to educate them and all will be affected by the decision or lack of decision made in this room. Rep. Brown shared a conversation he had with a businessman in Raleigh thinking about locating a business in North Carolina, and then asked the Board did they not realize that the dysfunction and size

of the Board is hurting student achievement and economic development. Rep. Brown informed the Board that he knows many are concerned because he is not from Pitt County and feel he does not understand the complexities of the issue. However, he strongly stated that you do not have to be from Pitt County to understand the issues; and if it were not for people like himself who moved here to start a small business, work at the medical facility or teach at the university, Pitt County would not be as we know Pitt County today. In closing, Rep. Brown asked the Board to support a resolution for change for the citizens of Pitt County and the students by making the right decision.

Ms. Mary Williams questioned Rep. Brown regarding the newspaper article stating he had at least forty requests to downsize the Board. She stated that she's been on the Board four years and wondered if any of her constituents were on the list as she's not received a phone call or letter supporting downsizing the Board. Rep. Brown responded to Ms. Williams that he held an open invite round table open forum at his place of business with 51 people attending. He explained that the discussion was focused on tax reform, immigration and a host of other issues surrounding our county and our state, but a reporter in the room asked would he address the school board size to which he answered, "We are looking into it." Rep. Brown commented that the next day, the headline read, "Brown's Task with Reducing the School Board's Size." He added that he understands the concern and that is why on March 15 he is opening his doors to obtain as much feedback as he possibly can, but he cannot help which constituents come or do not come.

Ms. Mildred Council asked who did the constituents present represent with Rep. Brown stating there were both city and county folks attending with the vast majority supporting making the size of the Board the same as the County Commissioners. Ms. Council commented that Rep. Brown is new to the General Assembly and feels that being a new representative, he should have at least invited the school board to the meeting. She stated she too has not heard from her constituents and wonders if Rep. Brown knows the history of why this size Board is in place. Ms. Council shared concern because in hearing what was said tonight, no matter what the Board decides, Rep. Brown is going to do what he wants to do anyway. She asked Rep. Brown what difference does our voice make if you're not going to take it into consideration. Ms. Council asked were the constituents all races, Republicans and Democrats, or what. She also mentioned Unitary Status and all the work that has been completed, which is not being considered, as well as the whole gambit of components. Ms. Council stated that the Chamber of Commerce works with businesses and that is just one factor in this equation. She feels that this move is trying to destroy what we have worked so hard to obtain.

Rep. Brown responded to Ms. Council that he wished he had brought a pen and paper to write her questions down for response.

Chair Whichard thanked Ms. Herring, Mayor Tripp and Mr. Ahlschlager for their respectful comments this evening, but now feels the tone of conversation has turned a bit away from decorum. He did express desire for Rep. Brown to return to discuss funding teachers and mentioned the ranking of North Carolina in per pupil expenditure and rate of teacher pay being 49th in the nation. Chair Whichard wants the Board to stay above board on the achievement of students though the environment

for education in North Carolina has become most difficult. He did affirm to those who are listening that this Board is dedicated to continuing the work of educating our students, providing resources to accomplish this and lobbying the State to assist us in these efforts. Rep. Brown stated that he would like to come back and address the per pupil expenditure, however he would like to stay germane to the topic at hand, which is the size of the Board.

In addressing Ms. Council, Rep. Brown stated he's standing before the Board tonight asking them to attend the open forum meeting March 15 at 12:00 noon at Rep Express on Red Banks Road. Ms. Council asked when he was going to have a meeting to invite all constituents as that's what she's waiting for. Rep. Brown reinforced that that is the purpose of the proposed open forum on March 15.

Chair Worth Forbes asked Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu to come forward and share a report following an Operations Committee Meeting held February 12, 2013. Mr. Beaulieu first gave an update on the Safety and Security Task Force for the district addressing some concerns related to outside exits and hallways, looking at cameras for elementary schools and our next steps to move forward.

Mr. Beaulieu discussed a review of the School Out-of-Capacity worksheets for ten years by attendance areas and grade levels. He stated that the schools with the most out-of-capacity issues are Chicod, D. H. Conley High and South Central High Schools.

Next, Mr. Beaulieu stated the committee was updated on negotiations for a future cell tower to be located on C. M. Eppes Middle School property and gave authority to move forward with these negotiations.

Mr. Beaulieu commented that deferred maintenance needs across the district were presented in the areas of HVAC, paving, roofing and replacing windows totaling almost \$33 million with over \$5 million in current needs alone.

The last item on the agenda shared by Mr. Beaulieu was possible interest in Pirate substations for which a private outside group is considering purchasing the property along 14th Street to locate caboose type structures to use for a tail-gating atmosphere similar to what currently exists at South Carolina University.

Chair Benjie Forrest asked Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin to report to the Board following a Finance Committee Meeting held February 28, 2013. The first item discussed was funding for student security. He explained that the City of Greenville received a grant that has been used the last three years to fund SROs and last month, the Assistant City Attorney notified us that there is sufficient carryover from the grant to cover the cost of SROs this fiscal year. This notification left us approximately \$400,000 in this year's budget for State At-Risk Funding to purchase additional security equipment for our schools.

Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Mr. Sean Kenny, that we approve the \$400,000 for additional security equipment in our schools as determined by the Safety and Operations Committee.

Ms. Mary Williams asked would any of this funding be used for salaries with Mr. Cowin stating no, it will only be used for security equipment or supplies. Chair Whichard asked the individual cost of a camera for Board basic information with Mr. Cowin responding a ballpark figure would be between \$5,000-\$10,000 for an individual set of school cameras. Superintendent Beverly Emory shared that Mr. Beaulieu has an estimate to equip the remaining elementary schools with cameras at around \$300,000. Chair Whichard remarked that security costs for school systems is incredibly expensive, and he wanted the public to hear this information as this amount will not take care of all the needs we now have for safety and security but will be a big help.

Chair Whichard then called for a vote on using the \$400,000 for student security as determined by the Safety and Operations Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

The second item discussed was the budget for outside legal fees. Mr. Cowin presented the current budget set aside for outside legal fees stating that \$100,000 of this funding had been approved by the Board specifically designated for the cost of the Unitary Status case. He shared that the year-to-date actual cost through December of 2012 is \$138,000 with 87% of that amount being spent for the desegregation case. Mr. Cowin then gave a detailed proposed cost for legal expenses between now and the end of the fiscal year at approximately \$160,000 plus the unbudgeted expense for outside legal counsel to represent the Board on day-to-day operations as well as the cost for advertising for a full-time employed attorney to represent the Board for a projected total cost of \$298,093.13. Mr. Cowin explained that because of these costs, a minimum additional fund balance appropriation needed for outside legal fees is \$140,000.

Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Board approve the necessary additional funds for outside legal fees amounting to \$140,000. Motion passed unanimously.

The third item mentioned was the superintendent approval threshold. Mr. Cowin gave background for this discussion and stated there has been recent controversy surrounding the contracting of an external investigator to investigate a student assignment case. He reported that the current policy states the superintendent has the authority to approve service contracts up to \$90,000 without Board approval and shared information from 23 school systems in North Carolina with thresholds similar to Pitt's adding that four surrounding counties all have \$90,000 thresholds. Mr. Cowin commented that there was not a consensus of the Board members as to whether the Board was made aware of the contracting of the investigator – some said yes, some no. The majority of members present supported leaving the present policy limits intact, but agreed that language should be added to the policy stating that the superintendent will notify the board chairperson when he/she enters into a non-instructional contract and report quarterly to the board a list of contracts entered into by the superintendent.

Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Board take the Finance Committee's recommendation as it relates to contracts and forward it to the Policy Committee for revision.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated that she supports the threshold remaining as is currently stated in the policy regarding the limit of spending that the superintendent has authority to approve. She further stated that she believes this issue has been blown out of proportion and is an example of micromanagement of our superintendent with no evidence of her being reckless with the discretionary funds. Mr. Forrest commented that the majority of members present at the meeting did not think the amount of money was the main issue, but the issue might be one of communication regarding non-instructional contracts. He explained that this is the focus of having the Policy Committee look at the policy and adding language to have the superintendent notify the board chairman regarding non-instructional contracts. Ms. Little added a comment that she believes communication was directed to the Board regarding the issue at hand and feels the perception of the public is that no communication was given. She stated that Dr. Emory did in fact contact the Board Chair at the time who was Mr. Peaden, not Mr. Whichard. Ms. Little added that she does not mind if the policy is changed to protect everyone and set communication moving forward, but felt it necessary to state that the superintendent did consult with the board chair about the contract in question.

With no further discussion, Chair Whichard called for a vote of Mr. Forrest's motion. Ms. Mary Williams and Mr. Sean Kenny voted against the motion. Motion carried.

The next item of business was the Second Reading of two policies presented by Policy Chair Sean Kenny. Mr. Kenny moved that revision of Policy 7.206 – Classified Evaluation Policy, second by Ms. Mildred Council, be approved as presented. With no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Second reading for revised Policy 7.014 – Conflict of Interest was presented by Mr. Kenny. Mr. Kenny moved that revised Policy 7.014, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, be approved by the Board as presented. Again, no discussion followed and motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kenny then asked for Board input regarding Board members wearing robes at the upcoming graduation ceremonies. Chair Whichard addressed Student Services Director Pokie Noland stating that this is an event for each of our high schools and wanted each school to know that they have say so in what their graduation ceremony involves. Mr. Kenny commented that he's speaking exclusively about Board members, and not interfering with the high school ceremony. Ms. Jill Camnitz clarified that robes are available for Board members and there would be no additional cost involved if members choose to wear robes during graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Sean Kenny moved, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, that Board members wear robes at all graduation ceremonies they attend. Mr. Billy Peaden voted against the motion. Motion carried.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Beverly Emory welcomed Mr. Moore to the Board of Education and thanked him for the nice tone he had set for all members.

Dr. Emory also thanked North Pitt High School for their presentation and commented that it was nice to see a third-year teacher step into a leadership role and witness the "new talent" in Pitt County.

Superintendent Emory shared that Friday our school system received two more Blue Ribbon Awards through past Public Information Officer Heather Mayo's communication efforts. One was for our website and the other was for electronic media in getting the word out to our district. Dr. Emory noted that this has been a one-person position for many years in a school system our size and appreciates all the hard work involved. She thanked Interim PIO Marsha McLawhorn for attending the event.

Superintendent Emory publically thanked the Greenville Police Department for the grant that has provided additional dollars for safety purposes as it was initiated by the Department, and the fact that their good management of finances will allow us coverage for another year is great news for our district. She reported that between this good news, the NASCAR check we received and wise management of funds by Mr. Cowin, Mr. Beaulieu and their Board committees; we have about one-half million dollars to be used for the safety and security of our students.

Dr. Emory also commented on the hard work of the Committee and what a progressive step it is to have the revised Classified Evaluation Policy in place. She thanked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Delilah Jackson, Personnel Director Glen Buck and others who participated in this effort, including the Employees of the Year from all classification areas for their feedback. Superintendent Emory believes this revised tailored policy puts us ahead of the State in moving forward for our employees.

Dr. Emory closed by using Mr. Robert Moore's description of "ever learning", stating it is a good thought to move forward with. Mr. Moore reported that he had more!

Chair Whichard thanked all teachers and administrators across the district for the hard work they do for our students on a daily basis in increasingly difficult environments. He also shared pride in his son's participation in Ridgewood Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind competition over the weekend in Jacksonville. Chair Whichard reported that Ridgewood took home a first place award, and the upper grades will go on to compete in statewide competition. He commented that there are many points of pride in our school system for what our students and teachers are able to accomplish each day.

Chair Whichard shared an issue from "Under the Doom" of the *News and Observer* related to per pupil expenditure with North Carolina being third from the bottom of the list. He reported that North Carolina spends \$8,433 per pupil with the average being \$11,068. Chair Whichard added that North Carolina ranks 48th in teacher salaries among the 50 states and the District of Columbia paying an average of \$45,947 with the average being \$56,383. He stated these represent concerns for our teachers with the slipping ranking for our state and the nation.

Mr. Billy Peaden thanked Principal Mike King and the North Pitt staff who presented tonight. He stated that the Board's approval of dropping the number of credits to graduate helped many students accomplish this goal, including approximately twenty who will graduate this school year.

Ms. Mary Williams thanked the staff from North Pitt for coming and sharing their success in helping students achieve, particularly as this high school is in her district. She also thanked Ms. Jackson and Mr. Buck for all the hard work that went into revising the Classified Evaluation Policy to help people understand where they stand in their employment from bus drivers and custodians to our administrative staff.

Ms. Williams welcomed Mr. Moore to the Board, and also his family, as she knows they will find out real soon how much of his time will be used helping to educate our kids.

Ms. Williams closed by thanking Rep. Brown for coming stating she's looking forward to his March 15 meeting.

Ms. Jill Camnitz welcomed Mr. Moore and thanked Chair Whichard for sharing the "Under the Dome" information. She stated this information is very disturbing if you hold the education of students in North Carolina close to your heart and hopes the coming budget will address some of these issues.

Ms. Camnitz reported that she, Dr. Emory and Chair Whichard had the pleasure of reading to some students at the Boys and Girls Club last Friday on "Read Across America Day". She added that the kids were excited and many folks wore Dr. Seuss' hats as each child was given a book to take home compliments of the Pitt County Association of Educators. Ms. Camnitz stated she thinks of this event as the Dick Tolmie Memorial Boys and Girls Club Reading as he loved being a part of this special day and added that we missed his presence.

Ms. Camnitz commented that she had had many contacts related to why it has taken the Board so long to address the issue of Unitary Status. She believes one of the answers to that question was apparent in our discussion regarding attorney fees. Ms. Camnitz stated the Board has been hesitant to spend the kind of money needed to complete the process, but now feels it's the right thing to do in achieving our goal of Unitary Status and hopes the community will be understanding.

In closing, Ms. Camnitz stated that the size of the Board is a difficult issue for all of us and believes that Rep. Brown's open forum on March 15 is a great opportunity for us to listen to our constituents. She commented that after seeing and hearing what occurs at this forum, it may be that we as a Board may want to conduct an open forum ourselves to follow up with our community.

Ms. Jennifer Little addressed Rep. Brown regarding possibly moving his forum as there may be many constituents present. She stated that she's very passionate regarding this issue and has been since she ran for her Board seat. Ms. Little mentioned Mr. Kenny, Ms. Council and Mr. Moore possibly holding a listening session as well with an overlap of their schools and constituents.

Ms. Little stated in reference to the "Read Across America Day", a teacher at Rose High, Ms. Lewis, has organized a "Dream Team" made up of student athletes who go out into the elementary schools and read to younger children on that day. She added that this is another example of great accomplishments in our schools and a wonderful way to mentor our students.

Ms. Christine Waters welcomed Mr. Moore and asked everyone to make a resolution to stay healthy to carry on business as it needs to be done. She also thanked Rep. Brown for coming and agrees with Ms. Little about needing more room.

Mr. Worth Forbes congratulated North Pitt for the positive changes they have put in place for student achievement adding that the school has come a long way in the last few years. He believes this is thinking outside the box and is glad to hear how the school is using flex time in achieving student success. Mr. Forbes believes other high schools are implementing ideas to increase student achievement and that the Board succeeded under the last administration by acting on the graduation requirements for 19 year old students and lowering the credit hours necessary for graduation. Mr. Forbes hopes if this data driven instruction and collaboration by teachers in the PLCs achieves their goals, they will share their ideas with the other high schools to help all students succeed.

Mr. Forbes welcomed Mr. Moore and his family.

Mr. Forbes also expressed appreciation to Ms. Mayo for her awards and to Ms. McLawhorn for stepping in temporarily and doing a great job.

Ms. Barbara Owens commented that she believes it's Ms. McLawhorn's spirit that carries her along and thanked her for that. She also welcomed her seat mate Mr. Moore.

Ms. Owens stated she also thought about Mr. Tolmie as related to Dr. Zeus. She added that at Mr. Tolmie's Memorial, there was a picture in the foyer of him wearing a Dr. Seuss hat as he read which spoke volumes for the statement, "Once an educator, always an educator."

Mr. Robert Moore stated that he perceives things as data driven and would like to see data related to a seven-member board, a nine-member board or a twelve-member board. He believes he's being acclimated with the Board through Odyssey of the Mind and sitting at the Board table brings him back to the "study stacks" of a library years ago. Mr. Moore spoke regarding a composition, "To have Succeeded," by Emerson, which he read aloud to the Board and others, that helped him with his life and hopes it will help the Board also.

Mr. Benjie Forrest welcomed Mr. Moore and thanked Mayor Tripp for speaking tonight. He also commended Mr. King and his staff stating they are doing a tremendous job at North Pitt High School and are setting a leadership example for our school system. Mr. Forrest thanked Rep. Brown for his input and reminded everyone that the size of the Board was not one of the issues mentioned in his platform when he ran for the Board seat. He stated he is interested in listening to this proposal if it's done the right way – by listening to the entire community and not segments of it.

Mr. Forrest thanked County Commissioner Tom Johnston for his steady support of the Board. He thanked the Board for voting their support in providing the resources needed to complete the task of hopefully reaching the goal of Unitary Status.

In closing, Mr. Forest commented that he wanted to shout out regarding Chicod's Middle School Robotics Competition who took first place and would love to see them come in for the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning Session.

Ms. Mildred Council welcomed Mr. Moore and thanked the Board as she has not felt intimidated at all since coming to serve on a diverse twelve-member Board of Education from a seven-member City Council Board approximately one year ago. She added that we have not always agreed, but have come together many times in her year of service.

Ms. Council addressed Rep. Brown stating she thought he would have come before now, but he did come and she thanked him for that. She added that we will help him in getting the word out regarding the meeting in March so he can hear from all the people in Pitt County. Ms. Council spoke to Rep. Brown as a new Representative, that he needs to study history as many don't want to repeat the old racist history of this county or nation as occurred in 1619 when we came to this country as slaves. She commented that she wanted to put this on record because we are not going back without a fight. Ms. Council remarked that if the legislature is concerned with the education of our students, we shouldn't be fourth from the bottom with our ranking as mentioned by our Chair earlier. She addressed Rep. Brown asking that if he's coming to share with any Board, not to ever tell them that you're going to do what you want to anyway, but listen to what they have to say. Ms. Council stated that Rep. Brown is young and has a lot of learning to do, but should try to do what is best for all the people to move forward, not be set back.

Ms. Council thanked Dr. Emory and other staff members for looking out for all employees as one employee is just as important as another employee.

Ms. Council commented that Odyssey of the Mind is an awesome program to have children involved in as it benefited her children when they were in school. She added that North Pitt is her old school district where she grew up at Bethel Union High and thanked North Pitt for doing a great job.

Ms. Council gave updates on several other community efforts involving positive events for students.

Mr. Sean Kenny welcomed Mr. Moore to the Board and thanked all our public speakers and Rep. Brown for being here. He stated he looks forward to working with his seat partner, Ms. Little, and perhaps partnering with others in setting up a listening session on a multitude of educational issues, not getting wrapped up on any one thing in particular.

Mr. Kenny thanked Dr. Emory and others for looking into the employee policy. He also thanked Dr. Emory and Principal Chena Cayton for recent meetings in the Wahl-Coates Community which were positive, productive and had good support from people.

Motion was made by Mr. Sean Kenny, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, that the Board adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Time was 8:20 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Marc Whichard, Chair

Dr. Beverly Emory, Secretary