

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 5, 2017

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

Attorney: Cynthia Grady

Absent:

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Pitt County Office Building, 3rd Floor Boardroom

1) Start of Meeting:

A) Chair Doherty called the Board of Education meeting to order in Regular Session on June 5, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the Pitt County Third Floor Board Room.

B) Moment of Silence

Anna Barrett Smith led the Board members in the Pledge of Allegiance and ended with a Moment of Silence.

2) Routine Business:

A) Approval of the Agenda:

Robert Moore made a motion, with a second from Vice Chair Williams, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion to approve the Agenda passed unanimously.

B) Spotlight on Teaching and Learning:

1) Coach Robert Wolbert, Men's Track Head Coach at South Central High School introduced Dexter McDuffie to the Board members. Coach Wolbert stated Dexter is a student athlete excelling on the track and in the classroom and has tremendous character and displays sportsmanship and leadership as well. Dexter, a junior at South Central High, recently became the State Champion in the 300-meter hurdles at the 4-A state track and field championships at North Carolina A&T. Dexter finished in 37.91 seconds. Betsy Flanagan, on behalf of the Board, presented Dexter with a "Creating Excellence in the East" Award.

2) Dr. Travis Lewis, Director of Community and Student Services, recognized the Pitt County School's Finance Department for their hard work and dedication to the staff of PCS. Dr. Lewis shared with the Board members that the Finance Department recently was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association, the Certificate of Excellence from the Association of School Business Officials International, and for receiving an Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the State Board of Education.

Those present representing the department included Debra Baggett, Sonny Barr, Renee Dunn, Lisa Veale, and Wanda Newman.

C) Public Expression:

1) Chris Barnes, representing his 11 year-old daughter, addressed the Board asking them to reconsider limiting girls to collared shirts in the Dress Code and Appearance Policy.

2) Keith Cooper, representing Pitt County Southern Christian Leadership Conference, addressed the Board concerning low-income minority student graduation rate and how to narrow the achievement gap of minorities by holding parents, Board members, schools, and business leaders accountable.

3) Consent Items:

Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to approve the consent items as listed, with a second from Mildred A. Council. The consent items included the following:

- May 1, 2017 Regular Board Meeting minutes,
- May 15, 2017 Special Called Board Meeting minutes,
- May 15, 2017 Board Work Session minutes,
- May 15, 2017 Closed Session minutes,
- May 22, 2017 Policy Development Committee Meeting minutes,
- April 24, 2017 Board Work Session minutes,
- Personnel Report for June 2017,
- Administrator Contract Renewals for 2017-2018,
- New 6500 Policy Section and Other Miscellaneous Revised and New Policies,
- Interim Budget Resolution for 2017-2018,
- PCC Board of Trustees Reappointments,
- High School Extended Year Program,
- ECU Early College MOU, and
- Out-of-Country Field Trip.

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

4) New Business:

A) Kylene Dibble, Executive Director of Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County (PPS) shared, for the third year, PPS' Community Conversations Report with the Board members. Ms. Dibble shared that PPS is a group of more than 2200 parents, grandparents, and community members who share the belief that public schools are stronger when parents are actively involved. The PPS mission is to advance the role of families and communities in securing a high quality education for each child. From May 2016 to April 2017 PPS convened 31 Community Conversation Sessions with 511 participants. Ms. Dibble stated the community conversation events resulted in more positive responses than negative responses concerning Pitt County Schools. She also shared that the most frequent comment about what is "going well" with PCS is that PCS has outstanding staff and teachers! Ms. Dibble also shared the main reason parents choose private or charter schools over PCS is based on perception even if those perceptions are not always accurate. Ms. Dibble thanked the Board members for being supportive of PPS.

B) First Reading of Miscellaneous New and Revised Policies

Cynthia Grady, In-House Counsel, shared the first reading of three new and six revised policies with the Board members. Ms. Grady asked them to contact her with

any comments or concerns prior to the June 28, 2017 Board meeting. At that time, these policies will be on the Consent Agenda for approval.

C) Policy 4316 School Dress Code and Appearance

Chair Doherty shared the steps Board members took to solicit parent involvement in revising the Uniform Policy. After much discussion, Board members asked Ms. Grady to add a statement, which clearly states schools may not charge students for wearing specific items of clothing. Board members wanted the new policy to be easier for principals to enforce and parents and students to comply.

Betsy Flanagan made a motion to waive the first Reading of Policy 4316, Dress Code and Appearance, with a second from Benjie Forrest which required a two-thirds vote. Motion to waive the first Reading passed 8-1, with Vice Chair Williams voting against.

Worth Forbes made a motion to adopt Policy 4316 with a second from Betsy Flanagan. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Grady suggested the following be added to the end of the second paragraph under section A; Schools may not charge students for wearing any item of clothing approved below. Anna Barrett made a motion to approve the amendment to Policy 4316, with a second from Benjie Forrest. Motion to approve Policy 4316 as amended passed 8-1 with Vice Chair Williams voting against.

5) Closing Comments:

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

6) Closed Session

Vice Chair Williams made a motion to go into Closed Session at 8:03 P.M. 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.*), under subsection (a)(3) to consult with our attorney, and to consider and give instructions concerning a judicial action titled Cora L. Gorham-White v. Pitt County Schools.

7) Additional Action Items or Announcements, if necessary

8) Adjourn:

Robert Moore made a motion to adjourn with a second by Anna Barrett Smith. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Time adjourned was 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline W. Doherty, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary