

Central High School. He asked the Board to think of the children and a proximity school which was discussed in redistricting. Mr. Laurin closed by asking the Board to grant administrative authority in allowing these six children to attend A. G. Cox Middle School.

The third speaker was Mr. Ken Hutcherson with Kiwanis International who thanked the Board for their dedication to the children in Pitt County. He spoke of the different Kiwanis groups who work with elementary, middle and high school students. In closing, Mr. Hutcherson presented the Board with a Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts in supporting Pitt County students and a Certificate of Appreciation to Board Member Sean Kenny for his devotion to the students regarding bullying over the last three months. He added that the Kiwanis believe the world can be changed by helping one child at a time.

The next speaker was Mr. Kevin Hill who supported previous remarks by Mr. Michael Laurin. He pleaded with the Board to keep the kids together throughout their school journey and provide community based schools for all.

The last speaker was Mr. Don Cavellini, Co-Chair of the Pitt County Coalition Against Racism. He stated that members of the audience are present that are or were former employees of Pitt County Schools. Mr. Cavellini thanked the group of Board members who met with the Coalition and listened to their concerns/objectives. He asked the Board to share in their celebration as three valued employees, who had been recommended for termination by their respective principals, were retained in their positions. Mr. Cavellini stated that teachers are placed on Action Plans to improve their job performance; and after three years of success, the Action Plan can be removed from their personnel file. He commented that this process is not followed for classified employees and asked that the Board bring equity across the district for certified and classified employees alike.

For the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Alternative Education Coordinator Mike Lutz introduced Pitt Academy Graduate Edward (P. J.) Morgan who shared with the Board his experience while attending Pitt Academy and the opportunity it provided for him to graduate. Mr. Lutz informed the Board that fourteen students graduated from Pitt Academy by helping them make up missing credits. P. J. commented that Pitt Academy is much more than an alternative school as it gives students like himself a second chance in life. He added that students make up missed work and get assistance with senior projects, but can also get ahead on next year's work. P. J. feels the smaller school setting helps as there are fewer distractions; adding that students are also taught life skills including self-discipline and learning how to break bad habits. He informed the Board that he learned there are consequences for actions taken as he became motivated to achieve and now knows that hard work and determination will take a person a long way.

Mr. Sean Kenny asked Mr. Morgan was someone with him tonight with P. J. responding that his sister was in the audience.

Ms. Christine Waters asked Mr. Morgan what his senior project was about with P. J. stating it was related to architectural engineering and that he designed a house.

Mr. Marc Whichard commented that he is most pleased with the alternative school setting. He added that students are going to make mistakes and being able to offer them a chance for recovery is great. Mr. Whichard expressed to Mr. Morgan that he had done a fine job and should stand tall with his accomplishments.

Ms. Mary Williams asked P. J. if he plans to go to school with his response being he hopes to go to A&T to study architectural engineering.

Mr. Worth Forbes stated to Mr. Morgan that his charge is to tell others about his accomplishment and let them see his success.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jennifer Little moved, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, that the Board approve Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held June 18, 2012, the Personnel Report for August and the Property to be Declared Surplus List. Motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Vice-Chair Ralph Love informed the Board that Board Member Sean Kenny had come to him with a complaint and Mr. Kenny was asked to put his complaint in writing. Vice-Chair Love, according to policy, tried to pull the parties involved in the complaint together to discuss and hopefully resolve the issue, but was unsuccessful. When the meeting did not occur, Bishop Love consulted In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg regarding what steps should be taken. Attorney Sonnenberg was asked to investigate the issue and informed Bishop Love that the issue should be brought before the full Board for discussion if no resolution occurred. Thus, the grievance will be shared tonight before the full Board with guidelines below in place:

- 1) Grievant (Kenny) will have the opportunity to share the concerns raised by the grievance (5 minutes).
- 2) Board members named in the grievance/investigative memo (Forbes, Forrest, Peaden) will each have an opportunity to respond (5 minutes each).
- 3) Each Board member will have 2 minutes to share thoughts, concerns, suggestions. Bishop Love will call on members during this time.

Vice-Chair Love did remind everyone that our job is to assist in the education of children, not get involved with personal issues.

Grievant Sean Kenny was the first to speak stating that on April 25, 2012, Chair Peaden called him asking for support to change our By-Laws regarding term of office for the Chair. Mr. Kenny stated he told Chair Peaden that he could not support a By-Laws change as he had that same day promised support for Bishop Ralph Love as our next Chair in December. He stated that after this response, Chair Peaden stated without his support, "life will get real difficult for him on this Board", and he would call back tomorrow. After no call on the 26th, Mr. Kenny saw Mr. Peaden on April 27 to make sure there was not a problem and was told he needed to "get on Board with the seven members who stick together and be a better politician." Mr. Kenny responded that he was not elected to be a good politician, but to serve his constituents and the 23,000 students in our district.

Since the 27th, Chair Peaden approached Attorney Sonnenberg regarding a Conflict of Interest between Mr. Kenny's work with the Department of Social Services and being a member of the Board of Education. Attorney Sonnenberg spoke with the North Carolina School Boards Association Attorney Allison Schafer and was told there was no conflict. Mr. Peaden was not pleased with this report and then asked Attorney Sonnenberg to contact Pitt County Attorney Janice Gallagher about a Conflict of Interest regarding Mr. Kenny's work and being on the Board of Education with the same result.

Chair Peaden then asked Superintendent Beverly Emory about a Conflict of Interest for Mr. Kenny's work and serving on the Board with Dr. Emory finding no cause for conflict.

Mr. Kenny then stated on June 14, his Program Director Ms. Margaret Dixon called him in for a meeting following a DSS Closed Session (June 11) stating three members of the Board of Education had contacted one of the DSS Board members raising an allegation that Mr. Kenny was going into a school to complete his DSS job duties, but would also conduct school board business. This accusation was found to be untrue. On June 22, Mr. Kenny was again called into a meeting by his supervisor who stated the DSS Board of Directors had been contacted again alleging that Mr. Kenny attended a meeting related to the Board of Education while being reimbursed for employment by DSS. Positions within the DSS were questioned and Mr. Kenny's personnel file was studied. Mr. Kenny informed Board members that the three BOE members who contacted the DSS Board of Directors were Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Worth Forbes and Mr. Benjie Forrest. He stated that his grievance (filed June 25) involves Mr. Peaden, but added that Mr. Forbes and Mr. Forrest know what they did and so does everyone else. Mr. Kenny made it clear that he's proud and honored to be employed by the Pitt County Department of Social Services. He added that Mr. Peaden has initiated a series of actions intended to make his life difficult which falls short of bullying. Mr. Kenny stated that Mr. Peaden's actions were premeditated, reprehensible, not actions worthy of a member of the Board of Education and detract from our mission of educating students. Accordingly, he asked that Chair Peaden resign.

Chair Peaden stated that he did call Mr. Kenny regarding support for a change of the By-Laws as his son will graduate next year and he would like to be Chair of the Board at that time. He stated that this is all about a power struggle as Mr. Kenny informed him that he himself would like to be selected as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board next year. Chair Peaden admitted speaking with our attorney and superintendent, but stated that three high officials in two schools and one central office employee had informed him that Mr. Kenny goes into the schools collecting information for his tax-paid work, but then stops to visit the school as a Board of Education member. He commented that it's not right to use tax payer money to do Board of Education school visits. Chair Peaden stated he had within the last three to four months sat in on a meeting when a custodian was terminated for a similar occurrence. As far as the investigation that was carried out, Chair Peaden stated that he had not been contacted one time to provide information regarding this issue and feels a poor investigation was conducted.

Mr. Worth Forbes stated that two parents had talked to him at Food Lion questioning him about how Mr. Kenny could work for the Department of Social Services and serve on the Board of Education at the same time. Mr. Forbes responded that Mr. Kenny may have worked out a plan with his superiors as they are separate jobs, but commented that this sent up a “red flag” for him. He added that at the end of several Board meetings, Mr. Kenny has shared with Board members that he had visited schools where cases involved his DSS job. Mr. Forbes also commented that Mr. Kenny sits on several Board committees/panels that meet for several hours during the work day.

Mr. Forbes stated that he (as well as Dr. Emory) was asked to contact DSS Board Member Charles Harris regarding the questions raised about Mr. Kenny’s use of time. Mr. Forbes mentioned that perhaps Mr. Kenny had worked out a plan with DSS, but he wanted to be sure that the tax payers of the county are getting full employment from a social worker and his time is not being abused.

Mr. Forbes stated that it is his practice to contact a person’s supervisor when he’s been confronted with a conflict of interest or misuse of time by said person. In fact, he has spoken to Dr. Emory in the past regarding a conflict of interest/misuse of time involving employees. He commented that he had spoken with previous superintendents in this same regard.

Mr. Forbes closed by stating he had been willing to share concerns privately with Vice-Chair Love and Mr. Kenny, but Mr. Kenny was not agreeable to this action. He added that this is not our duty to be meeting here like this tonight.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated that he has not initiated or solicited calls from anyone. He stated he had received a call from Mr. Kenny’s work place and was asked about a complaint regarding a Conflict of Interest involving Mr. Kenny’s work time and serving on the Board of Education. Mr. Forrest commented that he had heard from Central Office staff that Mr. Kenny stayed on third floor a lot. He added that he would have preferred to see this issue settled privately to allow the work of Pitt County Schools to progress.

As Vice-Chair Love asked for Board member responses, Mr. Marc Whichard declined to comment.

Ms. Christine Waters commented that there is an ethics policy that states it is the business of these twelve Board members to set policies for running this school system and to employ a superintendent to carry out the policies. She added that one Board member does not have the right or authority to conduct business in the name of Pitt County Schools. Ms. Waters stated that current Chairman, Billy Peaden, has chosen a select few to carry out the Board’s work without any input from Districts 3 and 5. She feels the Board, for the last five months, has purposely embarrassed and hindered the work of our Superintendent who has three more years on her contract. Ms. Waters also stated that Mr. Worth Forbes, Mr. Marc Whichard, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Mr. Billy Peaden and she serve on the Policy Committee. When the previous alleged ethics violation arose involving Mr. Peaden, the policy committee was directed to review and propose needed changes of several policies/by-laws. Ms. Waters commented that

every suggestion she made to strengthen a policy died in the committee for lack of a second. She added that apparently none of the others are interested in making a change, and we are now in the midst of a third serious ethics violation against our alleged leader. Ms. Waters commented that the unethical perception of Mr. Peaden is undermining public trust and emphasized that there is no place in Pitt County Schools for a bully at any level. She stated Mr. Peaden intimidates employees and shows blatant disregard for his office and fellow Board members; thus she voiced that Chair Peaden should step down immediately and allow Bishop Ralph Love to lead the Board. Ms. Waters asked for all Board members who voted to extend the superintendent's contract to take a stand tonight and put an end to this embarrassing, biased tyranny which has hampered the effectiveness of this Board.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated that one public official who questions another public official is a public record, and the idea of handling this matter privately is incorrect. She added that this is a pivotal moment for this Board of Education; commenting that this latest incident is indicative of the dysfunctional nature of this Board and the need for leadership and direction that is beneficial for our students. She added that the actions of Mr. Peaden and other members on the Board toward Mr. Kenny have produced a greater lack of trust and cooperative spirit, even fear. Ms. Little commented that we are getting ready for a new school year to begin and should be focused on our students and staff helping to set new goals. Based on this latest incident, it's obvious that members of this Board have no boundaries and no regard for decency or respect toward each other or the ethics code. This behavior conveys a terrible message to our students and staff. During a past incident involving the Chair, one member described the situation as "a mistake". I believe this pattern of corruption and abusive power far exceeds the description of "a mistake." The incidents are calculated and deliberate. By the majority of the Board continuing to cover up and condone these public actions, we are all subjected to potential legal consequences. Ms. Little stated to the citizens of District 5, parents and staff, she apologizes for compromising her own standards and serving to try to keep peace on the Board and keep things private. I remain steadfast in my promise to serve transparently, with integrity and professionalism. Ms. Little thanked the Senior Staff for their hard work under extreme stress and pressure, and stated she does not support the comment heard made by another Board member to "let's clean house in the administration". She commented that the Superintendent is capable of managing this district effectively and stated this situation and others led by the Chair is distracting, time consuming and destructive to the integrity of this Board and the education of our students. Ms. Little expressed strong agreement with Mr. Kenny's request that the Chair step down and made a motion at this time for Chair Billy Peaden to resign from the Board.

Vice-Chair asked Attorney Sonnenberg could Ms. Little make her request into a motion for the resignation of Chair Peaden. Attorney Sonnenberg stated after completing a legal review of by-laws and state law with the State School Boards Association in anticipation of questions tonight, to implement a change of the Chair, the Board has two options:

1. The Chair resigns and his resignation is accepted by a majority vote of the Board.

2. The Board begins action to change the current by-laws for appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair – to amend or change the Chair mid-term, the process has to be completed by the Board of Education.

He closed by affirming that a motion for resignation of the Chair at this time is not appropriate.

Ms. Mary Williams stated this is a “sad night for Pitt County Schools”. She commented that she “did not sign on for this kind of stuff.” Ms. Williams said she’s here for the betterment of the students/families throughout Pitt County. Ms. Williams personally feels that lots of outside entities are playing a part in this issue. She stated that some issues are private and some are public, but many will not be satisfied with decisions made. Ms. Williams feels proper investigation was not carried out, Bishop Love’s health issues have been taken advantage of, many things spoken are totally inappropriate, and several outsiders want this Board to be dismantled and their own leadership in place. She closed by saying that “many are digging holes for others, but they had better dig two holes to include one for themselves.”

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated that we have a Chairman who is unqualified and unable to lead as the Board has questioned him being involved in three significant actions which violate Board ethics. She stated the Board takes no action as the violations continue. Ms. Camnitz commented that he allows his personal agendas to guide his actions rather than making decisions in the best interest for Pitt County Schools as he was elected to do. She feels he has personal vendettas directed at staff and Board members, impedes the Superintendent’s ability to do her job and allows other Board members to do the same. The atmosphere that has been created since he became Chair is not conducive to Board cohesiveness or the collective wisdom with which we need to lead. The example being set for our students and staff is terrible. Some would say that such matters should be handled quietly within the Board, yet Ms. Camnitz agrees that the public needs to know what is occurring with our elected school board. She does not feel it’s possible for us to provide the leadership Pitt County Schools need and deserve with Mr. Peaden as Chair, and we will not be able to repair the negative perception of the Board in the communities. Therefore, Ms. Camnitz agrees with Mr. Kenny that Chair Peaden needs to step down. If he is unwilling to do this, she feels the Board needs to remove him. If we do not have the integrity and will to take that action, Ms. Camnitz stated that he should be strongly censured sending the message that his unethical and unproductive behavior will no longer be tolerated. Whatever action we take, we need to put this behind us as soon as possible and rededicate ourselves to actions and decisions that support the mission and students of Pitt County Schools.

Ms. Barbara Owens read a list of past Board members stating they served Pitt County Schools with public trust. She stated that serving is an elected trust – service is not mistrust, deceit, threats, bullying, micromanagement, interference, fear, job loss or intimidation. Ms. Owens asked how long shall the twelve of them continue to destroy the very system we have been elected to serve. Three times the actions of Chair Peaden have compromised this Board and divided us as members. Three unethical acts have been clearly stated with two being overlooked. Ms. Owens commented that the third action now involves one of our own being threatened because he would not agree with the Chair’s demand. By the actions of the majority of this Board, we teach by leadership. Students have a Code of Conduct, teachers are held accountable. Ms.

Owens asked where is our accountability. Do we have any? She asked – are we serving and again named those listed who served before or with us. Ms. Owens closed by asking when are we going to start serving.

Vice-Chair Love asked Attorney Sonnenberg to come to the podium to assist the Board in an obviously difficult situation. Attorney Sonnenberg stated he could not tell the Board what to do. He commented that he could explain options and thoughts such as:

1. No action at all.
2. If the majority of the Board wishes, censure of the Chair could be considered if the Board feels this is appropriate.

Attorney Sonnenberg stated the State of North Carolina is very strict regarding what can and cannot be done regarding Board members. He stated they cannot be removed from Board meetings or from office – this can only be done by the public itself or a criminal matter may occur where the Chair is convicted of a felony. Attorney Sonnenberg did remind the Board of what had been brought up earlier in the evening regarding a change in by-laws.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked to distribute a Memo to each Board Member from Jennifer Little, Barbara Owens, Christine Waters and herself stating that under Section B.9 of our Rules of Procedure:

“The Pitt County Board of Education By-Laws and Rules of Order may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board membership or, if the amendment was submitted in writing at a previous regular business meeting, then it may be amended by two-thirds of those voting, as long as a quorum is present.”

Accordingly, they submitted the following proposed amendment for consideration at the August 20, 2012 Board meeting:

The following is a proposed Amendment to By-Laws 1.105, Board Operation (which deals with removal of the Chair as right now there is not a mechanism in our By-Laws that spells out the procedure), to be added as Item E. Because of the current situation and in light of future situations, they feel it’s important to have this proposed amendment discussed at the August 20 meeting.

It is the responsibility of the Pitt County Board of Education to remove the chairman or vice-chairman when the best interests of Pitt County Schools would be served by doing so. Removal will require a two-thirds vote of the entire board membership at a regular business meeting. The vice-chairman will become chairman upon removal of the chairman, and a new vice-chairman will be elected by a simple majority. If the vice-chairman is removed, a new vice-chairman will be elected by a simple majority.

The second item of business was an Educational Programs and Services update presented by School Improvement Grant Director John Coleman. Mr. Coleman shared that according to Board Policy 3.600 for a purchase over the \$90,000 threshold, Board approval is needed. He presented a detailed breakdown of a technology purchase order totaling \$531,636.40 signed by the three SIG high school principals for machines to help provide better student instruction and enhance the curriculum. All

three schools have identified plans to ensure what the students and teachers are doing in classrooms to utilize technology to support teaching and learning. Mr. Coleman stated this cost will not deplete the funds available through School Improvement. EPS Chair Marc Whichard commented that this purchase order has already been approved by the EPS Committee and is recommended for full Board approval as the stated technology will provide valuable assets for the students in Farmville Central, North Pitt and South Central High Schools.

Mr. Marc Whichard, second by Ms. Mary Williams, moved that the Board approve the purchase order as presented by Mr. Coleman. Motion passed unanimously.

The third item of business was a general update on Unitary Status as related to Court proceedings presented by Attorney Ken Soo. Attorney Soo reminded the Board that the Court of Appeals overturned Judge Howard's decision which dismissed the appeal of the Plaintiffs for the reassignment that took place this past year. As background, Attorney Soo commented that when we originally went back to Court, the Office of Civil Rights told us that a school system can no longer use race for student assignment. We decided to go back and get clarification from Judge Howard about whether the original orders from the early 1970s are still in effect. At that time, there was agreement between the three parties involved in the case that each party would have a place at the table during the next student reassignment. During the course of the reassignment, the Plaintiffs wanted the system to stay with satellite districting to keep the factor used previously, which was proficiency on the reading end-of-grade test, within certain boundaries. Several months after the student reassignment was completed, the Plaintiffs filed a motion seeking a requirement that we have to impose a different student assignment system by implication that would include satellites. Judge Howard did not find this motion favorable, so it went to the Court of Appeals who said that a different standard needed to be applied and that the burden for showing that the 2010 reassignment plan advanced the school system towards Unitary Status is on the school system. Attorney Soo stated that essentially, this is where we are today.

Attorney Soo commented that he has filed a motion for Unitary Status. We also asked that our motion for Unitary Status be heard simultaneously with the rehearing on the plaintiff's motion. He explained the reason for this is that it's going to be very difficult to say whether a particular assignment moved us toward Unitary Status unless we know whether we are already there or not and how far we have to go. Our view is that the evidence presented when we get to the hearing is going to be essentially the same whether we're talking about Unitary Status or not. Attorney Soo stated to be clear - what we have asked of the Court is to put together the hearing of remand from Fourth Circuit and our motion that the Board be declared unitary when it comes to one area of student assignment since both of these questions are linked. He added that the Plaintiffs are not in favor of this idea and have filed a response stating this for a number of reasons. Attorney Soo explained that we are continuing with our request.

Attorney Soo stated that what we have been able to agree on are procedures for the hearing. There are a number of steps involved which includes an accelerated discovery process that will be over by the end of September. What we have told the Court, but have not heard back yet, is that all parties will be ready for a Hearing by October 1, 2012 at the Court's convenience.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked how long a time period would it be to receive a response from the motion. Attorney Soo responded that it's difficult to say, but he does not think it would be a long wait before Judge Howard makes his decision.

Chair Sean Kenny and Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu reported to the Board following an Operations Committee Meeting held prior to the Board Meeting for discussion regarding two topics.

For the first item discussed, Mr. Beaulieu asked In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg to explain the process for the sale of the Third Street Center and results of the bidding procedure. Attorney Sonnenberg stated the upset bid process for the Third Street Center started in October 2011 with bids received steadily until July 2012. The upset bid process dictates advertising the property and waiting ten days to see what bids we get. If a bid is received, the process is repeated until ten days pass without receiving a higher bid, then the process is complete. The last bid for the Third Street Center Property amounted to \$290,000 and was received from Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rizzuti, who were present at the meeting. The Rizzutis wrote a letter to Board members stating their intentions for use of the property. Attorney Sonnenberg informed the Board that there is a motion provided in the Agenda book if they choose to move forward with the sale of the Third Street Center Property. Mr. Beaulieu then introduced the Rizzutis to the Board.

Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, moved that the Board accept the bid by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rizzuti for sale of the Third Street Center Property. Ms. Camnitz also complimented the Rizzutis on their vision for use of the property. Ms. Mary Williams asked of the bid is accepted, where and how will the money be used. Superintendent Beverly Emory responded that this would be up to the Board and discussion could be held relative to this question. Chair Peaden asked if there is a time limit for accepting the bid with Attorney Sonnenberg answering than the Board has thirty days from the date of the last bid. Mr. Sean Kenny remarked that the Third Street property is an important investment for Pitt County Schools. He added that this area has no school sites currently and thinks the Third Street property should be kept for school use. Mr. Kenny did thank the Rizzutis for their interest in the property and stated their intentions for its use are commendable.

Dr. Emory stated that if Board members feel sale of the property will hurt us in achieving Unitary Status, the proceeds from the sale could be earmarked for the focus schools named in the Unitary Status Plan.

Ms. Jennifer Little asked what is the current cost of keeping the property with Mr. Beaulieu stating it costs approximately \$10,000 a month to keep minimal utilities on, grass cut and pay insurance cost. Ms. Little asked how much would it cost to maintain the building and make it usable with Mr. Beaulieu responding approximately \$3 million to maintain it as it is and \$10 million to renovate it completely with about 120 students being housed. Mr. Michael Cowin stated the funds received from the sale of this property will be revenue for a one line item entry for our budget.

Mr. Benjie Forrest asked to hear the original motion repeated. Attorney Sonnenberg stated the motion is on page 26 in the Agenda book. Ms. Camnitz stated this is not the motion she made and asked that Administrative Assistant to the Board Brenda

Pippin read the original motion. Ms. Pippin stated that Ms. Jill Camnitz, with second by Ms. Jennifer Little, moved the Board accept the bid offered by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rizzuti as presented and complimented the Rizzutis for their vision for use of the property.

Mr. Benjie Forrest then moved to amend the original motion, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, by adding that proceeds from the sale of the Third Street Center property be earmarked for supporting the focus schools outlined in the Unitary Status Plan. Mr. Worth Forbes and Mr. Marc Whichard stressed that the focus schools be designated as unitary status schools would include all 36 schools. Chair Peaden called for a vote on the amendment to the original motion. Mr. Sean Kenny voted against this amendment, motion passed.

Chair Peaden then called for a vote by the Board for the original motion for sale of the Third Street Center Property to Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rizzuti with the amendment to earmark proceeds from the sale of the Third Street Center property be designated for the focus schools outlined in the Unitary Status Plan. Mr. Sean Kenny voted against the motion – motion passed.

Mr. Beaulieu commented briefly that item two discussed in the Operations Committee Meeting was related to the proposed contractual custodial pilot. He reported no action was taken.

Under Old Business, Chair Worth Forbes and In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg presented Policy 7.028 – Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Employees for Second Reading. Mr. Forbes summarized the policy for the Board and without further discussion or questions rendered, moved, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, that Policy 7.028 – Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Employees be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Emory thanked Mr. Mike Lutz and Mr. Edward Morgan for their presentation and complimented the Student Services Staff for their hard work at Pitt Academy. She stated Pitt Academy was implemented in October 2011 and graduated students in January 2012.

Superintendent Emory thanked everyone for the hard work going on at the Beginning Teacher Induction funded by the TQP grant and informed Board members that over 1500 teachers and staff will attend CSI (Curriculum Summer Institute) next week funded by Race to the Top. She thanked the Board for approving use of SIG funds to purchase technology for use in three of our high schools that will be available once the Grant is over. Dr. Emory stated we are most grateful for teachers and staff who put in extra hours to apply for these grants and provide Pitt County Schools with funding during difficult economic times.

In sharing results of the hard work in our classrooms during last school year, Dr. Emory stated we have grown from 58% to 73% in our graduation rate over the last three years. She added that 32 of our schools demonstrated growth, which exceeded the State average, and 20 of our schools demonstrated high growth, also exceeding the State average. Superintendent Emory complimented students and staff for their hard work.

In closing, Dr. Emory commented that 23,000 youngsters and 3,000 folks will soon be back at school and work. She asked each person to focus on what we are called to do stating that it had been a difficult summer for everyone. Superintendent Emory stressed that we have a calling and important work ahead with a need to stay focused on our students.

Mr. Worth Forbes thanked the Kiwanis for all they do and congratulated Mr. Sean Kenny on his Award. He spoke regarding Pitt Academy stating if it helps one child succeed, it's worth it. Mr. Forbes feels the Board has made improvements as seen by lowering credit requirements for some high school students in order for them to graduate. He stated he would very much like to see Pitt County Schools in the top 10%; and asked Dr. Emory where do we place now across the state and how can we move forward.

Mr. Forbes commented that he has faith in the Human Resources Committee under the leadership of Bishop Love and Ms. Mary Williams for making changes and addressing concerns for treating all staff members equally.

Mr. Marc Whichard informed the Board that he recently ate in a restaurant that participates in our biodiesel fundraiser and is excited that this project will bring in funding in a tight economic year. He ate at The Warehouse in Winterville and believes the Dixie Queen in Winterville also participates.

Mr. Whichard stated decorum/dignity should be applied when we relate to each other. He feels the need to help staff and students but states we have a long way to go. Mr. Whichard added that we need to look at what is in the best interest for all of us – there are ways to go about things and ways not to go about things – but we have to find ways to get along and focus on helping our students. He feels we were the talk of the town today and sees that our attendance is up tonight as folks were probably looking for the fourth of July. Mr. Whichard ended by saying that occurrences such as this are never good for anyone.

Ms. Christine Waters commented that she had a lovely summer and it was hard to come back tonight knowing it would be a difficult meeting. She stated that the Board has lots to do in serving students and staff. Ms. Waters added that in all her years working in Pitt County, she's always felt she was dealt with forth rightly, and believes feels she has a reputation of honesty and integrity. She stated it's difficult to work with people who assume that every word I say is a lie or I'm twisting some fact. Ms. Waters closed by stating that the public deserves the right to know what is going on.

Mr. Sean Kenny expressed thanks to the Kiwanis for their recognitions tonight and for all they do to support our schools. He also recognized Ms. Cathy Herring in the audience who is the PTA President at Elmhurst and thanked her and Girl Scout Troop 3011 for their hard work in implementing a community project of an outdoor classroom at the school for students.

Mr. Kenny stated that it's been a tough couple of months, and he won't second guess when he goes home tonight and sees his wife hoping to hear her ask how was your day today - not asking about anymore calls today or anything we need to worry about. He

commented that it has been mentioned tonight “not to air dirty laundry”, but asked that no one throw mud on his shirt or make him feel that his family is under attack. Mr. Kenny added that there are times when you have to stand up for what’s right and tell folks to stop. He closed by stating that he’s honored to represent and serve the people in District 5 for the Pitt County Board of Education.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated that it’s an honor to serve as the Finance Committee Chair and feels the biodiesel project is a good venture for Pitt County Schools. He also is impressed with Pitt Academy and feels it serves a great purpose. Mr. Forrest stated we need to be ready as shortly 23,000 students will be coming back to begin another year of school.

Bishop Ralph Love thanked the Board of Education and staff members for their prayers and concerns regarding his health. He stated that we are only here for a little while and quoted the Bible stating “it’s been appointed unto man once to die.” Bishop Love commented that we were elected for a job to educate children, not to bicker among ourselves. He mentioned the list of names Ms. Owens shared and commented our names will be on a list one day – asking how will we be remembered - adding that Christians know better and none of this pertains to our children. Bishop Love stated we have to love one another and work out our differences. He closed by saying when one Board member messes up, it reflects on the whole Board. Bishop Love commented that members can disagree, but not be disagreeable to one another; adding he’s never served on a Board like this one.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated many comments have been made tonight including those about airing dirty laundry. She commented that we are public officials – thus our issues are public. Ms. Little thanked Dr. Emory and her staff for their hard work and congratulated them for achieving the great results reported tonight. She further added that we still need to improve our school system and the education we provide for our children, but we need to accomplish this in a public, transparent and trust worthy manner.

Ms. Barbara Owens remarked that several people she named on her list earlier are still living and remarked on how all listed lived and served the Board. She closed by remembering the smiles worn by Mr. Edward Morgan and Mr. Mike Lutz earlier tonight which brought joy and stated, “They have it all!”

Ms. Mary Williams commended Mr. Mike Lutz and P. J. for their presentation. She added that there was a college fair yesterday and she will get P. J.’s phone number to try to help him. Ms. Williams stated that he can bless someone else by sharing his testimony.

Ms. Williams thanked staff members Ms. Delilah Jackson, Ms. Brenda Pippin, Ms. Loretta Grice and Ms. Cheryl Olmsted (and the EPS staff) who have helped her during the summer. She also thanked Mr. Cavellini and the Coalition for inviting her and others to the listening sessions this summer in trying to help individuals. Ms. Williams added that changes in policies may help in the future.

Ms. Jill Camnitz thanked everyone for the lovely flower arrangement she received following her injuries several weeks ago. She stated looking at it helped brighten some

dark days during the initial stages of her temporary disability. Ms. Camnitz stressed that really wonderful things have happened for our students during this school year, and we made tremendous progress toward the goals we have set for ourselves. She asked everyone to imagine what we could accomplish if we all work together and rededicate ourselves to that work.

Bishop Ralph Love, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, moved that the Board go into Closed Session to 1) prevent the disclosure of privileged information under FERPA 20 USC § 1232G of the regulations of laws or of the United States. [N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a) (1), and 2) to consult with our attorney to 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). Motion passed unanimously.

Following return to Open Session and with no further discussion needed, Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Board adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Time was 9:07 P. M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Billy Peaden, Chair

Dr. Beverly Emory, Secretary