

DATE: December 7, 2009 PRESENT: Mary Grace Bright, Chair
Jill Camnitz
Michael Dixon
Benjie Forrest
Jennifer Little
Ralph Love, Sr.
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Billy Peaden
Roy Peaden
Marcy Romary
Dick Tolmie
Mary Williams

PLACE: Pitt County Office Building ABSENT: Barbara Owens

Chair Mary Grace Bright called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session at 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Jill Camnitz led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In-House Counsel Rob Sonnenberg opened the floor for nominations of the Chairperson. Ms. Jill Camnitz nominated Ms. Mary Grace Bright for a second term. The motion received a second from Ms. Marcy Romary. Mr. Michael Dixon made a motion, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, to close the nominations and accept Ms. Bright by acclamation. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Mary Grace Bright opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Ms. Marcy Romary nominated Mr. Dick Tolmie, second by Mr. Michael Dixon, who also asked to close the nominations and accept Mr. Dick Tolmie as Vice-Chair by acclamation. This received a second by Dr. Ralph Love. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Bright then offered the Agenda for consideration. Mr. Michael Dixon moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Agenda be accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

For Public Expression, Mr. Rufus Sutton addressed the Board relative to his concerns regarding school policy, but stated he knew students should obey rules and regulations. He stated he has actively worked with the schools for the last 15 years coaching and is involved with students through community programs and churches. He stated he was in a school office not long ago and saw a young girl who did not have on the right belt and was waiting for a ride to go home. He talked about keeping students in school, missing instructional time and tests, and the low graduation rate for Pitt County Schools. Mr. Sutton stated students deal with many problems at home, can't afford rising costs of sports activities after school and it saddens his heart to see situations such as this. He asked could the Board please try to make a difference for the students in our community?

For Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Principal of Ayden-Grifton High School Bill Frazier shared with the Board the progress that has been made at Ayden-Grifton during his tenure as Principal. As Mr. Frazier is retiring December 18 after working

30 years with Pitt County Schools, he feels good that Ayden-Grifton has moved forward in EOC testing, AYP subgroups and has achieved high growth status. He did state the SAT scores had dropped this past year, and felt this was due to allotment cuts and the necessity of dropping some courses, i.e. SAT prep, creative writing, etc., which helped students prepare for the SAT tests. He stated that Ayden-Grifton has a low suspension percentage and their graduation rate is the highest in the county.

Ms. Mary Williams asked could SAT score results be broken down into gender categories? Mr. Frazier stated he could get this information for her. He also stated a practice tool that can be used for preparation of the SAT is the Sylvian SAT Course. Ms. Williams asked was a student on free or reduced lunch told that they could take the SAT free two times with Mr. Frazier stating yes, they were given this information.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked Mr. Frazier why he felt Ayden-Grifton has had such improvement in all these areas? Mr. Frazier responded that he hired quality teachers placing them in an atmosphere where they felt safe and comfortable with support provided. His staff understand the vision of the school and they plan what is best for the students in all situations.

Superintendent Beverly Reep expressed her thanks to Mr. Frazier for serving the students of Pitt County Schools for thirty years and congratulated him on his retirement. Mr. Frazier accepted her thanks and stated he was now going to take care of his granddaughter while his daughter finished her degree to become a teacher.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jill Camnitz motioned, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Board approve the November 16, 2009 Minutes and the Personnel Report for December 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Chair Roy Peaden and Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu shared with the Board an update from the Facilities Committee Meeting held November 24 at Eastern Elementary School. Mr. Beaulieu stated there are four projects currently starting construction: the new elementary school on Briarcliff Road, Farmville Central High School, Eastern Elementary with a new modular unit in place and D. H. Conley High School. He stated the rain had delayed some of the progress in construction, but all sites were under way.

He also stated the ECVC Facility, which currently houses counselors, ALPHA, HUGS, EC staff, etc., was discussed. Mr. Beaulieu stated it is feasible that ECVC tenants and programs held in the Third Street Building could be housed at Sadie Saulter. He stated the bus garage and the Third Street Building were going to be appraised.

Mr. Beaulieu also discussed outside housing groups interested in C. M. Eppes and Elmhurst Schools' properties. The offer discussed was not an amount that could be entertained and with upcoming decisions needed by the Board, the six Committee members present took no further action.

Next, a review of the Parking Agreement with the East Carolina University Pirate Club was held. Mr. Beaulieu stated Principal Charlie Langley managed the C. M. Eppes grounds for renting space to park for the football games, while the Elmhurst property space was handled by the Pirate Club. The Committee asked that we look at the Epps

operational cost, the revenue it brings in, etc. and present a report at the next meeting. After the last ECU football game was played with the amount of traffic involved and the quantity of rain which occurred, Mr. Beaulieu stated the grounds at Elmhurst were a disaster – so much so that it was hard to open school the following Monday.

Mr. Beaulieu also informed the Board regarding the status of mobile units which have been removed from schools across the district. He stated some have been auctioned off, some are needed at Ridgewood Elementary because of the increasing enrollment in the school, one is needed at Falkland to replace a 40 year old unit, and some units are being demolished.

In regards to the Long Range Facility Plan, Mr. Beaulieu stated student assignment for A. G. Cox is being delayed a year. The six members present at the Facilities meeting unanimously supported Mr. Jimmy Hite with Hite Associates continuing to work with us in our long range planning looking into different options – school size, configuration, etc.

Also, if the Board wants to support 90% capacity, a standardized formula to find the capacity of each and every school applying the Department of Public Instruction's standard profile and develop a property accounting book which indicates how every school is calculated is necessary.

A meeting date of January 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. has been set to revisit these issues.

Associate Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services Worth Forbes introduced several staff members to share with the Board information discussed at the Educational Programs and Services Committee meeting November 23, 2009.

South Greenville Principal Lavette Ford spoke to the Board regarding the positive impact their Instructional Coach Cathy Tripp has had on her staff. Ms. Ford stated Ms. Tripp works hard with new teacher orientation, DRA instruction, PEP, tech tid-bits – especially Smartboard, is a trouble shooter for Waterford, Success Maker, Learning 360 and other programs, and assists the third-fifth grade teachers with benchmark testing. Ms. Tripp stated a survey was distributed to teachers to see where the Instructional Coach had made an impact this year. She feels it's important to implement programs Pitt County Schools has paid for to help achieve academic success of all students. Ms. Tripp attends meetings with Ms. Ford and all grade level meetings in her school. Her goal is to support all teachers in any way necessary to help promote better instruction for the classroom – from making copies to researching materials to setting up demographics. Ms. Tripp also helps the K-8 Director, Reading Specialist, and others who introduce new ideas and programs to the teachers at South Greenville Elementary.

Mr. Dick Tolmie stated that during the last EPS Committee Meeting, a new instructional concept between living and non-living things was discussed with attendees deciding what was the point of the lesson – not the instructor telling the attendants the point of the lesson. Ms. Tripp also stated she modeled Read Alouds and introduced the New Invision Math Series.

Mr. Roy Peaden asked how many surveys were sent out by Ms. Ford with the answer being 22 – approximately 10-12 were returned.

Executive Director of Student Services Travis Lewis then shared with the Board the results of the Graduation Rate meetings with the six high school teams – school administrators, counselors and data managers. He discussed a handout showing North Carolina's graduation requirements and Pitt County Schools' graduation requirements. Five steps effective immediately to try to reduce PCS's dropout rate by 50% in the next four years are:

1. Reduction in the time requirement for attendance make-ups from 3 hours to 2 hours.
2. Allow seniors to take only two or three courses if that is all that is needed to graduate versus a "full load" of four courses.
3. Provide midyear promotion consideration to students.
4. Adjust the number of credits to graduate for 9th graders coming to high school at mid-year (87.5% of courses attempted).
5. Improve tracking of "no shows"/dropouts.

Newly Revised Promotion Standards Include:

1. Promotion to 10th grade – six credits.
2. Promotion to 11th grade – 13 credits including English I.
3. Promotion to 12th grade – 20 credits including English II.

Credit Recovery Plans Include:

1. Credit recovery allows students who have failed a course previously to retake the course for credit – Mastery-based (do not have to retake parts of the course where proficiency is demonstrated).
2. Twilight Academy being piloted in the spring at each high school with identified upperclassmen who are in need of additional credits in order to graduate on time.
 - a. After school 4:00-7:00 pm
 - b. Coordinated by Mike Lutz, Principal of Hope Middle School
 - c. Will utilize NC Virtual Public School and EdOptions

Future steps include:

1. Explore credentialing opportunities through CTE; possible Career Center as a magnet program.
2. Explore freshman academics for at least 50% of a 9th grader's instructional day; schedule courses yearlong in high risk areas of math and English.
3. Explore options for at-risk students to obtain differentiated, tiered, or "alternative" diploma.

Since 2004, there are three different course of study/diploma options, based on plans after high school which include:

1. Career Prep
2. College Tech Prep
3. College/University Prep
4. Occupational (for eligible students with an IEP)

For current 9th graders and thereafter, there is a single course of study/diploma:

1. Future-Ready Core
2. Occupational (for eligible students with an IEP)

Mr. Lewis voiced concern regarding the Future-Ready Core diploma math requirements. All students are required to take Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and a fourth math – whether college bond or not. He felt it might be hard for many students to receive credits in all these courses and wondered what type of impact it will have on the dropout rate statewide.

Mr. Lewis also explained the four credit concentrations (was called pathways) had more selections included which was a good change for students. He also stated the State had added one credit to receive a diploma making a total of 21 credits needed to receive a diploma.

Mr. Lewis stated Future-Ready Core is the only course of study/diploma offered for regular education students offered by the State. He then discussed an Alternative Diploma described below which is offered in 12 of the top 20 districts of the state with the lowest dropout/highest graduation rates in the state.

An Alternative Diploma suggested is:

1. Designed for students at high risk of dropping out of school
2. Would still be required to meet the new, rigorous NC “Future-Ready” graduation requirements, but with amended local requirements – 21 credits vs. 28 credits.

Criteria for the Alternative Diploma could include:

1. Two or more year behind grade-level for student age
2. Previous dropout
3. Continual attendance/truancy issues
4. Chronic behavior problems
5. Academic/credit deficiencies
6. Environment, psychological and/or physiological challenges such as pregnancy, chronic substance abuse, judicial problems, etc.

Sample Board Policies for an Alternative Diploma were also discussed.

Mr. Benjie Forrest discussed the Alternative Diploma for at-risk students and trying to increase the student’s interest for staying in school. Mr. Lewis stated many of these students had an interest in the Arts, CTE classes, or extracurricular activities but would still need to meet the English and math requirements as discussed. Mr. Forrest felt if the students were pointed to electives, they would become hooked and want to stay in school. Chair Bright asked about the English requirements for graduation. Mr. Travis stated the students would take English in their freshman year just as other students. If they failed English I, they would have the opportunities to pass as described earlier in these minutes. Superintendent Reep stated the students would stay with their age appropriate advisory group and would receive needed information as they progressed.

Chair Bright stated the at-risk students would need 21 credits to receive their diploma, but also asked about those students who want to take what is needed to graduate from high school in a shorter time span and move on to college.

Mr. Roy Peaden stated what the students really need to finish and graduate is help with the courses. Mr. Lewis replied that staff will be hired to help the students – they will not be left alone in front of a computer and be expected to finish the course. There will be a lot more one-on-one assistance within these classes than setting in a regular classroom.

Dr. Reep also discussed the Twilight Academy, which will be available in the six high schools from 4-7:00 p.m. next semester. This will be available to those students who need help with course credits to graduate. Ms. Jennifer Little asked would more staff be hired to work these hours - with the answer being yes with more one-on-one help.

Mr. Dick Tolmie also stated that with students making up missed hours, qualified staff /assignments should be in place and not a babysitting service. Mr. Lewis stated Study Island for instructional time is being implemented with students becoming less likely to repeat the same behavior in missing class.

Mr. Benjie Forrest asked for a list of counties using this planned program and asked what affect had it had on enrollment/electives? Mr. Lewis stated he did not have results for the program as it had not been implemented long enough in other counties at this time to collect enough data to produce careful screening. Dr. Reep stated in lowering the number of credits to graduate, the number of English credits was not deviating from the standard – it would still mean four English credits would have to be passed.

Title I Director Sylvia Mizzelle then shared with the Board the list of six vendors for the 2009-10 Supplemental Education Services which has to be approved by the Board. Ms. Mizzelle described this process as part of No Child Left Behind with \$1,283 per child being available for tutoring two days per week. The list of vendors has been approved by the State Board of Education and will work two sessions with approximately 400 students in each session.

Mr. Dick Tolmie asked was there a way to check the benefit of the vendors? Ms. Mizzelle stated there is a survey which compares what the individual school has contributed with what the vendors provide. She did state that it takes two years to get a vendor off the list if they are not doing a good job. Documentation is vital in the process.

Dr. Reep asked does the Federal Government collect data after the sessions and question the vendors? Ms. Mizzelle stated a contracted team comes in from Tennessee to monitor the data and vendors. They also study a state survey which the parents and teachers participate in. After this process has been completed, their goal is to make the program better for the following year. Ms. Mizzelle stated the application process for the program is intense.

Mr. Billy Peaden asked was there a percentage of the students eligible? Ms. Mizzelle stated criteria included free/reduced lunch data and past test scores for sorting the

students. Also, the need of an individual student and a parents' desire to have their child participate are necessary. Many parents use the choice of attending another school to help their child. Funding is limited, but the goal is to select the most needy children for instructional help to participate in each school. The selection of students is carried out by district numbers, not individual schools.

Ms. Jennifer Little had questions regarding the total number of students eligible in a school with only a small group actually participating. She asked what happened to the other students? Ms. Mizzelle stated a letter was sent to all eligible students taking the end-of-grade tests and parents responded to the letter. She stated a child could be on free/reduced lunch and still not qualify for the program as they scored three or four on the End-of-Grade test – thus they would not be eligible. Also, as mentioned, many parents use the choice of attending another school to help their child. Some schools do not provide transportation for the students and this becomes a problem for some parents. A discussion of changing the form to better explain the percentage of students participating in Supplemental Education Services was held. Mr. Roy Peaden stated he still had concerns for the eligible children who missed these services for various reasons – transportation, lack of funding, etc.

With no further discussion, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Mr. Michael Dixon, that the Board approve the six vendors as shown on the Supplemental Education Services list as attached to these minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Old Business, Chair of the Policy Committee Jill Camnitz and In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg presented two revised policies for First/Second Readings:

1. Revised-Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying - Policy 7.019 (Employees)
2. Revised-Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying-Policy 10.200 (Students)

Since the last Board meeting, Attorney Sonnenberg has met with Central Office Administration and Principals for discussion and input on the two policies. Using a model policy from the NC School Boards Association, North Carolina Law, and local needs, Attorney Sonnenberg revised the policies as presented, which include procedures to follow as needed should an issue arise.

Ms. Jill Camnitz moved to temporarily suspend By-Law 1.112 (Policy Development), which normally requires two readings of a Policy recommendation before Board action, for the Board to consider and act on the current Policy recommendations concerning Policy 7.019 (Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying) in one reading. Second was made by Ms. Marcy Romary. Mr. Roy Peaden asked could we accept the policy with the understanding that it will be reviewed at a later date. Attorney Sonnenberg stated this is actually what the motion states. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Jill Camnitz then moved, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that the Board accept Policy 7.019. Motion carried unanimously.

With no comments regarding Policy 10.200, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that the Board accept Policy 10.200 as presented for second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick Tolmie asked that the Superintendent be responsible for evaluation of the effectiveness of these policies and report to the Board periodically.

Chair Bright then began discussion of Election of Pitt County Board of Education Members with three areas to be decided: the number of Board members to make up the Board, the length of term for Board members and time for election/taking office. She stated Representatives Mariam McLawhorn and Edith Warren had been contacted and both stated the 2010 Legislation would be a short session and controversial issues would not be introduced. To move forward on an item, there would need to be agreement by the Board for presentation.

In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg provided information on the Election of the Pitt County Board of Education Members. Attorney Sonnenberg presented a comparison of several counties regarding Board size, term length, election month and run off information. Ms. Mary Williams asked Ms. Jennifer Little why did she want these issues brought before the Board? Ms. Little stated she felt a consensus from the constituents she had spoken with or been contacted by that the PCS Board of Education is too large and could be more efficient and timely on decisions and issues with a smaller Board. "The time lapse between the election and swearing in makes no sense," stated Ms. Little. She also felt more people would run for a seat on the Board if the term was not so long. As far as the size of the Board, Ms. Little felt a Board with one representative per district is effective, easier to gain a consensus on issues and easier for the Superintendent and Administration to work with fewer Board members for scheduling and timing. Ms. Little felt a talent bank of people living throughout the county could be developed where interested parties could apply to help on a committee of their choosing but not necessarily sit on the Board of Education. This would free up Board members from having to serve on three committees and a hearing panel. Ms. Little also stated there would be a monetary savings with fewer Board members.

Mr. Roy Peaden feels the opposite of all the ideas just presented and feels the Board basically agrees when a decision is needed. He motioned that the issue be taken from the table followed by a second from Mr. Billy Peaden. Following discussion regarding Board members expressing their feelings on the issue and the public being interested in views of the Board, Chair Bright asked for a vote on having the discussion or not having the discussion regarding the number of Board members serving on the Pitt County Board of Education. Those in favor of the discussion were Ms. Jill Camnitz, Mr. Dick Tolmie, Ms. Marcy Romary, Mr. Benjie Forrest and Ms. Jennifer Little. Those in favor of not having the discussion were Mr. Billy Peaden, Mr. Roy Peaden, Ms. Mary Williams, Mr. Michael Dixon and Dr. Ralph Love. As there was a tie, Chair Bright voted in favor of continuing the discussion, thus the motion to remove the issue from the table did not pass.

Lengthy Board discussion followed with Ms. Mary Williams stating she wanted to stay with the present twelve member representation. She felt there would be more diversity with the larger number and hoped in the coming election, possibly a Hispanic Board member could be elected.

Dr. Ralph Love stated he had served as a Board member for 18 years and had seen the importance of representation. He felt there were more voices with twelve members who could share ideas and represent all six districts.

Mr. Billy Peaden felt there was more public input countywide with twelve members.

Ms. Marcy Romary felt we needed to move forward with getting input from the community through surveys and listening sessions. She would like us to model the County Commissioners and have nine Board of Education members.

Mr. Dick Tolmie thought the size could be reduced, but feels there is a need for a detailed analysis of how smaller Boards work. He felt absenteeism for committee meetings and hearing panels would be a problem. Mr. Tolmie stated public meetings might help, but ultimately the decision would be the Board's.

Mr. Benjie Forrest liked the model set by the County Commissioners with nine members. He felt this issue is probably the most controversial and would be hard to present to the legislature.

Ms. Jill Camnitz presented a proposed method for changing the Board's size and term in comparison to the County Commissioners. In 2010, the Board of Commissioners districts 1-6 are elected; for the Board of Education, districts 1-6 "A" seats are elected. In 2012, the Board of Commissioners district A, B and C are elected; for the Board of Education, "B" seats are eliminated – districts A, B and C are formed and elected. District A consist of 1 and 2, District B is 3 and 4 and District C is 4 and 5. Thereafter, every two years the Board of Education elections are the same as those for the Commissioners, making a nine member Board with four-year terms. She felt there would be better group dynamics, good communication and more accountability with nine members, and each district would still have two representatives.

Mr. Michael Dixon felt there was inequity in the county, but twelve members give fair representation. He stated this Board had never been inhibited from making a decision, and the diversity of twelve members is good for the county. He stated the Board is working toward Unitary Status, redistricting and what is best to benefit the children. Mr. Dixon felt attendance for the committee meetings and hearings depended on the members, not the size of the Board.

Ms. Jennifer Little felt a good compromise for the number of Board of Education members is the County Commissioners' model of nine members. She felt there was poor attendance at committee meetings and hearing panels where the "meat of a decision" is made to present to the full Board. Ms. Little felt diversity would be better as this Board is the "face of the county for public schools". She also stated she would be glad to serve on a committee if one was appointed to research this issue and present pros and cons for a smaller board.

Mr. Roy Peaden stated Board members living in the county could not always make meetings. He feels the Chair looks at committee member make-up when deciding which members should be placed on the different committees and panels. He also reinforced the idea that a smaller Board member number would reduce diversity of the

Board – even with an increasing Hispanic community. Mr. Peaden felt the twelve member Board was appropriate and should not be reduced.

Chair Bright also stated she was favor of the twelve member Board.

Chair Bright then took a tally of the Board members' opinions with four members in favor of reducing the number of members for the Board of Education, and seven wishing to leave the number of twelve members as is.

Chair Bright then discussed the length of term of members serving on the Board. Mr. Roy Peaden stated he had no problem reducing the term length to whatever the Board decided – possibly considering a four-year term versus the present six-year term.

Ms. Jennifer Little voiced a change for a four-year term.

Mr. Michael Dixon stated six years is a long time, but does give stability. He also concurred with a four-year term.

Ms. Jill Camnitz felt there would be more accountability with a four-year term.

Mr. Benjie Forrest and Mr. Billy Peaden agreed with the four-year term.

Mr. Dick Tolmie and Ms. Marcy Romary felt more people would be willing to run for office for a four-year term.

Dr. Ralph Love felt with the costs of running for office and minimal pay, the term should remain at six years.

Ms. Mary Williams liked the idea of a four-year term, six years is a long time she stated.

Chair Bright also stated six years is a long time to serve for one term and agrees with four years.

In summarizing the response, Chair Bright stated she had heard ten responses in favor of decreasing the term to four years, and one member wanted to continue the six-year term.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked questions regarding time of election for implementing these changes should they pass. Chair Bright stated she would ask related questions of the legislators when approached with the changes.

In opening the discussion regarding the time of election, Mr. Dick Tolmie felt it would be good to reduce the time between election and being sworn in to serve on the Board. He suggested the election be held in November and take office in December.

Ms. Marcy Romary agreed with the November/December model as the County Commissioners use.

Mr. Billy Peaden, Ms. Mary Williams and Mr. Michael Dixon approved the November/

December pattern.

Dr. Ralph Love and Mr. Roy Peaden stated they wanted to keep the same time frame between election and being sworn in currently in place.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated she had no preference for the election being held in May or November, but felt May best fit the school calendar. She did feel the swearing in date should be closer to the election date.

Ms. Jill Camnitz agreed with November/December or May/June – whichever would be the easiest to carry out.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated May/July or November/January would be agreeable with him. He did state a two-month time span between election and taking office.

Chair Bright stated May or November for election would be agreeable to her, but agreed with a shorter time span for taking office.

In tallying the feedback from Board members, Chair Bright had nine responses for making the time span between election and taking office shorter with two members wanting to keep the time span as it is currently. Further details for making changes will be discussed in January after speaking with the legislators.

Attorney Sonnenberg did mention that the Board of Elections personnel stated there is always better turnout to vote in November.

Chair Bright then stated that changing the number of members serving on the Board of Education would not be presented to the Legislators, but the length of time for serving one term and the time between the election date and the swearing in date could be presented to the Legislators for discussion.

Superintendent Beverly Reep stated the calendar had been changed by adding two more early release days to be used for parent conferences.

She also explained that ESPN visited C. M. Eppes Middle School televising the school's support for the ECU Pirates Football Team. Lots of excitement and a great time were had by all!

Dr. Reep also congratulated three organizations for receiving grants related to dropout prevention: LINK Crew lead by Grades 9-12 Director Chena Cayton, Girl Power supported by Community and Schools and Project Success through the Greenville Police Department. The Twilight Academy being implemented in January will also receive additional funding.

Superintendent Reep stated there were lots of concerns and issues for students, but with the Margaret L. Blount Memorial Art Competition students present for an Awards Ceremony prior to the Board meeting, it was most apparent to see the pride and hard work these students portrayed in their art pieces. She stated she could sense the emotions of these students through their art work. Art Director Jane Behan is

enthusiastic and dedicated to the Arts and to the students and staff involved in these programs.

Dr. Reep expressed thanks to the community partners who would be working with the students over the holidays – the Boys and Girls Club, Strive, Building Hope, churches, etc. She also wished all Board members Happy Holidays as well and stated she was looking forward to 2010 with the good and difficult times it might bring.

Chair Bright thanked County Commissioners Ephraigm Smith and Tom Johnson and a former County Commissioner Terry Shank for their attendance at the Board meeting.

She also thanked the Board members for their support over the past year and for their vote of confidence in her re-election as Chair for the upcoming year. She stated she appreciated their opinions and the respectful manner in which different issues were presented.

Chair Bright also stated she had visited Board member Barbara Owens who was doing better and hoped to leave the hospital tomorrow.

In preparing for the upcoming year, Chair Bright asked for those members who would like to serve on specific panels or committees to please let her know before new assignments were presented to all members.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated he is pleased to announce that the D. H. Conley DECCA Club won three out of five first place trophies at the Regional DECCA Competition. He stated Ms. Tabitha Hudson, Advisor for the DECCA Club, did outstanding work with the students involved. Mr. Forrest also applauded Mr. Bill Frazier in his position as Principal of Ayden-Grifton High School.

Ms. Jill Camnitz reminded everyone of the Policy Committee Meeting at 4:00 p.m. December 8, 2009.

Chair Bright thanked students from Elmhurst for the “Thank You” cards for the Smartboards placed in the schools.

Mr. Michael Dixon shared with everyone that In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg had been promoted to LTC in the Air Force Reserves.

Mr. Dixon also stated he attended the NCSBA Conference and received a copy of the new Superintendent Evaluation Instrument, which he will be sharing information with all Board members.

Mr. Dixon also stated he spoke with Mr. Richard Hooker from Cleveland County regarding Alternative Unlimited. Mr. Hooker’s community created a Core group who are supported by churches and businesses in the black community. The funded and created a Math Academy and summer school tutoring program which made an impact on their kids’ achievement. Mr. Dixon encouraged Dr. Reep and others to attend a special recognition for all PCS bus drivers on January 19, 2010 in Winterville. He also asked for consideration of a presentation regarding Substance Abuse to the Board.

Ms. Jennifer Little congratulated high school students attending the Student Institute. She also stated Rose High School was putting the ALERT NOW System to good use as communication was constant with Rose High personnel. Ms. Little also thanked South Central and D. H. Conley High Schools for the opportunity to be judges for their Senior Projects.

Mr. Roy Peaden reminded everyone to not drink and drive over the holidays.

Ms. Mary Williams stated the State Employees Credit Union on First Street had art work from Northwest on display in their lobby. She also thanked Dr. Reep for her hard work during 2009 and congratulated Ms. Mary Grace Bright and Mr. Dick Tolmie for their reappointments for Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Dr. Ralph Love stated he had attended the NCSBA Conference and was impressed with the Governor and State Superintendent. He stated it was great to have interaction between other school board members and felt they experienced the same types of problems we have.

Ms. Marcy Romary stated she was elated that the Girl Power grant had been renewed through Community in Schools as she and Ms. Terry Shank had worked on this grant during its kick off.

Ms. Romary also asked for a list of Board members who had not signed their Code of Ethics Policy.

Mr. Dick Tolmie thanked everyone for their support in his election of Vice-Chair

Mr. Billy Peaden stated he was surprised by principals coming into his business before 6:00 a.m. stating they were working hard for the students of Pitt County.

Several Board members wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Michael Dixon moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Board adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted,

Ms. Mary Grace Bright, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent