

DATE: October 18, 2010 PRESENT: Mary Grace Bright, Chair
Jill Camnitz
Benjie Forrest
Jennifer Little
Ralph Love, Sr.
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Barbara Owens
Billy Peaden
Roy Peaden
Marcy Romary
PLACE: St. James Methodist Church Mary Williams

ABSENT: Dick Tolmie
Matthew Ward

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.

Chair Bright then offered the Agenda for consideration. Mr. Billy Peaden, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, moved the Agenda be accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

For Public Expression, Ms. Janice Coburn asked the Board to consider all children equally when providing educational assistance and extra resources. She stated under No Child Left Behind, no child should be “looked over” in receiving the best education possible. Yet, her child and many others do not fall in a specific category for extra help, but are unable to achieve as regular education students do. These are the children she would appreciate the Board be made aware of – the ones who are left behind because they or their parents do not meet certain criteria as specified by the Federal, State or Local governments.

Under Spotlight for Teaching and Learning, Ms. Robin Dailey spoke regarding Pitt County being named one of the “Nation’s 100 Best Communities for Young People” by America’s Promise Alliance and ING. She informed the Board that the national competition recognizes community-wide efforts to improve the well-being of youth and the nation’s dropout crisis. General Colin Powell founded America’s Promise Alliance in 1977. Ms. Dailey presented slides taken in Washington, DC at the America’s Promise celebration showing Third Grader Christina Leach from G. R. Whitfield School accepting the award for our community. She spoke of the collaborative team effort of many Pitt County community leaders who completed the application including Ms. Alice Keene, Ms. Heather Mayo, Mr. Travis Lewis and herself representing the Pitt County School System. She also commented that the Dropout Prevention Campaign sponsored by Pitt County Schools and the Pitt County Impact Alliance, which is sponsored by the United Way, address these critical issues as well. There were five key programs that the judges identified as listed below:

1. Team Leadership Institute
2. The Link Crew
3. Student Success Academy

4. High School Volunteer Program
5. Teen Court

Ms. Dailey invited everyone to share in a celebration being planned for Saturday, November 20, 2010 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Alice Keene Park on County Home Road. She commented that Pitt County being named one of the “Nation’s 100 Best Communities for Young People”, Fit Community Designation from the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission, as well as Pitt County Government’s 250th Anniversary will be celebrated. Before ending, she presented each Board member and the Superintendent with a hand held fan designed by ING to celebrate the young people award and displayed the trophy received by Pitt County during the celebration in Washington, D.C.

Chair Bright then held a moment of silence in honor of Ms. Lisa Langemann, a second grade teacher at Bethel School, who recently lost her life in a traffic accident.

Under Consent Items, Dr. Ralph Love motioned, second by Ms. Jill Camnitz, that the Board approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held October 4, 2010, the Second Personnel Report for October 2010, a RESOLUTION approving the conveyance of certain property to the county for the purpose of financing the construction of various school projects and Property to be Declared Surplus. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Chair Roy Peaden mentioned the Facilities Committee Meeting which was held October 12 and stated the Board needs to go into Closed Session to discuss two items following the regular Board meeting.

Superintendent Beverly Reep then began discussion of student reassignment, and stated staff has made revisions in the scenario map ES 5A following suggestions from Board members and the community. She commented that the middle school map had no changes. Dr. Reep commented that criteria for moving segments has been tied to policy, segment moves are not randomly chosen. Superintendent Reep informed everyone that the last scheduled listening session will be held Thursday night, October 21st at 6:00 p.m. at South Greenville Elementary School, and strongly encouraged the community to attend.

Director Kay Weathington commented that the revisions being presented tonight were variations of scenario map ES 5A and demonstrated map scenario ES 5Av1 explaining the segment changes by numbers, the area these segments are located, gave the total number of students involved with each segment, told the school these children would have attended on the ES 5A map and the school they will be moved to. An accompanying chart listing enrollment, % capacity, capacity, proficiency and ethnicity breakdown was also provided for each map.

Ms. Mary Williams asked about segment 291 with Ms. Weathington giving pertinent information. Bishop Ralph Love asked for a breakdown of the number of black and white students being moved with Dr. Reep stating we did not make moves based on race and the information was not available. She commented that the information could be obtained and shared by map or school, but not by segment.

Ms. Weathington then discussed scenario map ES 5Av2 stating the only change was

moving segment 292 (39 students) from Eastern Elementary on ES 5A to Elmhurst Elementary on ES 5Av2.

Though no map was provided, Ms. Weathington then explained a chart developed at the suggestion of a Board member involving segment changes off the ES 5A map to the following schools: Creekside, Falkland, Lakeforest, Ridgewood, W. H. Robison, Elmhurst, Eastern and Wahl-Coates. Discussion was held amongst Board members regarding moving segments to Lakeforest as one segment listed has already moved students three times (beginning at Sadie Saulter, moved to W. H. Robinson, and again to Ridgewood) since 2005.

Ms. Jennifer Little commented that in comparing the current chart with the chart provided for ES 5Av1, three schools show increased proficiency scores, while five schools show decreased proficiency scores. Superintendent Reep stated that using geocoding to move segments gave a different configuration and is not always reflective of proficiency scores. She stated a true comparison would be in looking at the 2008 reading scores and the 2009 reading scores. Ms. Jill Camnitz commented that the 2008-09 proficiency range was 50%-72%, while the ES 5Av1 showed a 46%-75% proficiency range. Mr. Benjie Forrest asked is there a normal variance of proficiency scores with Dr. Reep stating there is a 3% variance between the 2008-09 and the 2009-10 proficiency scores. Ms. Marcy Romary stated five schools with lower proficiency scores than presently exist is a big difference. Dr. Reep stated in the year 2008-09, the entire district showed a 38.3% range; and once the 2009-10 scores are loaded into the system, we will define the district range for this school year. Mr. Forrest asked could the 3% variance increase with Dr. Reep responding that in 2009-10, the lower scores may increase 3-4% and higher scores may increase 5-6%. Superintendent Reep stated we will shortly load the 2009-10 data and can actually compare the scores to the 2008-09 scores.

Dr. Reep also reminded everyone that No Child Left Behind choice schools, transfers granted by the Board and children who are assigned to a particular school because their parent teaches there are also factors in student enrollment that have nothing to do with the geocode.

Ms. Camnitz stated there is a big impact on proficiency scores when comparing 22 points to 29 points variance. A look at schools comparing proficiency scores and ethnicity was suggested.

Ms. Weathington then discussed the chart labeled BOE Member v.2 which is a spin-off of BOE v.1. Again she shared with Board members the segment moves and other details involved with each segment.

Ms. Jennifer Little commented that this chart showed a 48%-75% proficiency range. Mr. Benjie Forrest stated a one to three point's difference in proficiency would not bother him if the lower performing schools would be targeted. Ms. Marcy Romary asked about the Club Pines and Westhaven neighborhoods with Ms. Weathington stating they would remain in Ridgewood. She also commented that Sterling Pointe would not change. Ms. Camnitz stated it would be good to have a map that coincided with the charts presented as ethnicity seemed to be more balanced. Chair Bright stated she was hearing that we would like a map for "Suggestion from BOE Member"

presented by chart tonight, as well as a map for the chart entitled “Suggestion from BOE Member v 2”. She also asked could we get a total count of students moving with each map available. Chair Bright reminded everyone that at the November 1st Board meeting, staff would bring a recommendation for reassignment to the Board. Dr. Reep stated that in trying to keep neighborhoods together, which is the objective in listening to the communities, we are not going to find a perfect scenario and there may have to be trade-offs made.

Mr. Roy Peaden stated we had to keep in mind capacity of a school and the proficiency score. Superintendent Reep stated there may be near 100% capacity if all other factors are improved, and there will not be a negative impact on the school. Mr. Peaden stated there were other middle schools in the district and asked will Farmville Middle School be affected by this reassignment with Ms. Weathington stating no, but H. B. Sugg and Sam D. Bundy will be involved due to populating Lakeforest Elementary. After completing elementary school, these students will still go to Farmville Middle. Mr. Peaden stated he would like to know the number of students this will involve.

Ms. Weathington then discussed the only middle school chart, MS 2B, stating the only change will involve the Brook Valley area in that students will go to C. M. Eppes. Ms. Jill Camnitz then discussed the proficiency ranges between the current chart and the MS 2B chart stating we are striving to decrease our proficiency ranges – not increase them. Ms. Marcy Romary agreed with this statement. Superintendent Reep stated we need to look at policy criteria – we just cannot pick a segment and move it without linking the move to policy. Ms. Camnitz questioned what this would mean to diversity. Dr. Reep stated if we have input from the Board and the community on exactly what you want, it will help us work toward that end. Ms. Camnitz asked could suggestions be turned in tomorrow with Dr. Reep responding that we need the suggestions as quickly as possible to have time to prepare the maps.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Delilah Jackson then shared a proposed Resolution with the Board regarding a change in a make-up date for the 2010-11 school calendar. Due to inclement weather, there was no school September 30th. After conferring with the North Carolina Association of Educators at the State and Local levels, Ms. Jackson stated the proposed make-up date was changed from Wednesday, November 24, 2010 (day before Thanksgiving) to Friday, October 29, 2010 (a Protected Teacher Workday). In making this change, we feel it is in the best interest for students and staff regarding attendance on that date. Mr. Roy Peaden asked about making missed days up on Saturday. Ms. Jackson explained that you can only go to school on Saturday if there is a four-day school week. The Department of Public Instruction will not allow students to attend school six days in the same week. Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, then moved that the proposed Resolution be accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs and Services Cheryl Olmsted then shared with the Board two programs discussed at the EPS Committee Meeting held October 25, 2010. The first is a State pilot implementing READ 3D (Wireless Generation) to increase reading proficiency and student achievement. Ms. Olmsted stated this was part of Governor Perdue’s “Career Ready - Ready, Set, Go” Project with her two goals of having every student reading at grade level by third grade, and having

every child graduate from high school. Though the program was first implemented in Belvoir and G. R. Whitfield Schools, Ms. Olmsted informed the Board that Governor Beverly Perdue visited South Greenville Elementary School and included all K-3 schools in the district pilot program. She shared that Reading Specialist Pat Peoples has worked diligently with this program, and all materials and net-books used will be donated for all schools. Ms. Olmsted stated the scores can be uploaded into NC WISE just as End-of-Grade/Class scores are followed. She commented that by the fall of 2011, it is hoped this program will be implemented across the state.

Ms. Olmsted, with the Assistance of 9-12 Director Chena Cayton and Exceptional Children's Director Cathy Keeter, then discussed Inside Algebra, a program encompassed by Algebra Essentials. Ms. Cayton explained that Inside Algebra will be used to help regular students who are struggling with algebra concepts. Ms. Keeter shared that the Exceptional Children's Occupational Course of Study has had a major content/curriculum revision and these students now have to take a course aligned with Algebra I. Ms. Keeter explained that a regular education teacher and a special education teacher will work together in helping students with manipulatives and closing the gap for algebra skills. Ms. Jill Camnitz asked about all students passing the course with Ms. Keeter stating all students would have the same goal and participate in an assessment (End-of-Class test), but the Occupational Course of Study students will not be required to pass the End-of-Class test. Ms. Keeter stated this path would be followed by OCoS students until an Extend II test becomes available. Ms. Cayton stated that last year there had been some shuffling in this course in that ninth graders will have two years to prepare for the change in the newly approved curriculum.

Ms. Mary Williams asked will pre-algebra still be offered in the seventh and algebra in the eighth grade classes in the Standard Course of Study with Ms. Keeter stating yes. The changes deal with at-risk students or students with IEP's who need extra assistance.

Superintendent Beverly Reep then shared information with the Board regarding the "Race-to-the-Top" Grant stating that Pitt County Schools will receive approximately \$3.1 million over four years. Race-to-the-Top includes the use of a Cloud Computer System (the cost of which is paid for from a portion of funds allocated to Pitt County Schools-approximately \$700,000). Dr. Reep stated there are four pillars to the Grant including:

1. Employing great principals and teachers.
2. Using common core standards/assessments (with teacher performance linked to student growth) which will be developed by the State.
3. Turn around low achieving schools with additional services.
4. A data system that will give teachers virtual, detailed information regarding student achievement immediately.

Dr. Reep stated by 2012-13 we will be able to measure growth of students in all subject areas. The goal will be to have no schools in North Carolina below a composite proficiency score of 60%. She further stated in the handout regarding objectives for the grant, Pitt County Schools already has some processes in place, i.e. instructional coaches, cohort idea and better recruiting strategies. Dr. Reep stated we will begin our first exercise this week with our Race-to-the-Top team studying the objectives to see what we have in place and what our needs will be. She explained that Technology

Director Jeff Smith will guide the team through the Cloud Computer System in the process. Superintendent Reep informed the Board that the plan of action is due November 8th, and stated this process is actually a blessing in timing as the reassignment plan, seeking Unitary Status and Race-to-the-Top all tie together in many aspects. She also added that once Race-to-the-Top is completed, the State can reach into the computer and look at our system and its efforts at any time. Dr. Reep explained that principal, assistant principal and teacher evaluations as well as the district report card will be posted. As an example, she stated if you have a low performing school and all teachers in that school are rated distinguished – this could be questioned. Ms. Marcy Romary asked is the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant associated with East Carolina University aware of these objectives with Dr. Reep stating yes, they will run parallel to each other. She stated once we get through the technical assistance training, we will better understand the process. Dr. Reep stated that this grant money cannot be shifted around – we must be very guarded in its use, but it will only be used to improve student achievement.

Under Old Business, Chair of the Policy Committee Jill Camnitz and In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg then shared with the Board two proposed new and revised policies for Second Reading. The first was Policy 10.611 – Student Illness and Emergency Care (Revised). With no discussion from Board members, Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, moved that Policy 10.611 Student Illness and Emergency Care be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously. The second Policy 10.202 Criminal Behavior (New) also received no comments from Board members. Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, moved that Policy 10.202 Criminal Behavior be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously. For informational purposes, Attorney Sonnenberg reviewed Procedure 1.200-P – Procedure for Taking Minutes (New) with the Board stating State Law requirements regarding official minutes. Ms. Camnitz then mentioned the previous Board meeting when the Board waived the policy regarding Pitt County Schools Procedure for the Appointment of New Board Members (Appendix 1.301-A), which outlines the procedures for filling vacant seats on the Board, following the sudden death of Board member Michael Dixon. She stated the policy committee felt a waiver would again be appropriate for the second appointment process needed for December 6th and filling the vacant seat until the next Board of Education member election date.

Under Comments from the Superintendent and Board members, Superintendent Reep thanked Executive Director of Student Services Travis Lewis and the Crisis Team for their remarkable support to the Bethel staff following the death of their co-worker. He stated the students never missed a moment of instruction with the collaborative efforts made by school personnel.

Dr. Reep also shared the outstanding job that South Greenville staff did in preparing for Governor Perdue's visit on October 15th. She stated they received a call on October 12th stating the Governor was coming to visit on the 15th, and it was amazing to see what greeted the Governor as she walked through the school. Dr. Reep commented that Principal Lavette Ford, her staff, the P.T.A. and students were well prepared and never missed a beat in welcoming the Governor to South Greenville. She stated Governor Perdue was most impressed with the school uniforms, READ 3D and the use of SmartBoards. Dr. Reep also commented that the Governor plans to come back in the spring to follow student growth in the school.

Chair Mary Grace Bright thanked central office staff for their hard work in the last several meetings transporting equipment and materials from place to place. She also thanked South Greenville staff for the wonderful reception shown Governor Perdue and commented on the talented violinist during the program. Chair Bright closed by inviting everyone to the public meeting Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at South Greenville Elementary School. She encouraged everyone to stay focused and be ready to finish our task on schedule November 15, 2010.

Mr. Roy Peaden thanked Ms. Kay Weathington and others for their hard work on the redistricting process.

Ms. Jennifer Little thanked the South Greenville staff as well for all their efforts this past week. She also asked that we get the word out to the community that none of the high schools will be affected by the redistricting plan.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated that several Board members visited with Principal Lavette Ford and South Greenville staff seeing the READ 3D Program in progress. She commented that the teachers are really excited with this new software.

Ms. Mary Williams also thanked Ms. Ford and her staff for their hard work during the last week. She also expressed thanks to bus drivers, staff and others involved during the inclement weather we have had recently. Ms. Williams also expressed condolences to the family of Ms. Lisa Langemann. In closing, she congratulated the J. H. Rose High School band on several trophies received during recent competition and thanked North Pitt High School counselors for the extra work in preparation of College Night, which was very helpful for students and parents regarding community college/ university programs.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Barbara Owens moved, second by Mr. Billy Peaden, that the Board go into Closed Session to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price and terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property. [N.C.G.S.§143-318.11(a)(5)]

Upon returning to Open Session, Mr. Roy Peaden, second by Mr. Billy Peaden, moved that the Board approve Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu to negotiate the price of selling to a prospective buyer the present school bus garage site in a range of \$2 to \$2.2 million and offer to purchase the facilities of the old Briggs Equipment Plant to be used as the new school bus garage site in a range of \$1.2-\$1.4 million. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Board adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Time 9:02 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Ms. Mary Grace Bright, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent