

Central related to Rachel's Challenge – a Character Education Program. The first student killed in 1999 at Columbine High School, Rachel Scott, wrote, "People will never know how far a little kindness can go..." Ms. Cary stated that Rachel's father and thirty other speakers travel throughout the country and internationally sharing messages from Rachel's diary and writings, using the course of events with footage of what this life changing program has created for many high school students. She described the different events held at SCHS where students, parents and the community were welcomed and listened, many tearfully, as Rachel's story and belief were shared. Rachel stated, "I have this theory, if one person will go out of their way to show compassion, it will start a chain reaction of the same..." Ms. Mulkey held up a paper chain that students at SCHS have made with their acts of kindness stated individually on each chain link. She presented several goals that are hoped to be permanent reactions of the Friends of Rachel Club:

1. New student program- an older student will be paired with a new student who has similar lunch schedules and classes and will make sure they have an easy transition to SCHS.
2. Chain reaction – shared above.
3. Write kindness letter – targets different staff or community workers thanking them for what they do.
4. School/ Community Outreach - Collections for the homeless – Partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs to provide SCHS student tutoring and after school activities for children who attend after school care at those facilities.

Ms. Cary concluded with the Mission of Rachel's Challenge: They exist to inspire, equip and empower every person to create a permanent positive culture change in a school, business or community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion.

Mr. Worth Forbes commended the implementation of this Program stating he knew for a fact that many students in school are bullied or go all day without speaking to another student, and if this Program touches one kid, it's well worth it and will have a positive impact years down the road for that student. Several other Board members commented that they have heard students discussing this Program and the positive impact it has made on their lives. Ms. Cary stated students can relate to this Program as it deals with other students who have walked in their shoes. She informed the Board that a more intense training will occur in April in an effort to continue this chain reaction of kindness.

Superintendent Beverly Reep explained that Rachel's Challenge has been implemented in the three SIG high schools; but because of student contact with the other three high schools and the impact this Program has made, funding was asked for to implement the Program in the three remaining high schools as well. She further commented that the Student Advisory Council she meets with each month feels bullying is worse in middle school grades and that Rachel's Challenge needs to be implemented to help these students receive the positive impact of this Program.

Under Consent Items, Bishop Ralph Love, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, motioned that the Board approve the Minutes from the Meeting held February 7, 2011 and the Second Personnel Report for February 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Presenting the first item listed under New Business, Chair Worth Forbes shared with the Board an up-date following the Policy Committee Meeting held February 15, 2011. He asked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Delilah Jackson to explain New Policy 7.112 – Teacher Dismissal, Demotion and Nonrenewal, which was presented for First Reading. Ms. Jackson commented that the policy had been mandated by the General Assembly and NC Law as part of the nonrenewal procedure for probationary (year 1, 2 or 3) and career status ready (year 4) teachers, which will allow opportunity for a hearing for said staff. She discussed hearing procedure, documentation and time restrictions involved in this process. Ms. Jackson stated at least three members of the Human Resources Committee will serve as the hearing panel in accordance with Policy 1.108.

The second item Mr. Forbes mentioned was student tardiness. He stated that under Procedure for Student Attendance 10.101P, 5, h - Each school shall have rules and regulations regarding tardiness and the way it is handled. Such rules and regulations shall be made known to the parents and students through the school handbook. Mr. Forbes stated the Policy Committee is working toward a tardy policy that will be consistent across the county and have a probable K-5, 6-8, K-8 and 9-12 break down. He stated that a Tardy Committee composed of volunteer principals, a counselor and a social worker has been formed to study this issue and bring recommendations to the Policy Committee.

The third item Mr. Forbes stated the Policy Committee discussed was the proposed policy for Moment of Silence. He discussed the survey requested by the Board regarding the Moment of Silence and presented the results stating there were 2,985 total responses from students, parents, staff and the community. Mr. Forbes then gave details regarding the responses and commented that he had also spoken with North Carolina Schools Board Association Attorney Allison Schafer who stated that we need to restate what the General Statute states, which keeps us in a safe playing field. In discussing how to handle discipline, Attorney Schafer stated we need to be very careful when implementing discipline issues regarding this policy and not single out a particular policy. He stated the Student Code of Conduct was discussed when considering how discipline might be implemented involving the Moment of Silence Policy. Minimal discussion by the Board was given with Mr. Forbes reminding everyone that the survey was a tool for input and gave a snap shot view for response to the proposed policy.

Mr. Forbes then stated that graduation was mentioned, but will be further discussed at the next Policy Committee Meeting March 14th.

Superintendent Beverly Reep then up-dated the Board on the next criteria for Unitary Status – Media/ Technology. When thinking about the seven criteria listed for Unitary Status, Dr. Reep stated media/technology is not criteria that stands alone; but as In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg has researched case law, he has found several cases where school districts were denied Unitary Status due to deficits in this area. She described this area as being difficult to collect data for over the last ten years due to detailed records not being kept until Coordinator for Instructional Technology and Media Tim DeCresie was employed. Dr. Reep also commented that there are lots of differences between the books at elementary, middle and high school levels and that comparisons made in the data are grouped as needed. She explained that a school's level in the data is compared to the district's average with all schools falling below the district

average being shaded. Superintendent Reep went across the chart explaining in detail what each column meant. In comparing computers in each school, Dr. Reep reminded everyone that four years ago all schools were brought up to a standard measurement for technology. She commented that a school may fall below the district average, but still meets the standard for the number of computers in each classroom – explaining that some schools are given additional computers through their PTA, grants or other resources available, which raises the district average. Dr. Reep stated the district had provided the funding to purchase computers and set up labs to meet the standard requirement in all schools. In this regard, books may be purchased as classroom sets, for Accelerated Reading, or other specified area by the school or outside sources, but not placed in the media center inventory. Superintendent Reep stated that perhaps we need more guidelines in place for purchasing books to meet a specified standard for the media centers across the district. Mr. Marc Whichard mentioned the fact that more on-line publications are being used with Dr. Reep stating that in comparison to buying an I-pad for each student and downloading books, the system can actually save money by not buying textbooks for each freshman student through their senior year of high school. This thought would be an adjustment for parents as they want a textbook brought home to be able to help their child achieve. Still, she feels that the beginner reader in K-2 grades needs the actual book to take home. Dr. Reep stated there is correlation between increased circulation in a media center, use of Study Island and Accelerated Reading involvement in schools with improved achievement by students. Mr. Worth Forbes commented in low proficiency schools, we need to be more attentive to resources and make them age appropriate. He further stated that he feels the system has come a long way in up-dating books. Several questions relative to funding and standards followed which were answered by Dr. Reep.

Superintendent Reep informed the Board that continuing to gather this information in future years is vital and provides powerful data to follow growth and have a comparison to the baseline which has been established.

Chair Peaden stated the discussion scheduled for using the County Commissioners' Auditorium for Board of Education meetings will be placed on hold at the present time.

In discussing Old Business items, Chair Ralph Love and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Delilah Jackson brought the proposed Pitt County Schools Calendar for the 2011-12 School Year to the Board for Second Reading. With no questions asked or further discussion, Bishop Ralph Love moved, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, that the Board approve the calendar as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Reep briefed the Board regarding the March 1 meeting with the five Pitt County legislators in Raleigh, NC. Those attending will be Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Barbara Owens, Ms. Christine Waters, Mr. Benjie Forrest, Dr. Matthew Ward, Superintendent Beverly Reep and Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin. Dr. Reep informed the Board that a Resolution drafted by Administrative Assistant Brenda Pippin regarding School Calendars will be included in the Board packet and will be discussed at the March 7th Board Meeting. She feels that discussing the draft Resolution with our legislators March 1 will be a good time to get their feedback. Mr. Marc Whichard commented that the NCAE has also introduced discussion for LEA flexibility in the school calendar to the legislature.

Superintendent Reep reminded the Board that Open Enrollment Schools have to be named by April 1st. In order to meet this deadline and have a Second Reading for approval of our Open Enrollment Schools, information will be sent in the Board packet for presentation at the March 7th meeting.

Dr. Reep also stated that when information is presented by the Governor or Legislature, staff members ask many questions quickly regarding who qualifies and what's involved. An example given was staff being excited about teachers and teacher assistants positions being retained, but they don't understand that Workman's Compensation cost will no longer be covered by the State, but placed on individual LEAs for funding. For Pitt County, that will mean at least an additional million dollars for funding Workman's Compensation and that funding has to come from somewhere. Possible changes in non-EOC and non-EOG essential testing as presented by Judge Manning to the legislature were also briefly mentioned. Dr. Reep stated these changes would be absolutely contrary to the State's Race-to-the-Top application with the Feds to back away from consent accountability.

Superintendent Reep invited everyone to attend the Battle of the Books event Thursday, February 24, at 8:30 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. She thanked Mr. Tim DeCresie and his staff for all their efforts in making this event possible – this will be our 21st year for the event.

Chair Peaden stated that he has no comments, but is happy with all that is going on.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated he visited Ayden-Grifton High School upon an open invitation from Principal Marty Baker, and was most impressed with the welcome he received from students and the manner in which they behaved. He commented that the visit made him proud to be associated with Ayden-Grifton High School.

Ms. Jennifer Little informed everyone that she and Mr. Sean Kenny will be hosting a District 5 Listening Session Thursday, February 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at A. G. Cox School and everyone is invited to attend.

Dr. Matthew Ward thanked South Greenville School Principal Lavette Ford and her staff for the great job they are doing at the school, and especially for his two grandchildren who attend there. He commented that he was very impressed with the educational program at South Greenville.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated that this had been a great Board meeting and things are looking up. He expressed thanks to everyone from bus drivers to teachers to the superintendent in the district for all their efforts in difficult situations and economic times to make sure that the students are engaged every day. Mr. Whichard also commented that he is thankful that the State is looking into reducing testing scenarios with strict pacing guides and thinking of what good quality education can be without a test.

Mr. Sean Kenny remarked that he had really enjoyed the meeting and meal at the Pig Palace last Tuesday night, and also thanked everyone for quick responses by fellow Board members during the past week to several questions he had. He mentioned a diversity function at South Central this Friday night at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Kenny also stated he has children at South Greenville as Dr.

Ward had just discussed his grandchildren who attend the school, and remarked that he trusted Principal Ford and her staff with them every day and thanked them for all they do.

Ms. Mary Williams expressed thanks to Ms. Delilah Jackson and Ms. Evelyn Lenzy from Human Resources and North Pitt High School Principal Michael King for her recent training and recruitment session in searching for good teacher candidates. She stated it was amazing to see their love for children and their profession. Ms. Williams also thanked Ms. Ford, and the people from A&T for their recruitment efforts. In closing, she asked everyone to keep communicating with each other and district wide.

Ms. Christine Waters thanked the media for the nice write up in the paper regarding the South Central Robotics Program. She stated she was also glad to see that the traffic problem at Ridgewood which was mentioned in the paper was already being looked into. Mr. Worth Forbes added that he had actually had parents come to his house and demonstrate what traffic was like at Ridgewood and thanked PCS staff for their quick input.

Mr. Forbes also mentioned a two-hour call he received from Ohio regarding education - budget crisis, testing, parent participation, teacher morale/workload, discipline and bullying. He reported that the problems we have here are happening everywhere, but stated we as a Board and in our county need to be on our knees thanking the good Lord that we are in the shape that we are in as compared to others.

Mr. Forbes also stated he will be judging math projects at Hope Middle School in the coming week. He further commented that he had observed Ms. Julie Brickhouse when he was a principal and noted that she is an excellent teacher working in the Exceptional Children's Program. Mr. Forbes reported that Exceptional Children's Director Cathy Keeter has made great strides in the EC Program with technology, equipment and new instructional techniques implemented in the EC classrooms.

With no further items for discussion, Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Bishop Ralph Love, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Motion was unanimous.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Billy Peaden, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent