

DATE: February 8, 2010 PRESENT: Mary Grace Bright, Chair  
Jill Camnitz  
Michael Dixon  
Benjie Forrest  
Jennifer Little  
Ralph Love, Sr.  
TIME: 7:48 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 7:48 P.M.

Mr. Roy Peaden led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Bright then offered the Agenda for consideration. Mr. Michael Dixon, second by Dr. Ralph Love, moved the Agenda be accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Beverly Reep then recognized Public Information Officer Heather Mayo for receiving three blue ribbon awards for Pitt County Schools at the NCSPPRA ceremony Friday, January 22, 2010. One award was in the Electronic Media Category – Reach Out to Stop Dropouts, one was in the Internet Website Category – [www.pitt.k12.nc.us](http://www.pitt.k12.nc.us), and the last was In Marketing Campaign/Plans Category – Yes, You Can Finish the Race. She stated judging was conducted by the Georgia SPRA who commented that they wished all their principals could watch the Dropout Prevention Video. Dr. Reep also thanked Technology Director Jeff Smith, Instructional Technology/ Media Coordinator Tim DeCresie and many others for their hard work and extra effort in these endeavors.

There was no one in the audience who wished to speak during Public Expression.

Under Consent Items, Dr. Ralph Love motioned, second by Mr. Michael Dixon, that the Board approve the January 11, 2010 Minutes and the Personnel Report for February 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Chair Michael Dixon and Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin shared an update with the Board following the Finance Committee Meeting held January 27, 2010. Mr. Cowin summarized the 2008-09 Pitt County Schools Financial Audit completed by Pittard, Perry and Crone. He stated the Finance Department employees worked hard and had received the State's top three awards for their endeavors. Mr. Cowin stated in going through the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, CPA Michael Jordan stated the work was unqualified – correct in all material aspects. Mr. Michael Dixon moved, second by Mr. Roy Peaden, that the 2008-09 Pitt County Schools Financial Audit be accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Peaden told Mr. Cowin he needed to take his staff out for

lunch. Chair Bright thanked Mr. Cowin and his department for their continued extra efforts.

Superintendent Beverly Reep then shared with the Board a Resolution involving make-up days on Saturday for snow if necessary. The only remaining make-up day for inclement weather posted in the 2009-10 School Calendar is Memorial Day. Mr. Billy Peaden asked would the students attend school one-half day or an entire day on Saturday? Dr. Reep reported the students would attend as long as necessary to credit them with appropriate hours – probably through lunch. The Resolution is as follows:

North Carolina General Statute and Board Policy allow the Board to grant the administration the authority to use Saturdays as make up days for inclement weather. The administration is asking the Board to grant this authority if future days need to be missed due to inclement weather. A Saturday make up day can only be used during the week a regular school day is missed as NCGS does not allow students to attend more than five days in any one week. The only make up day remaining in the 2009-10 approved calendar is May 31 (Memorial Day). If we should miss additional days due to inclement weather, the administration requests the authority to use a Saturday as a make-up day.

Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Ms. Mary Williams, that the Resolution be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Athletic Director Ron Butler discussed updated information regarding spring break dates for schools in surrounding counties as requested by several Board members to make a final decision regarding the proposed 2010-2011 Pitt County Schools Calendar. Chair Bright noted that spring break was split between the schools with some having break before Easter weekend and some having break after Easter weekend. Following discussion, Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Ms. Jill Camnitz, that the 2010-11 Pitt County Schools Calendar be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Superintendent Reep thanked Mr. Butler for his assistance in researching the requested information.

Superintendent Reep informed the board that last week was School Counselor Recognition Week. As the Board was unable to meet last week due to the snow, she asked that all remember to show appreciation for our counselors and all they do for the students of Pitt County.

Dr. Reep also stated that February is Black History Month and many schools had activities planned all during the month for awareness in the community. She then stated many students in our district were helping in relief efforts for students in Haiti, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Superintendent Reep stated The National “Love the Bus” program, which began in 2007, is celebrated on Valentine’s Day and throughout February in school districts across the country as a way to raise awareness and appreciation for all school bus drivers. In recognition and honor of our bus drivers for all they do for the students in Pitt County, a reception will be held at the Central Office in the third floor foyer outside the Board Room on February 15, 2010 from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Dr. Reep also recognized Associate Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services Worth Forbes and Director of Security and Assistant to the Superintendent Jesse Hinton as they are retiring the end of February. She stated that Mr. Forbes had dedicated his entire career to working for the students of Pitt County – beginning as a teacher and ending in his present position. LTC Hinton has been with the system 21 years beginning with involvement in ROTC and ending in his present position. Superintendent Reep commented that both these gentleman did not let a day go by that they were not making decisions on behalf of the students of Pitt County, and both would be greatly missed.

Chair Bright stated she had attended the recent National Board Pinning Ceremony for Pitt County Schools teachers and appreciated all their extra efforts and time spent in this process. She encouraged other teachers to follow their footsteps and look to the future.

Ms. Bright also attended the Fast Track Graduation of approximately twelve students at Ayden Middle School. She stated the excitement and accomplishments radiated from the students and their parents. Chair Bright thanked Dr. Reep and all staff involved with pushing the Fast Track Program forward.

Chair Bright also commented that the time change to 7:00 p.m. for the Board of Education Regular Meetings had worked well. She stated several members had asked about moving the meeting to 6:30 p.m. and wanted all members to think about this for discussion at our next meeting February 15, 2010.

Chair Bright also announced that County Commissioner Ephraim Smith is the newly appointed County Commissioner representative for the Board of Education Meetings. She thanked County Commissioners Ephraim Smith and Tom Johnson for their presence at the meeting.

Several Board members wished Mr. Worth Forbes and LTC Jesse Hinton the very best in their retirement and stated they would be truly missed.

Mr. Billy Peaden asked could there be an “Open House” held at the beginning of second semester where parents could meet teachers? Dr. Reep stated we will look into this matter and inform the Board at a later date.

Mr. Peaden also stated many parents had asked about exams before Christmas and legislative flexibility.

Mr. Dick Tolmie reminded everyone that “Read Across America” is near and asked that we have volunteers to read at the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated his father used to say, “If you surround yourself with good people, good things will happen.” He felt this applied to both Mr. Worth Forbes and LTC Jesse Hinton, whom he feels are men of excellence.

Ms. Jill Camnitz thanked Executive Director of Student Services Travis Lewis, his staff and all school counselors for their efforts on the two handbooks Board members received last week. She also announced there would not be a Policy Committee

Meeting tomorrow. Regarding Ethics Training required for Board members, Ms. Camnitz asked that Administrative Assistant Brenda Pippin obtain further details in attending an Ethics Training Webinar through the North Carolina Schools Board Association.

Ms. Marcy Romary announced that she and Ms. Jill Camnitz will meet in the Media Center at Eastern Elementary School for a District Listening Session and asked that other Board members consider sponsoring a listening session in their respective districts.

Ms. Mary Williams stated Mr. Forbes was Principal at Pactolus when her daughter was a student, and he was always there for them. She felt he had touched many students lives while he worked as an educator. Ms. Williams also stated that LTC Hinton was a man of honor and integrity and a great example for students. She felt he gave wisdom and encouragement to many students in the system.

Ms. Williams also invited everyone to the Greenville Hilton February 9 where A&T University in Greensboro will have administrative representatives and parent consultants available to meet with students and parents. It begins at 6:30 p.m. and there is no charge.

Mr. Dick Tolmie then moved, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that the Board go into Closed Session to: (1) prevent the disclosure of privileged information under FERPA 20 USC §1232G of the regulations or laws of United States. [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(1)] and (2) consult with our attorney to consider and give instructions concerning a judicial action titled Pitt County Board of Education v. Adrian A. Garcia. Motion carried unanimously.

After a brief Closed Session, Mr. Michael Dixon moved, second by Mr. Roy Peaden, that the Board adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted,

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Ms. Mary Grace Bright, Chair

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Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent