

DATE: March 21, 2011 PRESENT: Billy Peaden, Chair
Jill Camnitz
Worth Forbes
Benjie Forrest
Sean Kenny
Jennifer Little
Ralph Love, Sr.
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Barbara Owens
Matthew Ward
Christine Waters
Marc Whichard
PLACE: Pitt County Office Building Mary Williams

Chair Billy Peaden called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session at 7:00 P. M.

Mr. Marc Whichard led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bishop Ralph Love followed with a Moment of Silence asking that we remember anyone who has suffered a tragedy, sickness or loss of a loved one in our Pitt County Schools system.

Chair Peaden then offered the Agenda for consideration. Bishop Ralph Love moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Agenda be accepted as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

We had two people who wished to speak during Public Expression. The first was Sgt. Cameron Cobum with the Pitt County Sheriff's Office and Safe Community's Coalition who shared with the Board a Teen Driving Safety Program being presented by the NC State Highway Patrol. He explained areas of discussion including: typical teen driving habits, attitudes that can affect a teen's state of mind when driving, legal issues, common myths, parental habits and concessions that might contribute to teen fatalities. The meeting will be held in the North Pitt High School Auditorium Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. The speaker for the evening will be Trooper Jeffery S. Collins.

The second speaker was Ms. Mary Robinson, President of the Pitt County Association of Educators. Ms. Robinson shared with the Board different events the NCAE/PCAE are involved with and thanked Ms. Jill Camnitz and Ms. Jennifer Little for participating in the Read Across America Program recently held at the Boys' and Girls' Club where one hundred books were shared with students. She also stated that 43 Pitt County delegates attended the NCAE Convention during which delegates met in a rally and marched against educational cuts in the budget. Ms. Robinson added that on May 3, a rally is going to be held with approximately 5,000 educators present – more information is available at OneVoiceRally.com. She informed the Board that on Friday, Beaufort and Pitt County delegates will be meeting with Representative Bill Cook at Chocowinity Primary in Chocowinity, NC. Ms. Robinson commented that two AP Government high school juniors who are members of F.T.A. will also be in attendance.

Regarding the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Instructional Technology/Media Coordinator Tim DeCresie, Elmhurst Elementary Teacher Suzanne Hachmeister and several fourth and fifth

grade students (Paul, Marissa, Ryan and Erin) shared with the Board the Edmodo Program – a secure online social learning network for educational communities. Similar to Facebook, it is private and created specifically for AIG teachers and AIG students from all over the county. Using Edmodo, teachers can make assignments, send reminders and create polls to survey student opinion. A special code is used by students, teachers and parents to be able to join the community online, and strict rules are in place to keep students as members of the Edmodo groups. Benefits of Edmodo include interaction between students and teachers across the district, increased student practice in writing, spelling, reading, keyboarding and computer skills, sharing educational websites, blogs, videos and Smartboard Notebook presentations, access to experts to answer questions, safe and secure network free of cyber-bullying and other cyber-predators and 21st century skills in global awareness, communication, creativity, critical thinking, literacy, social and cross-cultural skills.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Mr. Sean Kenny, moved that the Board approve the Minutes from the Called and Regular Meetings held February 28, 2011 and March 7, 2011 respectively, and the Second Personnel Report for March 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

As the first item listed under New Business, Chair Marc Whichard and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services Cheryl Olmsted shared with the Board an up-date following the EPS Committee Meeting held March 3, 2011. Ms. Olmsted stated that Chair Peaden had asked regarding an alternative diploma several months ago, and that North Pitt High School Principal Mike King will discuss an alternative diploma later this evening and explain how it will benefit some Pitt County Schools students with graduation. The EPS Committee presented to the Policy Committee a revised Policy 9.617 Graduation Requirements regarding students who turn 19 years of age in the same semester as they completed the credit requirements for a North Carolina diploma are eligible for graduation.

Ms. Olmsted also stated that the revision for the tardy policy is in progress. She commented that the high school principals have written procedures to present to the School Improvement Teams for suggestions while the K-8 principals are gathering data to formulate a procedure and hopefully this revision will be presented to the Policy Committee April 11. Mr. Whichard added that this revised policy should have continuity across the district as well as consequential follow-up to consistent tardies of students.

The current exam schedule is also being discussed by principals to find methods of improving exam schedules for students and staff explained Ms. Olmsted. Mr. Whichard stated that input from leadership and the SIT Teams in schools will be most helpful in this process and help bring a set district exam schedule for everyone.

Ms. Olmsted added that several items briefly discussed were having a specific “Reading Day” similar to the Dr. Zeus “Read Across America” Day and Edmodo, which was shared earlier during the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning.

Mr. Whichard also commented that test data will be studied to follow school and individual teacher growth and student performance. Ms. Christine Waters stated that if the legislature reduces the amount of end-of-course testing required, will the action have an impact on exam schedules? Mr. Whichard responded yes, it will have a detrimental impact in that tests retained will demonstrate that scores have dropped; and the public needs to understand that scores have not dramatically fallen, but tests have been taken off the table. Mr. Worth Forbes informed the Board that all the testing done before and after the State end-of-course tests helped bring up student performance scores with Superintendent Reep adding that the State is considering taking away all testing except that required by the Federal government. She stated that as exam schedules are being studied, transportation and retesting for end of the year tests takes away a lot of instructional time when implementing schedules.

North Pitt High School Principal Mike King then shared with the Board the basic requirements of the North Carolina High School Diploma (alternative diploma). He described this diploma as having the basic number of credits for students (with one credit added in math after 2009) for a total of 21 credits needed for graduation. Mr. King explained how this diploma could have helped 22 North Pitt students graduate in 2008-09 and 2009-10 instead of dropping out of school as these students already had 15 or more credits. He then discussed how the diploma can help 41 students across our district graduate with their peers during the 2010-11 school year. Mr. King stated that if a student fails one or more grades in K-8 or repeats the 9th grade and will be 19 by the time they graduate, the North Carolina High School Diploma requirements would help these students graduate. In describing guidelines for this diploma, he commented that once a student and his/her parent/guardian sign a contract, the student cannot have attendance problems or discipline issues, must have good grades and CANNOT graduate ahead of their original cohort. Mr. King said these are examples, that additional guidelines or changes in the ones just stated could be changed.

Mr. Benjie Forrest asked how do CTE or encore courses come into plan with this diploma. Mr. King presented data of scheduled classes for the North Carolina High School Diploma stating the students still have six electives which correspond to these type classes.

Mr. Marc Whichard asked how are students identified. Mr. King stated a student's age will be the key factor – being 19 at graduation – which will be obtained by looking at a student's transcript for his/her credits and knowing they are 15 or 16 years old in the 9th grade. Mr. Whichard then asked how will this information be shared with students. Mr. King responded that data for students who have dropped out this school year has been obtained and contacted.

Bishop Ralph Love asked questions regarding the “no discipline” guideline and commented that many times these are students who need help to graduate. Mr. King stated that Project Equal, Guiding Good Choices and aid of the SIG Grant are avenues implemented to aid students who have discipline issues keep up their classes. Once the contract has been signed, then students are expected not to be involved with discipline issues.

Ms. Mary Williams stated that she applauds Mr. King and this idea. She then asked about students who dropped out of school last year and asked could this diploma be of help in getting

them back in school to graduate. Mr. King responded that it would depend on the student's age and transcript to see if he/she would qualify.

Mr. Worth Forbes asked again about the age of 19 at graduation and helping students across the district. Mr. King responded that the age of 19 is correct and 41 students across the district would be helped with this diploma. He added that this diploma could help increase Pitt County Schools' graduation rate and decrease our dropout rate. Mr. Forbes commented that the discipline factor needs to be addressed. Mr. Sean Kenny added regarding the guidelines, the Board needs to be specific in our policy and discipline issues need to be consistent in all six high schools. Superintendent Reep stated we have the Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Policy already established which is consistent throughout the district. She added that all schools should follow policy, and that we can't have different sets of standards for students in our schools. Dr. Reep added that we currently have 230 dropouts noted for Pitt County Schools and 180 of these have attendance issues. Ms. Olmsted added that the list of guidelines presented are from another school system as Mr. King is presenting this alternative diploma for the Board's input. She added that should this diploma be approved by the Board, Pitt County Schools will implement guidelines for the students. Ms. Jill Camnitz commented that once a contract to receive this diploma has been signed by the students and parent/guardian, he or she will be expected to follow the rules going forward with Mr. King stating that is correct. Ms. Williams stated the information being presented is regarding North Pitt High School's data, but will this diploma be implemented in all six high schools. Mr. King stated yes. Ms. Olmsted added that in retrieving data for 7th and 8th grade students; if they are 16 and entering the 9th grade, a contract could be implemented for this diploma and help get these students through graduation. Currently, there are 283 students who would benefit from this plan.

Chair Benjie Forrest stated the Finance Committee met March 17 with several budget reduction scenarios discussed as well as a proposed Resolution to consider Senate Bill 8 – No Cap on Charter Schools. He asked Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin to update the Board regarding details of these discussions.

Mr. Cowin stated that in the meeting with our five legislators in Raleigh recently, it was strongly expressed that we will feel the impact of a 15% budget cut. He shared that this is the equivalent to 300 positions systemwide – clerical, custodial, teachers, teacher assistants, assistant principals, central office staff and others. In discussing the proposed local budget, Mr. Cowin commented that employer costs for the retirement rate and health insurance are rising, utility expenses are rising and gasoline keeps increasing. He said it will take \$400,000 just to meet our on-going costs. Mr. Cowin added that he's searching for targets to minimize classroom impact. He stated if the State turns over Workers' Comp and tort claims to the local education agencies and Senate Bill 8 – No Cap on Charter Schools is instituted with money for public schools being sent to fund students in charter schools, all various funding entities that flow through local funds will be involved – including Medicaid reimbursement, Grant funding, child nutrition funding, private donations from outside businesses, and others. Though many of these sources are not pursued by charter schools, public schools will have to increase their per pupil amount sent to charter schools to include money from these various funds. Mr. Cowin strongly stated that we need to ask legislators to protect local funding and other revenues.

Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Mr. Sean Kenny, that the Board approve the Resolution regarding Senate Bill 8 – No Cap on Charter Schools as presented.

During discussion, Mr. Marc Whichard commented that the legislature does not understand that charter schools take funding away from public schools. He added that many people complain about how public schools are not performing, but charter schools are really not performing. If people, who take their children out of public schools and pay money to put them in private schools or charter schools, would take that same energy and re-invest it in public schools; we would see great energy in public schools instead of folks throwing stones from the outside. Mr. Whichard feels legislators need to take time to study the data and give funding to public schools. Ms. Jill Camnitz stated she doesn't know who is supporting Senate Bill 8 except legislators, and we need to talk to our community and ask them to contact our legislators. Mr. Sean Kenny added that we have 36 schools in Pitt Count and with this Bill, 50 charter schools could be added and public school funding would go to all 50.

Mr. Michael Cowin also commented that if separation of capital funding and state revenue comes into play, we will not be able to expand future capital projects.

Mr. Worth Forbes stated we need to tell the community that this Bill will be taking from your child in public school and giving to someone else's child in the charter school. He further added that charter schools can select certain groups of students and the differences in public and charters schools are not comparing apples to apples. Dr. Reep informed the Board that we spend a lot of time working on grants to gain further assistance for our students; but if we have to give part of this funding to students in a charter school, staff will not be as motivated to put in the extra effort, i.e. Edmodo which was shared earlier tonight.

Dr. Matthew Ward stated if the charter schools sit back and get money from the grants that our staff works hard to receive, that's not right.

Mr. Cowin informed the Board that if the Bill moves forward; it is retroactive, and we will have to fund them money from accounts effective the beginning of the current school year.

In-House Attorney Sonnenberg also commented that charter schools do not have to meet the same requirements that public schools do. There are questions raised as to the quality of education provided by charter schools as compared to public schools.

Ms. Camnitz stated it was one thing to take our operational and capital funding; but when a charter school has no specified size limit, a home school with five students could declare themselves a charter school and receive money from public schools.

Mr. Forbes again stressed the retroactive reimbursement a charter school could receive from the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, and the fact that charter schools can exclude certain students from being registered and are not held to the same standards as public schools.

Ms. Williams asked Mr. Cowin for an estimate of the dollars we are sending to the two charter schools currently with Mr. Cowin responding over \$100,000 covering about one hundred students.

With no further discussion, Mr. Peaden asked for a vote regarding the proposed Resolution regarding Senate Bill 8 – No Cap on Charter Schools. There was a unanimous vote in favor of the Resolution.

Superintendent Beverly Reep then up-dated the Board on the next criteria for Unitary Status – Extra-Curricular Activities. Dr. Reep explained to the Board that there are two parts to this criteria – one is sports data that has been substantiated for the last ten years and can be placed in your Unitary Status Notebooks. She commented that if more than half the schools in the district participated in a sport, any school not participating will be highlighted on the data. Otherwise, Dr. Reep stated the information is pretty self-explanatory. She stated there are pretty clear definitions of how you make a team, how many are on a team, and other guidelines without a lot of vulnerability in the athletic arena by case studies.

The second section Dr. Reep distributed involves an extra-curricular survey which covers a wide range of materials between schools, even within the same grade level students. She stated this criteria should not be placed in your notebooks as it is still a study. Superintendent Reep feels case law demonstrates that districts have lost their quest for Unitary Status because of this issue. She explained that where there was a pattern of using subjective ways for students to join a club or be removed from a club, i.e. teacher recommendation, the district had vulnerability in achieving Unitary Status. When clear criteria is demonstrated, i.e. to get in the chorus – auditions, specified attendance record and other stated requirements – there is not a problem. The National Honor Society is our most glaring vulnerability stated Dr. Reep. In looking at the data, some of our high schools have moved away from teacher recommendation which is contraire to the National Association's Guidelines for the selection and induction of students into their Society. Dr. Reep commented that she would like input from the Board regarding implementing discussion by the Policy Committee or the need for formal action being taken as a district to ensure equity for students being accepted into extra-curricular clubs. She said there are hundreds of opportunities for students to be involved in extra-curricular activities which have no pre-requisites whatsoever - there are only 10% that are problematic where we need to say is this fair and equitable and make adjustments to the guidelines for student membership or removal. She did express hats off to South Central High School and J. H. Rose High School for the comprehensive data presented which serve as good models for other schools. Dr. Reep stated the data retrieved was not good historical information as many times too few students were involved, a volunteer coordinator may be involved one year but not the next, and various other issues were raised. Mr. Sean Kenny asked if there are clubs existing that are based exclusively on teacher recommendations for student membership. Dr. Reep responded that some schools demonstrate patterns that teacher recommendations are overall in club criteria. Mr. Kenny stated that he had asked could club policy be discussed at the next Policy Committee Meeting which will coincide with our current discussion.

Ms. Mary Williams stated regarding historical data mentioned, had the human resource factor of school counselors having a lot of influence on activities for students and in scholarships applied

for by students. Superintendent Reep commented that many schools' criteria are not accepted by the courts because there is not enough data to have set criteria for all students. Ms. Williams stated that many parents rely solely on guidance counselors for information and we need staff in our schools to do the right thing to enhance a student – from a student who wants to be an auto mechanic to a student who wants to be a brain surgeon. All parents do not have access or understand technology to find information on their own to help their child, and qualified staff in our schools need to lead these parents and students in the right direction to obtain a secondary education. Ms. Williams feels that we as a Board need to make sure that the folks we place with that kind of trust are doing the right thing by all our students. Dr. Reep commented on the ACES Program - Academic Counseling & Educational Support, implemented at J. H. Rose where 32 juniors were found that needed schedule changes to help them graduate with their cohorts this school year. Ms. Williams added that this is an example of what she's explaining to the Board and Pitt County Schools' staff; many students don't have parent support and a Program like ACES needs to be implemented in all six high schools to help students across the district. Mr. Worth Forbes stated there are many scholarships available to students, but many parents do not know how to access this information. He added that what's offered in one school, not being offered in all schools comes back to the principal. As an example, he commented that there may not be a teacher in a particular school who wants to be a sponsor for a specific club – therefore that club will not be in place at this school. That is when inequities come in – if the club is at one school, it should be offered in all schools stated Mr. Forbes and as a Board or administrator, we all should do a better job in this regard.

Chair Worth Forbes and In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg then shared with the Board an update following the Policy Committee meeting held March 14, 2011 when the drafting of a proposed Moment of Silence Policy and graduation policy requirements were discussed. Mr. Forbes stated that a draft policy for the Moment of Silence was on the table to be discussed. Because of confusion regarding the motion made involving the Moment of Silence on January 18, he stated that “Mr. Forbes then made a motion that the Policy Committee draft a policy requiring observance of a Moment of Silence daily for students and staff that follows the announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance beginning with the 2011-12 school year. The motion passed by a vote of eight to four. He also discussed that a survey regarding input from constituents and faculty regarding a Moment of Silence was taken with over 60% of our parents and 63% of our staff in favor of the policy. Mr. Forbes stated that in our last Policy Committee Meeting, Ms. Jennifer Little motioned that there be a change in the Moment of Silence policy making it voluntary in a school rather than required. A second was given by Ms. Christine Waters. Mr. Forbes further stated that with five Board members at the Policy Committee Meeting, Ms. Little and Ms. Waters voted for the motion and Mr. Billy Peaden and he voted against the motion. Board member Sean Kenny abstained which affirmed the motion. This action made it necessary to bring this issue before the full Board to make a motion to rescind the original motion made on January 18th.

Ms. Jennifer Little then entertained discussion stating that the process regarding the Moment of Silence stated above is correct. She commented that personally the original motion had come as a surprise and she wanted to do more research between whether or not it was mandatory, suggested, authorized or whatever as related to what other school systems are doing - protocol or policy. She stated for the record, she is not opposed to the Moment of Silence in our school

system in a suggested or authorized manner, but is opposed to it being mandated in all schools. Ms. Little stated she searched the DPI website studying data on the top ten achievement ranking school systems in North Carolina measuring success with graduation rates. She also looked at AYP data. Ms. Little thanked Attorney Sonnenberg and Mr. Forbes for homework done regarding the different counties using a Moment of Silence and discussed their findings. None of these schools are in the top ten for graduation rates or student success.

Ms. Jennifer Little then motioned, second by Ms. Christine Waters, that the original motion made January 18, 2011 regarding drafting of the policy mandating a Moment of Silence in all schools be rescinded and wording changed to suggesting or authorizing a Moment of Silence.

Discussion followed the motion as follows: Mr. Marc Whichard stated that information on the DPI website regarding the ten top districts omitted certain factors about the schools which could be misleading. He concurs with Mr. Forbes and feels keeping students quiet is a responsibility for a strong teacher and principal.

Ms. Waters commented that she voted at the Policy Committee Meeting for new direction in that five hours ago the survey was favorable for the Moment of Silence Policy, but many of the “yes” votes had reservations attached. She said she feels like the “Lone Ranger” in this group as a past long time classroom teacher, but she thinks this action puts teachers on the line and mandating the policy will not affect student achievement.

Ms. Barbara Owens added that “mandate” sends a negative message, though stated she had spoken with a teacher five hours ago who commented that the Moment of Silence was going well. She asked what will the school do with people who refuse to adhere to the policy if it is passed.

Mr. Forbes then reminded everyone that the original wording for the Moment of Silence is “required” not mandated. He also stated that if a student does not adhere to the policy, the Pitt County Schools “Student Code of Conduct” would be followed just as non-adherence to any other policy is handled. Mr. Forbes stated this statement will be added to the bottom of the Moment of Silence Policy if it is approved.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated she has a hard time thinking that a student will miss instructional time because he/she was in violation of the Moment of Silence and asked how does this proposed policy impact student achievement.

Ms. Mary Williams commented that she can understand the student achievement aspect, but also understands the behavioral aspect. She stated this moment of reflection could help many students and staff who make bad decisions in the blink of an eye. Ms. Williams added in thinking about performance, this moment may provide time to think about the difference in making a good choice versus making a bad choice.

Mr. Sean Kenny stated a policy needs to be all or nothing – providing consistency and consequences for actions to all students – and “required” should remain in place.

Mr. Whichard commented that if infractions occur, it would be like a principal asking students to be quiet during a performance. If the student fails to respond, the Student Code of Conduct is enforced. Mr. Whichard added that if we have gotten to the point where we can't ask for a Moment of Silence in our county schools, we are in far worse shape than what I had anticipated when I came on this Board.

Mr. Forbes stated the teachers he had spoken to felt this proposed policy is a good idea – providing the day to begin in a quiet and organized manner for students and staff. He added that Pitt County Schools is not in the top ten ranked schools academically and maybe this will help us gain academically with Ms. Little responding that there is no evidence to substantiate that.

Ms. Owens feels the manner in which the proposed policy is presented will make the difference. She feels holding the class responsible and asking students to comply should not be a burden.

Ms. Little again stated she feels teachers and principals asking students for a Moment of Silence is not a problem, it's mandating the policy that she has an issue with.

Mr. Benjie Forrest added that during his nineteen years in a classroom, he felt that life skills gave young people an opportunity to reflect before acting.

In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg then reminded everyone that the original motion was to ask the Policy Committee to develop a proposed policy that requires a Moment of Silence. The proposed policy will then go before the full Board for its approval.

Ms. Jennifer Little asked that the original motion be rescinded and that mandated be changed to authorized Moment of Silence. Chair Billy Peaden then asked for a vote by the Board: "Ayes" were Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Jill Camnitz and Ms. Christine Waters. "Nays" were Mr. Benjie Forrest, Dr. Matthew Ward, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Marc Whichard, Mr. Worth Forbes, Mr. Sean Kenny, Ms. Barbara Owens, Ms. Mary Williams and Chair Billy Peaden. Motion to rescind the original motion failed.

The second item discussed in the Policy Committee Meeting was the First Reading of Revised Policy 9.617 – Graduation Requirements. After discussion regarding students who turn 19 years of age in the same semester as they complete the credit requirements for a North Carolina diploma are eligible for graduation, Mr. Sean Kenny moved that the Board suspend the policy that requires first and second readings before taking a vote to approve a policy and move forward tonight with the revised Policy 9.617 Graduation Requirements as presented. Ms. Mary Williams seconded the motion. As discussion, Ms. Jill Camnitz asked is it critical that the Board move quickly on this revision and not follow our own policies as has been discussed previously. Ms. Cheryl Olmsted responded that the list of students has been identified though the students have not been informed. The procedures for this revised policy are being prepared in anticipation of possible changes. Superintendent Reep stated it was not crucial when strictly considering the Board's approval, but it would allow students two more weeks to build attendance issues by missing more days and not being able to make up the instructional time. She feels if students know they have an opportunity to graduate with their cohorts, they will not miss school.

Chair Peaden then stated we need two motions made.

Mr. Sean Kenny moved to suspend the Pitt County Schools' Policy requiring a first and second reading before taking action regarding said policy. Ms. Mary Williams seconded the motion. Ms. Camnitz stated the Board has talked before about the need to follow our own policy. She commented that she needed to hear a compelling reason not to follow our policy which Dr. Reep just supplied. Ms. Camnitz did add that she did not want to see the Board make a habit of not following the policy for first and second readings. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sean Kenny then moved, second by Bishop Ralph Love, that the Board approve revised Policy 9.617 – Graduation Requirements as presented. Ms. Little asked regarding a time frame for rolling out this revised Policy for staff and students. Ms. Olmsted stated she has a draft for procedures which will be shared with staff and then move forward. Motion passed unanimously.

Under Old Business, Superintendent Reep shared a Second Reading for the Open Enrollment Schools presented at the March 7th meeting:

Ayden-Grifton High School
Farmville Central High School
North Pitt High School
Ayden Middle School
Bethel K-8 School

With no further discussion, Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, moved that the Board approve the listed Open Enrollment Schools as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

As Comments, Superintendent Reep stated the PCAE gave away one hundred books recently to elementary students. She added that as she read to first graders at Eastern Elementary, the word “research” came up and she asked, “Do you know what “research” is?” One little girl raised her hand and said, “Yes, we use Thinking Maps to organize our research.”

Dr. Reep also congratulated the South Central High School Girls Basketball Team for winning the State Championship game in Raleigh. She also commented that the Boys Basketball Team did an awesome job in their performance.

Superintendent Reep thanked In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg, Interim Student Services Director Tom Daly, Student Services Specialist Beverly Roberson and school principals for hosting the four-member OCR Team as they visited many Pitt County Schools regarding student uniforms.

Dr. Reep also thanked Public Information Office Heather Mayo, Technology Director Jeff Smith and Coordinator for Instructional Technology/Media Services Tim DeCresie for their hard work putting together a video regarding the Teacher Leadership Cohort to be shown in all schools explaining the connection to achieving Unitary Status.

Chair Peaden reminded Board members of the Social event taking place at the Pig Palace Monday night, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. He also informed Board members that the regular meeting set for April 4, 2011 will be held at the South Central High School Cafeteria.

Mr. Sean Kenny thanked the AIG students, parents and staff who came tonight and shared Emodo with the Board. He also thanked Principal of Elmhurst Donna Gillam for her support of the program and commented that he enjoyed the monthly AIG newsletter sent out. Mr. Kenny also commented that it was not to be taken lightly when the Board suspended one of its own policies, but he felt the graduation policy approval was critical as this year is coming to an end. He also remembered the Sugar family and the tragic accident which occurred this past week.

Ms. Barbara Owens shared with the Board that she has had a wonderful experience going through 35 student applications regarding a scholarship.

Ms. Mary Williams thanked everyone for their cards, calls and prayers during her illness. She also reminded everyone of Latino Family Night at North Pitt High School On March 29, 2011 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Ms. Williams shared with the board that some D. H. Conley students visited the hospital recently speaking with patient and family members and sharing hamburgers with those who had not eaten. She also congratulated the South Central High School Basketball Teams.

Mr. Worth Forbes thanked Ms. Mary Robinson for all her efforts with the PCAE and advocating for teachers, and reported that some South Central High School students raised over one thousand dollars to send to the Japanese Relief Fund. He thanked Sgt. Cobum who heads up the Resource Officers and implements many positive programs within our schools.

Mr. Benjie Forrest thanked Ms. Tannis Nelson for her training on Parliamentary Procedure held before the Board meeting. He also stated the Elmodo presentation was great and he knew he was “not as smart as a fifth grader”! Mr. Forrest felt Principal Mike King’s discussion regarding an alternative diploma was exciting and innovative with a positive impact for students. He also thanked Mr. Michael Cowin for doing a great job of keeping Pitt County Schools in the black.

Ms. Jennifer Little informed everyone that she had visited Northwest Elementary where the principal and staff were gracious and working hard. She also thanked the TAG teachers and staff as she sat in during a training implementing teaching Latin which will be of benefit in years to come for students with vocabulary use. Ms. Little also believes the diploma discussed by Mr. King will be of great benefit across the district. In closing, she also congratulated South Central.

Dr. Matthew Ward congratulated South Central’s basketball teams stating the students and coaches did a great job. He also commented that he is glad we are helping students graduate and not drop out of school. Dr. Ward also added that he got home from New York about 4:00 a.m., had a busy day and thanked Ms. Jennifer Little for having supper waiting at the meeting tonight.

Ms. Jill Camnitz thanked Mr. Tim DeCresie for his leadership of the AIG Program and all staff for the hard work involved in organizing a great curriculum. She also stated that she and Ms. Christine Waters had judged at the regional Math Fair at E.C.U. which was well organized and

went like clockwork. Ms. Camnitz asked that capacity be added to the enrollment chart sent out earlier in the week and also wanted an update regarding the Student Services, K-8 Director positions.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated that he also would like to see capacity figures for the enrollment chart sent out in the packet this week. He added that policy suspension should be rare but at times is necessary – especially if it will save students from dropping out of school.

Bishop Ralph Love reminded everyone of the Human Resources Committee Meeting tomorrow at 4:00 p.m.

Bishop Ralph Love then moved, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, that the Board go into Closed Session to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the amount of compensation or other terms of an employment contract. [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (5)] Motion passed unanimously. Time was 9:13 p.m.

Upon returning to Open Session and with no further items for discussion, Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Ms. Christine Waters, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:06 p.m. Motion was unanimous.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Billy Peaden, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent