

DATE: May 3, 2010 PRESENT: Mary Grace Bright, Chair  
Jill Camnitz  
Benjie Forrest  
Jennifer Little  
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Barbara Owens  
Roy Peaden  
Marcy Romary  
Dick Tolmie  
Mary Williams

PLACE: Pitt County Office Building ABSENT: Michael Dixon  
Ralph Love, Sr.  
Billy Peaden

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

Ms. Marcy Romary led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Athletic Director Ron Butler and Principal of C. M. Eppes Middle School Charlie Langley then presented the Amy Carroll and Sherry Little Award recipient, Dr. Bob Dailey, Teacher/Coach from C. M. Eppes Middle School. Mr. Butler introduced members of the Sherry Little family and also Dr. Bob Dailey's wife, Robin, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth. He stated the Amy Carroll and Sherry Little Award is presented annually in recognition of an individual who has gone the extra mile in supporting physical education in Pitt County. Individuals nominated to receive this award were evaluated for outstanding professionalism in their teaching and unwavering support of physical education in Pitt County combined with dedication, enthusiasm and love of children. Mr. Langley stated Dr. Dailey has been a tremendous addition to his staff at Eppes. He stated in the last twenty years no one has supported physical education and athletics in Pitt County Schools more than Dr. Dailey, who is committed to the students and staff in our district.

Dr. Dailey thanked Mr. Butler, Mr. Langley and others for this honor which had been bestowed on him. He also stated he appreciated their support and the support of his peers. Vice-Chair of the Board Dick Tolmie presented Dr. Dailey with the Amy Carroll and Sherry Little Plaque and thanked him for his dedication to the students of Pitt County Schools.

Chair Bright then offered the Agenda for consideration. Superintendent Beverly Reep stated under Consent Items, there was an addendum to the Personnel Report and the Reappointments, Non-Reappointments and Career Contracts. Mr. Dick Tolmie, second by Ms. Mary Williams, moved the Agenda be accepted as adjusted. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no one present who wished to speak during Public Expression.

Under Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Superintendent Beverly Reep stated May 4, 2010 is National Teacher Day and in honor of all Pitt County Schools' Teachers, a Resolution has been written from the Board of Education in Recognition of All Pitt County Schools' Teachers in Celebration of National Teacher Day. Dr. Reep read the Resolution, which will be signed by all Board members, and thanked all teachers for

their hard work, going the extra mile, dedication and care for the students of Pitt County. She also informed everyone that Public Information Officer Heather Mayo had linked a Teacher Appreciation site on the Pitt County Schools' website and over 200 responses have been given regarding Pitt County Schools' teachers. On May 4, teachers will receive responses pertaining to themselves through GroupWise between 7:15-7:30 a.m. Ms. Mayo shared some of the comments regarding specific teachers with the Board to give examples of responses listed. Ms. Mollie McKeithan, Pitt County Schools' Teacher of the Year, and Ms. Mary Robinson, President of the Pitt County Association of Educators, were present in the audience. Ms. McKeithan came forward to accept the Resolution and stated, on behalf of all teachers, thank you for all the Board does for Pitt County Schools' staff and students. Ms. Barbara Owens moved, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that the Board approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jill Camnitz motioned, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Board approve the April 19, 2010 Minutes; the Personnel Report for May 2010 including Reappointments, Non-Reappointments and Career Contracts; and the Declared Surplus List. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, members of the Diversity Task Force presented a Recommendation to the Board of Education with a goal of promoting family engagement and enhance the home/school relationship.

Three major initiatives to reach this goal were presented by members of the Diversity Task Force.

- 1) Ms. Lilly Smith shared the first recommendation of Parent Ambassadors – Use Open Houses and Kindergarten Registration as two major district events to encourage parent involvement and recruit ambassadors. Celebrate parents as “first teachers” and provide strategies for parents to support student success.
- 2) Mr. Christopher Taylor explained the second recommendation of Nurture the Home/School Relationship – Produce a DVD, “On the Same Side”. This DVD will demonstrate how to effectively participate in a parent conference; to advocate for children; and how teachers and administrators can effectively diffuse difficult parent meetings. A flyer will be created to accompany the DVD which outlines who to contact in the district to work through various parent concerns.
  - DVD could be shown at Open House and distributed broadly within the community.
  - DVD will be shown to staff at school opening meetings.
- 3) Mr. Sean Kenny commented on the third recommendation to Collect Survey Data to Develop a Cultural Competency Plan-Develop and administer similar surveys to parents and staff to assess perceptions of acceptance and awareness of cultural diversity. Use survey results to develop a Cultural Competency Plan for PCS.
  - Surveys could be administered to parents at Open Houses and to staff at the beginning of the school year.

With several other members of the Diversity Task Force in the audience who introduced themselves, it was stated that the members enthusiastically set a goal of

working with parents and schools to build trust and foster an enhanced relationship which will benefit student learning.

Ms. Mary Williams thanked all members who were involved on the Diversity Task Force. She asked would this Recommendation be available in multi-languages with the answer being yes.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked would members of the Diversity Task Force stay and keep working to build this goal with the answer being yes.

Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that the Board approve the Recommendation presented by the Diversity Task Force. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bright thanked the Diversity Task Force for their hard work and positive enforcement for the students of Pitt County.

Chair Roy Peaden reported that Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu would present items related to the Facilities Committee Meeting and commented that a change in meeting dates was discussed to have Facility Committee Meetings prior to the Regular Board Meetings. Mr. Beaulieu then stated that a copy of the Facilities Committee Meeting Agenda and Minutes had been placed in the Board packet last Thursday. He commented that there were several items which need to be discussed and/or approved by the Board as follows:

1. As discussed in a previous meeting, there is a small triangular parcel of land which is needed to control the property all the way to Pennsylvania Avenue for the Sadie Saulter Project. He stated the owner, Mr. Crudie Bailey, would sell the land for \$3,000 with a written note that the property has a value of \$5,000 allowing him to write off a \$2,000 donation. Mr. Bailey will also prepare the paperwork regarding the offer for the land. Mr. Roy Peaden moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Board approve the purchase of this land. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. Beaulieu then informed the Board that the Pactolus Baptist Church would like to obtain .25 acres of land along Highway 264 which is surrounded by church property and a ditch. The land is of no use to the school system. He stated the Committee members are in agreement that the property has no value to the school district and instructed staff to work with the County to declare it surplus. They then asked that the County proceed to work with the church to obtain the land. Mr. Peaden stated the Committee saw no future insight where the school system would need this land and asked that the Board approve declaring it surplus to the County, who would work with Pactolus Baptist Church. Mr. Roy Peaden moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Board approve this land as surplus and declare thus to the County. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr. Beaulieu also stated that the Chicod sewer situation had been discussed at length and a proposed cost from the City of \$1,750,000 has been given plus design cost. He stated that he and Dr. Reep had received word from the County today that they have been awarded Rural Centered Grant Funds in the amount of one-half million dollars which may be used for this project with no payback or interest amount needed. He also stated that the April 30, 2010 deadline had been met for applying for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds, which may

also be an additional source of funding for this project. No action is needed from the Board, but Mr. Beaulieu wanted to share these developments for informational purposes and keeping the Board abreast of changes

4. The last item discussed with the Board by Mr. Beaulieu is the need for architectural services for Chicod, A. G. Cox and the bus garage. The Committee has recommended Mr. Jimmy Hite of Hite Associates to be the Architect of choice for the Chicod and A. G. Cox Phase II Projects. Not as architectural but as part of the Long Range Planning process, Mr. Beaulieu stated the Committee would like Mr. Hite to look at the cost of replacing the Bus Garage on a future site as well as the cost of renovating and updating the Bus Garage on the current site with feedback presented at the next Facility Committee Meeting. Mr. Roy Peaden, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, moved that Mr. Jimmy Hite be employed as Architect for the Chicod and A. G. Cox Schools' construction. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Beverly Reep stated to the Board that in preparing information for the Student Reassignment Timeline, OREd representatives who have gone back and looked at successful school districts with difficult issues in student reassignment plans, discovered that a presentation to all interested parties involved of an approximately four-hour explanation of the process and procedure for reassignment helps to form a strong baseline and understanding of this procedure producing positive results. Therefore, they asked, with agreement from the Board, to come in at some time in June spending a couple of hours with the Board and the public (with taping of the session to be shown extensively in the community) to walk through the actual process they use. By doing this step, on July 1 when the Board Retreat is held to present the reassignment recommendation, a good foundation will have been laid. Several dates were discussed with the Board that Mr. Mike Miller and possibly an associate could present background information and the process for reassignment before the established July 1 kick-off date. After brief discussion, it was decided to meet with the OREd representative/s June 7, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. A site will be selected which will be more conducive to a larger public meeting than the Board Room, and notification of the site and meeting will be advertised on the PCS website, the Daily Reflector, and all means possible to encourage the public to attend.

Policy Committee Chair Jill Camnitz and In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg then presented a revised policy for Second Reading:

1. Policy 2.301 – Public Records Requests (Revised)

There have been no further comments received regarding the policy changes since first reading. Therefore, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that the policy be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Beverly Reep shared several days after the Career Ready Commission Mr. Benjie Forrest discussed last week who had established six goals where Career and Technical Classes would be a valuable high school experience and help prepare students for post secondary education and/or training for career success, the Governor announced in her budget plan that she wants to substitute State funding for CTE with Stimulus funds. She stated when Stimulus funding runs out in a year, there will not be a steady revenue stream to fund the Career and Technical Education courses. Dr. Reep feels we need to keep bringing out these pieces of the budget that could in the end be incredibly detrimental to our students.

Dr. Reep thanked Ms. Mary Robinson and the PCAE for their efforts in making the Fund Schools First Rally a great success and a powerful tool in getting the word out about school budgets.

Superintendent Reep also thanked Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin for the concise and easily understood community budget guide he devised for anyone interested in Pitt County Schools funding/spending. There is also an electronic version of the guide available on our PCS website.

Dr. Reep stated Attorney Ken Soo has agreed to attend the May 17 Board Meeting to present an educational piece on Unitary Status which will be an Open Session for anyone wishing to attend. We will video tape Attorney Soo and share the details with the public so everyone will have a better understanding of Unitary Status and how we move forward from here. A timeline will be discussed for working on Unitary Status. Due to probable length of this discussion, it was decided to begin the May 17 Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room.

Superintendent Reep also stated she received an encouraging e-mail today congratulating students from D. H. Conley High School and E. B. Aycock Middle School on winning the State Math Competition in their respective categories, but also spoke highly of the students' incredible manners and how impressive they looked in their uniforms.

Dr. Reep congratulated all students who participated in Math Masters and thanked East Carolina University for allowing us to hold the event in the Murphy Center. She particularly thanked Coordinator of Instructional Technology/Media Tim DeCresie and his staff, TAG teachers and involved parents for their hard work and dedication to this event.

Chair Bright and several Board members reminded everyone to vote tomorrow and wished all running for office good luck.

Ms. Jennifer Little encouraged Board members to serve as a Senior Project Judge and stated it was a great experience. She also stated that the radio station where she works has a program called "Home Town Hero", and Ms. Mollie McKeithan had been nominated by a student and was selected for the honor next week. She also thanked Ms. Robinson for all her efforts for a great rally.

Mr. Dick Tolmie spoke regarding the Resolution to all teachers and thanked them for all they do.

Mr. Dick Tolmie then moved, second by Ms. Jill Camnitz, that the Board go into Closed Session to: consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against a public officer or employee. [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (6)]

Upon returning to Open Session with no business to discuss, Ms. Barbara Owens moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Board adjourn at 8:10 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