

Auditorium to accommodate an increased number of Board of Education members as compared to the number of County Commissioners. Mr. Elliott did ask that if the Board of Education decides to use the Auditorium on a permanent basis, that our Public Information Officer train with the County Public Information Officer over the next year so that Pitt County Schools can assume responsibility of the taping of the meeting and set up preparations. Discussion of selection of Board meeting nights was held by Board members with Mr. Benjie Forrest, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, moving that the Board of Education meet the first Monday night of the month in the County Commissioners' Auditorium and the third Monday night of the month in the Board of Education Board Room. Motion carried unanimously. Superintendent Beverly Reep stated that we will try to be better organized in that the Agenda items needing more public input or that are more controversial be discussed during the first meeting of the month in the County Commissioners' Auditorium as there is more available space and better broadcasting. She also asked Mr. Elliott to please convey thanks to the County Commissioners for their support to the Board of Education in this endeavor.

Chair Worth Forbes and Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu stated that the Facilities Committee Meeting scheduled for 5:00 p.m. today had been cancelled due to the detailed Agenda and earlier start time of the Board of Education meeting. Mr. Beaulieu shared with the Board information (enclosed in their Thursday Board Packets) regarding the process of closing a school per the Department of Public Instruction and General Statutes. He explained that a Public Hearing had been held February 21 for community input in regards to Third Street School, and that on June 20th, he spoke before the Board of County Commissioners regarding the property for which they voiced no interest. Currently, there are three steps regarding Third Street School which need Board approval. The first was that the Pitt County Board of Education declare Third Street School located at 600-700 West Third Street, parcel number 28933, surplus property. Mr. Worth Forbes, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, moved that the Board declare Third Street School surplus property. Bishop Ralph Love voted against this motion with eleven Board members voting for the motion.

The second step is that the Board of Education set a closing date for Third Street School. Mr. Beaulieu explained that the closing date for students at the school will be June 30, 2011 and the closing date for the building will be January 31, 2012. Ms. Mary Williams asked where the students who attended Third Street School will be housed. Mr. Beaulieu explained that August 17, 2011 has been set as the date for Certificate of Occupancy for revisions made at Sadie Saulter School and the Pre-K Program. Pre-K students will be housed at Sadie Saulter for the 2011-12 school year. The ALPHA Program and Central Office staff should be ready for occupancy in October or November according to schedule. Mr. Worth Forbes, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, moved that the closing dates for the Third Street School be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The last step discussed by Mr. Beaulieu was that the Board of Education set the date of Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. to receive sealed bids to sell Third Street School. He explained to the Board that upset bids are anticipated with the sale of Third Street School. Mr. Worth Forbes, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, moved that the Board approve the date of September 15, 2011 to receive sealed bids to sell Third Street School. Ms. Mary Williams voted against the motion with eleven Board members voting for the motion.

Chair Benjie Forrest stated a Finance Committee Meeting was held June 23, 2011 and informed the Board that a decision regarding imposing an annual Athletic Administrative Fee of \$20 for any student playing any sport/s, with a waiver provided for any student who would be economically challenged to pay this fee, will be delayed a year to allow Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin time to study the process and obtain more information as to what other school districts have in place related to this subject. Mr. Forrest then asked Mr. Cowin to share with the Board an update of the budget. Mr. Cowin presented a proposed Pitt County Schools 2010-11 Budget Amendment #3 with an increase of \$2.8 million for a total budget of approximately \$266 million for school year 2010-11. A detailed analysis of Budget Amendment #3 is attached to these minutes. Mr. Cowin commented that approximately 82% of the total budget is coming from operating funds (accounting for about \$217 million) with 98% of the Budget Amendment #3 increase representing the Chicod Phase I project as well as the State Department of Public Instruction allotment for the replacement of school buses. With no further discussion, Mr. Benjie Forrest moved, second by Mr. Sean Kenny, that the proposed Pitt County Schools 2010-11 Budget Amendment #3, a proposed 2011-12 Interim Budget Resolution to carry the system from the Fiscal Year 2010-11 into Fiscal Year 2011-12 and a Resolution of the Pitt County Board of Education Adopting a Plan of Action to Address Reductions in Funding in the State's Biennial Budget, 2011-12 and 2012-13 be approved by the Board as presented. Motion passed unanimously

Chair of the Policy Committee Worth Forbes and In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg updated the Board on the Policy Committee Meeting held June 13, 2011. Attorney Sonnenberg discussed the First Reading for revision of Policy 10.111 Student Transfers Within Pitt County Schools. Mr. Forbes stated that most of the changes made dealt with information which no longer applies to instruction within a school. Several Board members asked questions regarding transfers for exceptional children and siblings with Superintendent Reep and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services Cheryl Olmsted responding appropriately.

Mr. Forbes and interim Student Services Director Tom Daly discussed the Code of Conduct changes which were mandated by the State through House Bill 736 which prohibits zero tolerance policy explaining that at several instances in the procedure – where the word “shall” was used, now it has been replaced with “may”. Long-term suspension/expulsion can only be used for Serious Category IV Offenses. The principal of a school may articulate the paper work and proceed with a ten-day suspension with recommendation for a long-term suspension, but he/she cannot begin with a long-term suspension. The superintendent of schools may extend a long-term suspension into the first semester of the following year if the offense occurred during the last quarter of the preceding year. Mr. Daly explained in the new law that repeated unexcused tardies/early dismissals may result in a suspension of no more than two days. He also stated that the law encourages principals to find alternatives to a suspension from school for students.

Ms. Williams asked about a principal's discretion regarding his authority to suspend a child up to ten days for actions disrupting the school environment. Mr. Daly explained that any action beyond the ten days will need to be made by the superintendent.

Chair Marc Whichard and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services Cheryl Olmsted then introduced Federal Programs Director Sylvia Mizzelle who shared with the Board the proposed 2011-12 Title I Funding Budget for approval. Ms. Mizzelle explained details and set-asides of the \$6.8 million budget as attached to these minutes. Upon answering questions from several Board members regarding vendors, homeless students, uniforms, transportation, the poverty band and schools not spending all their Title I funds, Mr. Worth Forbes, second by Dr. Matthew Ward, made a motion that the Board approve the 2011-12 Title I Funding Budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ralph Love asked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Delilah Jackson to share with the Board information following a Conference Call last Friday with the Department of Public Instruction regarding the additional five instructional days of school as per HB200 and a waiver of up to five instructional days for:

1. The LEA or Charter school will use the waived instructional days for professional development on the new essential standards and common core.
2. The LEA or Charter school will request a waiver based on other considerations.

Ms. Jackson stated that everyone had been given a copy of the waiver, a revised Pitt County Schools Calendar for School Year 2011-12 (per NCGS115C-84.2) and a proposal for the 2011-12 Calendar Revisions. She explained the added five instructional days, changes in make-up days and revision of the teacher assistant workdays. Ms. Jackson also explained that with either option used, there will not be flexibility or time for parent conference days as early release days will be used for staff development. She added that the waiver will only be allowed in school year 2011-12. Ms. Jackson informed the Board that four days in our 2011-12 school calendar will be used in applying for a waiver – October 28, 2011, January 18, 2012, March 2, 2012 and March 23, 2012 with the reason being essential standards and common core staff development. She commented that the Race to the Top detailed scope of work will be attached to the waiver as proof that we will be doing professional development for teachers in compliance with the waiver. Ms. Jackson stated December 19, 2012 could not be considered as it is a student day. Time and funding for teacher training was discussed by Superintendent Reep. Ms. Jill Camnitz stated that if the waiver application is accepted, there will be more time to prepare for the five additional instructional days mandated by the State. Ms. Jackson stated if the waiver is denied, then the revised calendar as attached will be implemented. With no further discussion, Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, moved that the Board approve the Waiver Request from the 185 Instructional Days for October 28, 2011, January 18, 2012, March 2, 2012 and March 23, 2012 for professional development as described. If the waiver application is denied, she moved that the Board accept the Revised 2011-12 School Calendar as presented.

Mr. Sean Kenny asked regarding April 6, 2012 which is Good Friday and could an amendment be made to have no school on that date. Ms. Jackson explained that the School Calendar had already been approved at an earlier Board meeting for the 2011-12 school year, and schools will be open on April 6, 2012.

Ms. Mary Williams asked regarding the absence of parent/teacher conference dates. Ms. Jackson informed the Board that this will be studied for future years, but at this time with the calendar beginning and ending dates locked in by the State, there is no time to add dates for parent/teacher conferences. Under these circumstances, Ms. Williams stated she feels it's imperative that we

have policy or procedures in place mandating that principals and/or teachers return phone calls or e-mails to parents within a 72-hour period. Ms. Jackson commented that schools will have to be creative in setting up parent/teacher conferences with Dr. Reep adding that the parent/teacher conferences this past school year were very well attended and we need to find a way to feed them back into the new calendar.

Mr. Marc Whichard added that the legislature made this call – not school personnel – and though it looks good on paper, it is not wise in looking at the school calendar. He stated if this is going to become a requirement, the legislature needs to make adjustments in other directions.

Mr. Worth Forbes suggested that a curriculum night event be added in schools for parents/principals/teachers/students.

Superintendent Reep stated that we can't argue with the five additional days of instruction – but give school systems flexibility – possibly have two days for parent/teacher conferences and three full days of instruction. She also reminded Board members that Pitt County Schools already have the hours of time in our days as required and that will not be an issue for us.

Chair Peaden, then called for a vote for the motion and second regarding the Calendar Waiver or Revised 2011-12 School Calendar if such waiver is not approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Beverly Reep shared with the Board the last two criteria involved with achieving Unitary Status. She explained that this concludes pulling together data in a common format needed for Unitary Status. The first criterion discussed tonight was Student Achievement Data. Dr. Reep explained that the data provided was not new to the Board, just reorganized. If there is no information entered for a particular year, she stated that means no data was collected for that time span. Dr. Reep explained that in elementary grades, AYP as well as growth data are included. She reminded everyone that the sheets which are buff colored in the EOG and EOC section are years the State changed testing standards. AP course statistics are provided for the six high schools and the percentage of students who passed these AP courses is noted.

Ms. Mary Williams asked why was the AP information not broken down by race, and would it be difficult to obtain this information. Dr. Reep stated the data had not been collected by race and explained that college boards do not give statistical information by race.

Discussion regarding abbreviations used and changing EOG to EOC for middle school subjects that receive high school credit followed. Superintendent Reep asked all Board members to study the data and contact her for suggestions or corrections as this material will be presented to a Federal Judge, and we want the information to be correct and in an easy to comprehend format.

The second Unitary Status criterion introduced was Student Services data including Promotion/Retention, Attendance and Suspensions. Ms. Christine Waters commented that the high school promotion/retention data looked differently when compared to individual grade data and stated there are notable student absences.

Mr. Worth Forbes stated there needs to be a high school action plan to increase the number of honor and AP classes across the district. Superintendent Reep responded that with so many classes available on line, most classes are offered in all high schools. She added that should a class not be offered at a particular school, the student may attend the school where the class is offered.

Dr. Reep explained that the selected criteria resulted from In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg researching cases from other districts involved with Unitary Status and seeing what type of information the Courts had asked for. Superintendent Reep shared that Central Office Employees Loretta Grice and Carol Rankin were paid overtime to put the information together in the format provided – therefore keeping the materials in-house. These materials will be presented to Judge Howard in December, 2012, as well as strategies that have been put into place to address issues that have been found and to monitor which strategies are working and actually have an impact on closing gaps. Dr. Reep added that some policies may need to be addressed (i.e. extracurricular activities), but feels that we are in good shape time wise as we have a full school year to implement the needed changes. She explained that the information has been shared with Tharrington and Smith who are impressed with our efforts thus far. Superintendent Reep informed the Board that looking at this data over time is most helpful; and that at some future date, the Board might want to take action to make an annual commitment for collecting this data.

Ms. Mary Williams commented without good baseline data for specific years, how will the Board be able to check progress in tracking individual school information or the system. Dr. Reep stated some of the information we collect routinely and it's readily available; however, some data we had to put together ourselves to demonstrate if we have vulnerability. Our outside counsel asked us to obtain information over the last ten years – but sometimes, the data was not there to retrieve. Ms. Williams added that we need the numbers to compare or track progress. Dr. Reep stated that just in gathering the data we have, it is obvious to see some of our weaker areas and our strong suits. She ended by stating that we don't know how the Court will view our data; is it enough, or will they say there is more to be done before they say we are a unitary district.

Dr. Reep updated the Board on the status of School Resource Officers. She stated that as discussion for our budget began regarding our Resource Officers, we were going to drop from eleven to seven officers from the sheriff's department. Now with a revised contract, we will be able to retain nine resource officers in our schools. Dr. Reep further added that the district is looking at using part-time officers during the more critical periods of the day (i.e. lunch period). Since beginning the use of School Resource Officers, she stated the system has paid for SRO's vehicle maintenance/fuel and paid extra for game coverage or other events. Dr. Reep stated now, with the assistance of Sheriff Neil Elks, coverage for after school are included in the contract and the Sheriff's Department will cover maintenance/fuel for these vehicles. She expressed thanks to Sheriff Elks, Chair Peaden and Student Services Specialist Beverly Roberson for their cooperation and working together in order to provide Pitt County Schools more support than we had originally thought. Superintendent Reep commented that no one currently using SROs will be cut out – though hours may change.

Chair Billy Peaden began discussion with the Board regarding high school graduation ceremonies. He shared that Sheriff Elks asked about setting up a task force made up of members from the Greenville police department, the district attorney's office, the ECU police, the Board of Education, the sheriff's department and Ms. Roberson to study graduation and the most efficient manner to approach these ceremonies. Chair Peaden asked for a response from each Board member regarding their thoughts on the subject.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated the number of calls regarding graduation he has received shows a tremendous amount of concern in the community. He commented he likes the idea presented regarding a task force with different agencies involved. Mr. Forrest added that we need to be up front with the expectations of the audience as well as the students once a plan is selected. He informed everyone that at the graduation ceremony he attended, the issue was with the audience – not the graduates. Mr. Forrest feels the ceremony needs to be dignified as it's a lifetime event for a student.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated she concurs with Mr. Forrest and stressed the importance of communicating our expectations early and frequently. She added it is absolutely critical that students and families understand that consequences will be carried out if expectations are not met. Ms. Little feels graduation ceremonies should be respectful of the students involved.

Dr. Matthew Ward feels crowd control needs to be the focus as during his grandson's graduation, a member of the audience became agitated and pushed an elderly lady down.

Ms. Jill Camnitz agrees with what has already been said, but stated that graduation is "our event", and the first thing that needs to happen is that our policy committee needs to meet and define our expectations for graduation. Once our expectations are defined, then we should meet with outside agencies to help find solutions and avenues to implement these expectations. Chair Peaden concurred as he stated Sheriff Elks wants guidance from the Board of Education regarding graduation.

Ms. Mary Williams stated she agrees with Ms. Camnitz in that we need to set the standards as a Board and then look at ways for others to have input, but at the same time she does not want to "take the celebration out of graduation". She feels a lot of people go overboard with their actions, but wants everyone to be able to celebrate one of the proudest moments in a young person's life. Ms. Williams believes the Board can come up with expectations to have the ceremonies carried out in the right way, but also be enjoyable.

Bishop Ralph Love commented that he likes the idea of the task force with guidance from the Board of Education.

Ms. Barbara Owens feels the way to get these ideas implemented is to have the high school seniors and their parents "buy into it". She stated they need to be included in the core group because it all begins at home and in the school – then there could be a great celebration.

Ms. Sean Kenny stated he has received more phone calls regarding this issue than with any other since he's been on the Board. He stated families had phoned saying they could not hear their

child's name called because of the uproar of some members in the audience and missed their graduate's "special moment". He spoke of the responsibility of each person attending and how distraction by one student or from a group took away the celebration of many others. Mr. Kenny supports setting clear expectations for graduation in a policy with stated consequences. He added that the ceremony should be dignified as it is not an athletic function or block party – the party comes after graduation. Mr. Kenny stated he will be the first to volunteer to serve on a task force regarding graduation if one is formed.

Ms. Christine Waters stated she has attended graduations for 37 years and has never liked them. She commented that she will be second to volunteer to use her energy to make them right. Ms. Waters added that she would like consideration of giving seniors an opportunity to opt out of graduation just as is done for college graduations – which may be a way of helping crowd control.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated he was sorry to hear Ms. Waters did not enjoy graduations as he feels it's one of the most special times in a student's life, but we all have different opinions. Likewise, he feels graduation should be a dignified and classy event for the school system in show casing our students without parents celebrating in an inappropriate manner. Mr. Whichard commented that it's time to re-evaluate the process.

Mr. Worth Forbes stated as a high school principal, he used parking fund money to place a resource officer in each section of the auditorium during graduation. He also made it clear to every student and parents that they could talk, but it would not be disruptive for other classmates as the ceremony should be held in a dignified manner. Mr. Forbes feels we have allowed the disruptions to go too far and changing the atmosphere for graduation is going to be tough. He commented that the Board will probably take some "licks" the first couple of years, but removing folks who disrupt the service for others is necessary. Mr. Forbes also mentioned the possibility of reducing the number of tickets available for graduation.

Chair Peaden directed In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg and Policy Committee Chair Worth Forbes to work toward a policy for graduation as recommended. Once the policy is in place, then a meeting with the proposed task force to discuss ways to implement the policy for graduation ceremonies will be scheduled.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Beverly Reep informed the Board that student issues involved with the graduation ceremonies could be counted on one hand. She added that with 1,450 students graduating, not including the students involved with the wonderful efforts of the color guard, music and other activities, the students' behavior was outstanding. Dr. Reep commented that disruptive audience behavior not only occurs at graduation, but at band concerts, choral concerts or just folks getting up and walking out in the middle of any program which is disruptive to others. She feels audience behavior needs to have expectations for all school events – as these expectations will not magically appear during graduation ceremonies. Superintendent Reep asked that Student Services Specialist Beverly Roberson, 9-12 Director Chena Cayton and Public Information Officer Heather Mayo have a voice in this process as they work with all agencies mentioned and help coordinate the six graduation ceremonies.

Dr. Reep also remembered former PCS employee, Mr. Bill Grimm, and his awesome career. She stated it is a tragedy that the media has associated one event in a life-long, outstanding career of serving many, many children, especially exceptional children, in his role as first responder or teacher assistant. Superintendent Reep stated on behalf of our system, it didn't feel nice or respectful for someone who dedicated his life to public education and touched children in such a positive direction for the media to attach to his loss and to his family a tragedy - with this being another aspect of what his family is dealing with at this time. Dr. Reep expressed her condolences to the family.

Chair Peaden shared with Board members that he is establishing another Transfer Committee due to the high level of transfer requests for students submitted to the Director of Student Assignment Kay Weathington. One Committee will consist of Bishop Ralph Love - Chair, Ms. Christine Waters and Ms. Mary Williams. The second Committee will consist of Ms. Barbara Owens – Chair, Dr. Matthew Ward and Mr. Sean Kenny.

Mr. Sean Kenny mentioned the outstanding art display at the Greenville Art Center and encouraged everyone to go by and see it. He also commented on the valuable data presented regarding Unitary Status. In closing, Mr. Kenny shared several aspects of graduation proceedings and thanked Central Office staff for the work he sees as he's in the halls of our building and Dr. Reep for her leadership.

Ms. Christine Waters discussed legislative decisions and Mr. Cowin's direction with the budget. She added that she feels good about the Board working together and hopes this continues as we strive to improve the school system.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated that Cumberland County has an excellent graduation process put in place by former Superintendent Bill Harrison. He also congratulated Pitt County School employees who are under pressure from budget constraints for the student achievements demonstrated and progress made.

Mr. Worth Forbes commended students at graduation and the hard work that was accomplished. He also stated that the media portrayed Mr. Bill Grimm poorly and added that Mr. Grimm played a big role in changing many students' lives in a positive direction including his son. Mr. Forbes thanked classified folks (one with 47 years dedicated to our district) who came back to the system after retirement, were working part-time and had to be dismissed due to budget constraints.

Mr. Benjie Forrest announced that an Attendance Hearing is needed and will set up a date for the process. He also stated that students who have attended school for thirteen years without missing a day he felt should be recognized in some manner, i.e. a Perfect Attendance Award.

Dr. Matthew Ward stated he could not say enough about the Pitt County Schools staff and all the hard work that is accomplished. He commented that the information placed in Board packets is valuable and easy to comprehend. Dr. Ward added that he feels Superintendent Reep has worked hard to place principals appropriately in schools. He also shared thoughts regarding

graduation ceremonies and feels crowd control is necessary. In closing, Dr. Ward stated he feels Chair Peaden is doing a fine job in his position.

Ms. Mary Williams stated she feels Mr. Grimm will be missed. She also shared remarks regarding graduation and added that some statements made tonight caused negativity for students, but she congratulated each student for sticking it out and making his/her goal.

Bishop Ralph Love then moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that the Board enter into Closed Session to: 1) consult with our attorney to consider and give instructions concerning a judicial action titled Rhonda Everett, et. al. v. Juvenile Female 1, et. al. v. The Pitt County Board of Education, et. al. [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (3), and 2) 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)] Motion passed unanimously. Time: 8:22 P.M.

There being no further business to discuss, Bishop Ralph Love, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, moved that the Board adjourn. Motion was unanimous. Time was 8:43 P. M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Billy Peaden, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent