

DATE:	June 6, 2011	PRESENT:	Billy Peaden, Chair Jill Camnitz Worth Forbes Benjie Forrest Sean Kenny Jennifer Little Ralph Love, Sr. Barbara Owens Marc Whichard Mary Williams
TIME:	7:00 P.M.		
PLACE:	Pitt County Office Building		
		ABSENT:	Matthew Ward Christine Waters

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

Mr. Worth Forbes led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bishop Ralph Love then 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. Ms. Barbara Owens moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that the Agenda be accepted as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Two members of the audience wished to speak during Public Expression. The first speaker was Sergeant Cam Coburn who addressed the Board regarding the SRO Program within the schools. Sgt. Coburn stated he is speaking for Sheriff Neil Elks who desires that our educational needs be met in a secure environment. In the spirit of cooperation, Sgt. Coburn stated that our 23,000 plus students are protected with eleven SROs, and these Deputy Sheriffs received 550 calls for service during this past year, but professional services rendered prevented even more crimes from being committed. He also added that two supervisors, a DARE officer and two truancy deputies provide additional assistance and support to schools at no cost to the school system. Sgt. Coburn explained that clerks in the Sheriff's Office type up reports as follow-up to these calls because Pitt County Schools does not have the appropriate software installed to complete the mandated forms used by the Sheriff's Department. He explained that the total funding involved in the mentioned criteria is approximately one-half million dollars – all provided at no cost to Pitt County Schools. Sgt. Coburn briefly discussed the increasing challenge of finding a law enforcement officer who can balance the requirements of law enforcement with the task of being a servant to the needs of juveniles and become the expert in knowledge of juvenile law. He stated the Sheriff's Department looks forward to being a continued partner of Pitt County Schools.

The second speaker was Ms. Lida Cope who is a member of PAGE and addressed the Board with concerns regarding a cut to the AIG budget. She has two children at W. H. Robinson, one in the fourth grade and one in kindergarten. Ms. Cope stressed that the TAG and STRIDE

programs have helped her fourth grade son tremendously – keeping him challenged and intellectually stimulated. She stated that our country needs to catch up with the globally competitive world in the quality of public school education and have students ready for life in the 21st Century. Ms. Cope added that just as the exceptional children’s program provides special education to special needs students, the intellectually gifted children need to be educationally motivated as well. She closed by saying all children need to be nurtured and challenged with critical education skills; and though AIG has had large cuts in the past, with additional students being accepted into the program, the Academically and Gifted Program does not need further funding cuts. Ms. Cope informed the Board that AIG students have met the State goals for expected annual growth in academic achievement over the last three years in stark contrast to the previous years’ performance of the program.

For the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Assistant Principal Janarde Cannon at J. H. Rose High School introduced the ACES Team Clay Medlin, Monica Lassiter and Keith Gould who shared ACES-Academic Counseling and Educational Support, a program developed and implemented this school year to assist students in working through school related issues. Because of the rising rate of class failures, high absenteeism and decreasing graduation rates, during second semester these ACES counselors have worked closely with administrators, guidance staff and classroom teachers to monitor and mentor students with environmental disadvantages, chronic absenteeism and academic challenges. Using local remediation money, administration was able to hire additional counselors to be assigned to specific grade levels as indicated: Mr. Medlin works with Freshmen, Ms. Lassiter works with Sophomores, Mr. Gould works with Juniors, and Amy Barnwell works with Seniors as the Graduation Coach (shared with D. H. Conley and Ayden-Grifton High Schools).

Mr. Medlin explained how students targeted for the program include: made an F/F (made a passing numerical grade on the report card but missed too many days to pass the class) on his/her report card during the fall semester, failed one or more classes during first semester, promoted mid-year from C. M. Eppes or E. B. Aycock, struggling to complete Senior Project requirements, students placed on a Personalized Education Plan (PEP) because of more than four absences or below a 75 average and 11 G (11th graders eligible to graduate with their cohorts by passing their four regular classes and two to three extra classes on-line during the semester). Mr. Gould shared that 32 students had been identified in this regard with two of these transferring out and two having discipline problems which ended up being long term. The remaining 28 students’ transcripts were studied and schedules were revamped as necessary for graduation. They were monitored every other week as a group, every week individually regarding grades and attendance, and upon teacher referrals, were assisted by tutors and “study buddies” and monitored on-line classes with aid from Twilight Academy Coordinator Mike Lutz. It is anticipated that at least 20 of the 28 students will graduate this month.

Ms. Lassiter shared strategies used by the ACES counselors to produce such positive results including: secured grant money to stock the ACES room with supplies for students without adequate resources, established a mini-computer lab (five computers) to aid students in completing their research and papers for Senior Projects, communicated with guidance counselors, administrators, coaches, parents and classroom teachers, monitored attendance daily, monitored progress reports and report cards, surveyed transcripts, met with students individually

and in groups, provide options to make up missed time, worked out tutoring and “study buddies” schedules and posted flyers throughout the school to keep students updated on times and locations, implemented and coordinated “ECU tutors” most of whom were Teaching Fellows and held ACES Achievement Breakfasts at the end of each marking period to reward students for having all As, Bs and Cs or showing significant numerical growth from one report card to the next. Examples of positive results include: in the fall, there were 34 failures on the senior projects as compared to 9 for the spring semester, and the mid-year promotion students have been very successful adjusting to high school changes.

Several Board members expressed thanks to the ACES staff and Principal of Rose High School Charlie Langley for implementing this program using remediation funds which are allocated to all schools. Several asked could this program be shared with all schools stating this program had produced visible positive results. Ms. Lassiter added that building a relationship with the Freshmen class is a major factor which can be built upon at each grade level in high school. Mr. Cannon commented that this has been a great experience to witness as many of the students involved with ACES had no resources at home to enable them to complete their goals and were eager to be involved with their achievement. It was also stated that parents/guardians of the students were extremely supportive of the program.

Mr. Benjie Forrest asked would there be any follow-up for the eight students who would not be graduating. Mr. Gould stated that hopefully they will graduate in the fall. He added that all students could not pass the extra two to three classes they were taking during the spring semester (besides the required four), but students were grateful for the assistance with classes and time provided for making up absences. Mr. Gould also commented that the relationships built with the students were vital in the success of the program. Mr. Cannon expressed the team’s willingness to have any school staff meet with them to discuss the ACES program as success for all students is our goal.

Under Consent Items, Bishop Ralph Love, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, moved that the Board approve the Minutes from the Called and Regular Meetings held May 9 and May 16, 2011 respectively, the Personnel Report for June 2011, the reappointment of Dr. Peter Kragel to a four-year term on the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees beginning July 1, 2011, a list of Property to be Declared Surplus and a bid for 0.257 acres of land adjacent to Pactolus School. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Chair Benjie Forrest stated a Finance Committee Meeting was held May 19, 2011 and no official action was taken as a quorum of members was not present. He then asked Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin to share with the Board the two primary items discussed. Mr. Cowin presented a proposed Pitt County Schools 2010-11 Budget Amendment #2 with an increase of just over \$4.2 million providing a total amended budget of approximately \$262.9 million. A detailed analysis of Budget Amendment #2 is attached to these minutes including the Federal fund increasing by approximately \$3.6 million which is attributed to the Race to the Top Grant, even though these monies will be utilized over a three-year plan beginning with our next fiscal year. With no further discussion, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, that the proposed Pitt County Schools 2010-11 Budget Amendment #2 be approved by the Board as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cowin added that this

was another step in closing Fiscal Year 2010-11 with proposed Amendment #3 being presented at the next Finance Committee Meeting and to the full Board at the June 27th Board meeting after the last payroll for this school year has been completed and further adjustments made.

The second item Mr. Cowin discussed was a proposed redirection of Operational funding impacting facilities, athletics, field trips and other extra-curricular activities. Major criteria for increasing efficiency in the proposed Operational changes include: steps to minimize the use of all athletic ball field lights during the daylight savings period (Only groups/organizations who pay in full IN ADVANCE to Community Schools will be allowed to use lights during this period.), use of facilities, ball fields, and/or lights by non-school teams/organizations will no longer be allowed/approved unless the non-school sponsored team/organization has paid in full for the facilities, ball fields, and/or lights IN ADVANCE to Community Schools (a \$200 fine must be collected if team/organization does not comply with procedure), athletic department of each school MUST have on record documentation from Community Schools stating that the specified use has been pre-approved and paid in full, unnecessary lights currently being used during athletic events will no longer be available, PCS will ensure that the system is not paying the cost of utilities for community fields located on school property, schools will be charged the full State yellow school bus cost per mile for use of activity buses for field trips by the Transportation Department (\$2.70 currently but may change), high school student parking fee will be \$50 (\$10 increase to pay membership fee to NCHSAA – any extra money will be placed in the high schools' discretionary fund to be used by the high school as needed), use of activity buses for athletics and other scholastic competitions will be charged at a rate of \$1.50 per mile (up from \$1.25 per mile), high schools will no longer receive the Athletic Equity allotment (\$15,000 per high school totaling \$90,000 system wide) - \$45,000 will be used to offset the unreimbursed cost of transportation related to athletics and scholastic competitions and \$45,000 will be awarded among the high schools on a competitive mini-grant basis to be used for athletic needs in a school, and schools will no longer receive the local allotment for Principal Staff Development.

Mr. Cowin also discussed a proposed one time annual Athletic Administrative Fee of \$20 per student for any student playing in any sport/s with a waiver provided for any student who would be economically challenged to pay this fee. He stated that staff is currently working on this idea and contacting other school systems to obtain feedback on the proposal. Results will be presented at the next Finance Committee Meeting later in June.

Ms. Jill Camnitz had some questions regarding the difference in numbers one and two of the Operational Changes with Mr. Cowin responding that these criteria will work together, but during May – September/October if at all possible, lights will not be used unless an outside group has requested and paid for lights to be turned on. As days shorten, adjustments may have to be discussed – adding that possibly timers will be put on the lights to assist in this matter. Superintendent Beverly Reep gave an example of someone mowing a field using lights versus during the daylight where dollars will be saved.

Mr. Marc Whichard asked would number eight, which discusses the Athletic Equity allotment, have any impact on Title IX with Mr. Cowin responding that we are doing well overall – using this funding in schools that have the greatest need.

With no further questions, Mr. Benjie Forrest stated if the Board is comfortable with these proposed Operational Changes as presented, he would like to make a motion that the Board approve the redirection of Operational Changes Effective Fiscal year 2011-12 as presented. Second was made by Ms. Barbara Owens. Mr. Cowin stated that time is of the essence as he would like to go ahead and communicate the changes to principals to be sure lights are not inappropriately utilized, which will have a tremendous impact on our utility costs through the summer.

For discussion, Mr. Whichard asked if a projection per hour use of ball field lights had been made. Mr. Cowin stated an hourly rate had not been determined, but a savings of over \$100,000 annually has been projected for implementing the described criteria – which does not include the possible \$20 fee/student mentioned.

Chair Peaden asked regarding the \$200 fine discussed in item #2, who will be accountable in determining compliance. Mr. Cowin stated Community Schools and Recreation will work with the principals in implementing this procedure, and that we will do all we can to be sure this is carried out correctly and consistently. Dr. Reep added that until timers are placed on the lights, this will be hard to control. As an example, she stated if a Little League Ballgame ends at 9:00 p.m. and a principal is not at school, it's not his job to watch the light usage. Mr. Cowin stated that this is a beginning and further work will have to be done – adding that a form or specific identification will be placed at the field to verify rules are followed. Superintendent Reep commented that the public will actually see the cost of using lights during an event and realize that the school system can no longer provide these services at no charge.

Mr. Sean Kenny stated he wanted to go on record that a \$20 annual Administrative Athletic Fee is very low for participating in sports at a school. He expressed thoughts from self-experience playing sports and the cost of doing so.

With no further discussion, Chair Peaden stated a motion had been made and seconded to approve the Operational Changes Effective Fiscal year 2011-12 presented and called for a vote by the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Under Unfinished Business, Chair of the Policy Committee Worth Forbes and In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg presented the second reading of Policy 9.003 Moment of Silence. Mr. Forbes stated the correction mentioned (conducive) at our last meeting was made and no other feedback from the Board has been received. He commented that he appreciated the Committee's work on this policy as it had been a long process with wording changed in several instances. Without further discussion, Mr. Worth Forbes moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that the Board approve Policy 9.003 Moment of Silence as presented effective for the 2011-12 School Year.

Mr. Sean Kenny stated he does not think the Moment of Silence Policy is a bad idea, but he cannot support it at this time. He stated we are seeking Unitary Status and feels this policy could put us in litigation if a child is suspended for violating the policy, which will not help us with Unitary Status. Ms. Jill Camnitz also commented that she cannot support the policy with the

wording of schools being required or directed to implement the moment of silence. Ms. Barbara Owens asked if the wording was changed, could she accept the policy and what wording she would recommend. Ms. Camnitz stated she felt the wording should be changed to schools being allowed or encouraged to implement the Moment of Silence Policy. Chair Peaden then asked for a vote by the Board to accept the Policy as presented. Those for the Moment of Silence Policy as presented were: Mr. Benjie Forrest, Ms. Mary Williams, Mr. Billy Peaden, Bishop Ralph Love, Mr. Worth Forbes and Mr. Marc Whichard. Those who voted against the Policy were: Ms. Jennifer Little, Ms. Jill Camnitz, Ms. Barbara Owens and Ms. Sean Kenny. Motion passed.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Beverly Reep congratulated the D. H. Conley Girls' Softball Team for winning the State Championship. She also spoke regarding the Sadie Saulter Celebration held last Saturday and thanked Board member Mary Williams for being there. Dr. Reep stated many alumni – staff and students – were on hand to share stories and mingle with the current staff at Sadie Saulter. She stated that it has been an emotional year with the closing of the school and thanked Principal Genea Kornegay and Ms. Pat Clark for their hard work regarding the Celebration and in packing up the school for its closing.

Superintendent Reep thanked everyone for attending Governor Beverly Perdue's visit at Lakeforest today speaking about education and the budget. Dr. Reep stated the latest information regarding the budget passes the burden to the local educational agencies as how to handle cuts mandated by a large reduction in State funding which will in the long term impact the classroom. Dr. Reep thanked Public Information Officer Heather Mayo (who was called last Friday and told that the Governor was coming today), Lakeforest Principal LaVette Ford and Facility Services for the fast work in preparation for the Governor's arrival.

Dr. Reep stated that a revised 2011-12 School Calendar will be presented at the next Board meeting, June 27th, as five student instructional days have been added by the State to the school calendar year. She informed the Board that financially, the teachers are already being paid for five protected teacher workdays which are being converted to use for instructional time. The feeding and transportation of these students will be the additional cost items and stressed communicating all this information to parents. Superintendent Reep stated up front that there is not enough time to reconvene the Calendar Committee and go through this process while managing the budget. She reported that staff will prepare a revision of the 2011-12 School Calendar for Board approval.

Dr. Reep reminded all Board members to hang up their graduation robes tonight or they will look like "wrinkled raisins" Friday and Saturday at the graduation ceremonies. She pleaded with everyone to attend the graduations as they are the collective hoorahs of all the blood, sweat and tears that have gone on over the past thirteen years – i.e. the ACES program students who will be able to walk the stage and graduate with their cohorts after believing they were juniors at the end of first semester this school year.

Chair Peaden shared that Board members have been invited to attend the County Commissioner meeting June 20th at 6:00 p.m. as attorneys will be present to discuss the electoral redistricting

mentioned at the previous meeting held at D. H. Conley. He also thanked County Commissioner Tom Johnson for his presence tonight.

Chair Peaden stated that Superintendent Reep had discussed the fact that we will have a long Agenda for our next Board meeting, June 27th, and asked could we dispense with Board training and begin our regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. A consensus of the Board was given.

In closing, Chair Peaden informed the Board that Senator Louis Pate called him at approximately 6:30 p.m. this evening informing him that Senate Bill 260 is on schedule for presentation tomorrow at 12:00 p.m. in Raleigh. Chair Peaden invited anyone wishing to attend the committee meeting to contact Attorney Sonnenberg or himself. He informed the Board that Attorney Sonnenberg will speak on behalf of the Board regarding past meeting dates and voting results pertaining to this issue.

Bishop Ralph Love thanked Dr. Reep, Chair Peaden and Board members for their concern, calls and prayers during his recent surgery. He told everyone he's doing well and is happy he's back in his seat on the Board. Bishop Love commented that he's very disappointed in Senator Pate's proposed Bill 260 and in the Chamber of Commerce for not supporting the wishes of the Board of Education. He still plans to carry out his plans as stated during a telephone conference at our last meeting, and thanked the County Commissioners for following the Board of Education in redirecting their membership funds from the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Barbara Owens stated she had a Farmville Middle School Remediation Mentor call and say her group had not done well on testing, but one child had a growth of 14 points which showed success after remediation.

Mr. Sean Kenny congratulated graduating seniors in all high schools and stated graduation demonstrates the combined efforts of every Pitt County School employee, students and their families. He also expressed thanks to Principal Charlie Langley at J. H. Rose High School for his daily efforts in our school system.

Lastly, Mr. Kenny shared his feelings regarding a former student, Riley Philpot, whom he had coached and expressed her love for playing soccer and the love she had for her team mates. He stated her faith and the faith of her family is inspirational and through their faith, Riley's Army was formed, which provides help in many forms to those families caring for children with cancer. Through a relationship with the Philpots, Mr. Kenny commented that his faith is not checked at the door, but his faith is who he is and stated Pitt County Schools is a better place because of Riley, the Philpot family and their faith.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated that he and Governor Perdue are about as opposite politically as what you can possibly be, but he does agree with the Governor in that the small children are going to have great difficulty with this budget. Mr. Whichard stated that for the Pre-K children, particularly those touched by Special Education, the budget is most troubling. He commented that he feels a great problem is that politics far too often bleeds over into education, and it's sad when someone discusses a campaign promise and forgets the best education possible for our children. Mr. Whichard hopes that our young children will not have to pay a price for someone's

politics and feels our kids are worth one cent, or at least one-half cent, that we could have put back in a sales tax which would have supported and saved positions and provided a great deal for our students.

Mr. Worth Forbes also congratulated our seniors on graduation and commented that this is one of the first major steps they take in their lives. He then thanked the Board for passing the Moment of Silence Policy and stated he appreciates the members who did not agree with the policy as changes involved made it a stronger policy. Mr. Forbes commented that the program discussed at J. H. Rose is wonderful and shows money has been well spent in helping students.

Mr. Forbes stated he also has spoken with Riley Philpot's mom and told her that Riley's legacy will continue forever, as well as the impact of Riley's life and her family on the school system, the community and across the state.

Mr. Forbes commented that he's concerned about the number of cases that have been brought to NCAE regarding principals and teacher evaluations with inconsistencies involved. He stated this will be addressed more in Closed Session.

Ms. Mary Williams stated she is really impressed with the ACES Program and hopes we can work together with other schools throughout the county to get the program funded and implemented.

Ms. Williams also congratulated all graduating seniors and added that her last one will be graduating – her nephew, Cameron, will graduate from North Pitt High School. She thanked all staff at NPHS for the excellent job they do and shared that she will be an “empty nester” in September!

Ms. Jill Camnitz commented on Mr. Whichard's remarks regarding the effect the budget will have on children next year and stated the damage looks frightening.

Ms. Camnitz stated she had to say publically that regarding the information received on Central Office positions, we are very lean in our core staff as compared with other districts. She also added that what the Central Office staff accomplishes is most impressive.

Ms. Camnitz commented that at the Retirement Ceremony last week, there are always mixed feelings – happiness for those who are walking out the door with their accomplishments, but sadness in seeing the knowledge and experience leaving the classroom.

Ms. Camnitz also congratulated D. H. Conley's Softball Team. She added that she dropped by the Greek Festival held by AIG last week, and it was wonderful to see students engaged and enthusiastic in their festivities – including their awesome togas.

Ms. Jennifer Little congratulated the Conley Girls Softball Team, graduating seniors and Ms. Cherry as the new Principal at South Greenville Elementary. In regards to the ACES Program, she stated it is a creative way of teaching and helping kids and she applauds the whole program

with their one-on-one contact. Ms. Little commented that Principal Langley is doing a great job and this is another example of the great ideas coming out of our county.

Mr. Benjie Forrest congratulated D. H. Conley's Girls Softball Team on the State Championship as well and added that the 40th year celebration for D. H. Conley was a tremendous success with between 300-500 people attending. He thanked everyone who had any part in these activities for their extra efforts. Mr. Forrest stated that he's looking forward to attending several of the graduations and spoke of redirecting \$1.2 million of local funding back into the classroom in such tough economic times under the direction of the Board and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin. He also thanked the Pitt County Board of County Commissioners for their working relationship stating that in a crisis, the Boards work together to accomplish great things for the district. Mr. Forrest also welcomed Bishop Ralph Love back adding that many prayers have been said on his behalf.

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 Pitt County Board of Education v. Adrian A. Garcia [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: 8:28 P.M.

There being no further business to discuss, Bishop Ralph Love, second by Mr. Worth Forbes, moved that the Board adjourn. Motion was unanimous. Time was 9:50 P. M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Billy Peaden, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent