

DATE: August 1, 2011 PRESENT: Billy Peaden, Chair
Jill Camnitz
Benjie Forrest
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Jennifer Little
Ralph Love, Sr.
Barbara Owens
Matthew Ward
Christine Waters
PLACE: County Commissions' Auditorium Marc Whichard
Mary Williams

ABSENT: Worth Forbes
Sean Kenny

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 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. He specifically mentioned past Board Member Dick Tolmie's family.

Chair Peaden introduced Pitt County Deputy Clerk Sarah Radcliff who provided a brief orientation of using the County Commissioners' Auditorium and the process of electronic voting for our Board members.

Chair Peaden then offered the Agenda for consideration. Mr. Marc Whichard, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, moved that one additional item regarding human resources be added in Closed Session. Though there were some technical difficulties with the electronic device for voting, motion passed unanimously.

No one present wished to speak during Public Expression.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jill Camnitz, second by Bishop Ralph Love, moved that the Board approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held June 27, 2011, the Personnel Report for August 2011 and a list of Property to be Declared Surplus. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg introduced Pitt County Attorney Janis Gallagher who briefed the Board on map changes regarding voting districts following the 2010 Census. She shared that the Board of County Commissioners had viewed a draft of Map 1-A in June 2011, but decided another map was needed as Map 1-A contained too many variants from the existing voter district map. In July 2011, the Board of County Commissioners saw a draft of Map 1-B, which demonstrated fewer changes of the existing voter district map, and released it for public review and comment. Attorney Gallagher reviewed the Equal Protection Clause which requires that districts be substantially equal in population (one person/one vote) and to determine equality among districts, the "10% rule" is applied. She stated for Pitt County, the

10% rule takes the total population (168,148) divided by our six (6) districts equals 28,025 citizens per district average. When we compared this to the actual citizens per district, there was a deviation of 35% between the greatest population in a district and the least population in a district. The law allows a 10% deviation, thus voter redistricting is being carried out. The two primary working assumptions to comply with the law are the Equal Protection Clause as described and the Voting Rights Act, which assures it will not be more difficult for minority voters to elect candidates of their choice. The secondary working assumptions are protection of incumbents, development of compact districts and use of existing voter districts and precinct boundaries when possible and practicable.

Ms. Gallagher introduced Mr. James Rhodes who compared Map 1-B with the existing district map and shared details of what boundary sections were taken from one voting district and added to another voting district to help Pitt County meet the primary and secondary working assumptions as shared above. The resulting deviation in changes made seen on Map 1-B is 2.2%, which is well within the mandated “10% rule”. Mr. Rhodes stated the most challenging factor in this process was keeping the 21 incumbents (9 County Commissioners and 12 Board of Education members) in their current districts.

Mr. Rhodes stated there are five Public Input Sessions scheduled for review of the proposed 1-B Map as follows:

Thursday, July 28, 2011 – Town of Winterville, Town Assembly Room
Tuesday, August 2, 2011 – BCC Auditorium, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville
Thursday, August 4, 2011 – North Pitt High School, Auditorium and Gym Commons Area
Monday, August 8, 2011 – Farmville Town Hall, Courthouse
Tuesday, August 9, 2011 – Ayden-Grifton High School, Cafeteria.

Mr. Rhodes stated the meetings will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a brief staff presentation scheduled for 6:00 p.m. He also informed everyone that the information is posted on the Pitt County website as well as OPIS for anyone who wishes to monitor the property lines being affected by the voter redistricting.

In closing, Mr. Rhodes announced a Public Hearing will be held August 22, 2011 followed by a proposed Resolution being drafted involving Map 1-B and/or changes made which will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. He stated this Resolution will still be sent to the Department of Justice for approval with a 60-day turn-around period. The goal is to hopefully have approval by mid winter as filing for an office begins February 13, 2012.

Board members asked several questions regarding specific neighborhoods, street boundaries or townships being selected and resulting minority percentages with Mr. Rhodes responding accordingly. He also added that known growth areas were factored into the boundary changes. Further updates will be shared with the Board as the process continues.

Chair of the Educational Programs and Services Committee Marc Whichard stated that at the July EPS Committee Meeting, a good discussion was held regarding two subjects – exam exemption and senior projects. Assistant Superintendent of EPS Cheryl Olmsted then explained

that the proposed exam exemption plan is similar to the plan used in 1994 with absences, school sponsored events, late enrollment and other criteria being involved. She commented that the proposed plan will now be forwarded to the Policy Committee for further evaluation.

Senior Project was the second item discussed by the EPS Committee. There was concern from the Committee members that the Senior Projects take away a great deal of teaching time from the English IV Curriculum, as well as there being inconsistency in the six high schools regarding requirements for Senior Projects. Other problems shared were the large quality differences in projects completed by advantaged students and those completed by disadvantaged students, finding mentors, the form used when judging/grading the projects and the weight the project carries in the final English grade for a student. Discussion was held among Board members as Superintendent Beverly Reep and Ms. Olmsted informed them that after just returning from a Race-to-the-Top Training with insight into the increasing rigor of the Common Core and Essential Standards, the Board and staff should not be hasty in dropping a program and having to implement something similar in a very short time period. Ms. Olmsted stated that this information will be sent to the Policy Committee for further evaluation.

Ms. Olmsted discussed Testing and Accountability data with Board members. She shared that all but three of our thirty-six schools made growth with many making high growth. Ms. Olmsted then presented a skit demonstrating the difference between the State ABC accountability model and the adequate yearly progress (AYP) measurement under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. No Pitt County School achieved AYP in all nine subgroups, thus it was believed that Choice to another school would not be an option this year. Upon further investigation, it was stated that Choice will be implemented with the option for parents to send their children to a school that made AYP the year before and is not under sanction. Superintendent Reep did advise everyone that the State Superintendent June Atkinson is requesting a waiver from AYP measurement of the No Child Left Behind Act and if granted, the district will no longer have to provide transportation for transfers through Choice, but the child may remain at the school of Choice if transportation is provided. Choice letters (which include a statement stating that if North Carolina receives the waiver as mentioned, the district will not provide transportation of students to a Choice school) will be mailed this week.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated No Child Left Behind is unfair as the bar for meeting the AYP score jumped this year and will soon be at 100%. He added that this is deflating to the student as well as the teacher as everyone works diligently in reaching a goal.

Dr. Reep also reminded everyone that Standard 6 has been added to the Teacher Evaluation Instrument and Standard 8 has been added to the Principal Evaluation Instrument so that their growth will be demonstrated.

In-House Attorney Rob Sonnenberg reported to the Board that Chair of the Policy Committee Worth Forbes is out of town and reminded everyone of the Policy Committee Meeting August 8, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room. He stated that he had received no further questions regarding the Second Reading of Revised Policy 10.111 – Student Transfers Within Pitt County Schools. Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Mr. Marc Whichard, that Policy 10.111 be approved by the Board as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ralph Love asked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Delilah Jackson to update the Board regarding Pre-K changes and a reduction in force for Exceptional Children positions. Ms. Jackson explained that a reduction in funding for Pre-K has occurred as well as the Pre-K Program has been moved from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Health and Human Services. She stated for Pitt County Schools, this was a reduction of eleven positions – four teachers and seven teacher assistants. Ms. Jackson informed the Board that one teacher resigned, one teacher retired, one teacher was moved to a kindergarten teaching position as she was certified in this area and one teacher was cut. Regarding the teacher assistant positions, Ms. Jackson explained that due to additional funding last year, there had been two TAs in a Pre-K classroom, but that number had been reduced to one for the 2011-12 school year.

Regarding the RIF in Exceptional Children positions, Ms. Jackson stated a reduction of \$1.2 million has occurred through loss of ARRA/ Federal Stimulus funding. With the loss of 52 positions, she explained that 39 have been placed at other job sites and the other 13 will be placed this month. Ms. Jackson emphasized that positions were reduced, but not people – unless they did not meet performance standards. She stated these employees were used to fill vacancies from retirement, relocations, change of occupations or other reasons.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked with a \$1.2 million reduction in funding, are we serving less children. Ms. Jackson stated no, we are serving the same number of children with revamping of programs.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated he has received a number of calls regarding this reduction; but from what he had just heard, these people will be employed in some capacity. Ms. Jackson responded yes, adding that student needs have to be met and positions may be added.

Under Comments by the Superintendent, Dr. Beverly Reep reminded the Board of the Dropout Event occurring at the Goess Center at Pitt Community College August 3 at 10:00 a.m. She shared that ECU Football Coach Ruffin will be the keynote speaker, thanks will be given to our sponsors who contributed to the program in 2009 and updates of the Twilight Academy and Project Equal will be presented. Superintendent Reep added that 141 students graduated with their peers through credits received while participating in the Twilight Academy, 28 students graduated due to the recent Board policy change for students meeting the State requirement of receiving 21 credits by the age of 19 and Project Equal has greatly lowered out-of-school suspensions.

Dr. Reep also discussed conversations regarding retire/rehire employees and stated this only occurred when no one else qualified for a needed position, i.e. part-time Spanish high school teacher. She added that the Chair had asked for an update on retired employees who have been rehired and stated this will be sent. Superintendent Reep also stated that an update regarding data from the three SIG high schools will be presented at our next Board meeting.

Superintendent Reep reminded everyone of Open House August 23, 2011. She also stated December 19 is now a student school day with revision of the calendar and the other added student days have been waived for the 2011-12 school year to be used for staff development involving the roll out of the new Common Core and Essential Standards sent by the State.

Dr. Reep complimented the School Improvement Team in our new elementary school, Lakeforest, for already meeting this summer and developing a vision/mission statement for core beliefs and sending this out to staff for feedback. Also, the Teacher Leadership Cohort is moving ahead in the fall and will be implemented at Northwest, Pactolus, South Greenville, Lakeforest Elementary Schools; Wellcome Middle School and hopefully Belvoir Elementary School will be added before school starts. She added that no one was forced to make a change in location, and though the number of teachers being placed in these schools is less than first anticipated, we will be able to be in compliance with our efforts in moving forward with Unitary Status.

Superintendent Reep also echoed Bishop Love's comments regarding former PCS Board Member Dick Tolmie and stated she fondly remembers his enjoyment of a good argument. She stated that he made us think, and felt that his motive in asking questions was to make us a better school system. Dr. Reep sends her condolences to his family.

Chair Peaden shared with Board that he and Dr. Reep had met and selected representatives for the Graduation Task Force. These members include:

Barbara Owens, Chair – Board Member
Mary Carter – High School Principal
Billy Peaden – Board Member
Maurice Harris – High School Assistant Principal
Sean Kenny, Vice-Chair – Board Member
Heather Mayo – Public Information Officer
Cheryl Olmsted (or new 9-12 Director) – Educational Programs and Services
Beverly Roberson – Student Services Specialist
Rob Sonnenberg – In-House Attorney
Matthew Ward – Board Member

He stated that we also plan to have a student representative from each high school from the Student Advisory Council or Student Government Association and a parent representative from each high school – possibly the PTA President or booster club president. Chair Peaden emphasized that their goal is to have a plan by January 1, 2012.

Ms. Christine Waters informed everyone that she had attended a conference this summer regarding bullying and has shared this information with Superintendent Reep. She stated the speaker had been bullied when she was young and presented helpful information in many aspects of bullying.

Mr. Marc Whichard stated staff presentations tonight were great and thanked Ms. Olmsted for the very useful information. He added that he feels the system is definitely broken in terms of assessment of how schools are performing from the Federal Government's perspective. He also applauded Ms. Jackson in saving jobs when positions were reduced due to budget cuts.

Ms. Barbara Owens stated she will miss Mr. Dick Tolmie's wisdom and caustic wit and also mentioned past Board members Mr. Delano Wilson and Mr. Michael Dixon.

Ms. Jill Camnitz complimented Ms. Olmsted on the clearest presentation between ABC growth and AYP measurement she has witnessed, and added that the double standards have to be frustrating for our principals and teachers. She also informed the Board that she has a newspaper article regarding school attendance that she will give to Administrative Assistant Brenda Pippin to copy and place in each Board packet this week as the Policy Committee will begin discussions regarding exam exemption and senior project. Ms. Camnitz emphasized that she feels Mr. Tolmie's decisions as a Board member were always based on what he felt was right for the students of Pitt County.

Mr. Benjie Forrest expressed deepest sympathy for the family of Mr. Dick Tolmie stating that he really enjoyed serving with him the two years they were on the Board together. Mr. Forrest also thanked the Chair for moving quickly regarding the Graduation Task Force.

Ms. Jennifer Little thanked Public Information Office Heather Mayo for posting the revised School Calendar for 2011-12 on the website and other areas so quickly. She stated that she knew Mr. Tolmie was crunching numbers with pen and paper up in heaven with some of the other angels. Ms. Little stated he will be missed as he supported the Board for many years and she sends her condolences to the family.

Bishop Ralph Love then moved, second by Dr. Matthew Ward, that the Board enter 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: 8:20 P.M.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:47 pm.

Bishop Ralph Love then moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that the Board enter 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)] Two members opposed this motion: Ms. Jill Camnitz and Ms. Barbara Owens. Motion passed.

There being no further business to discuss, Bishop Ralph Love, second by Dr. Matthew Ward, moved that the Board adjourn. Motion was unanimous. Time was 9:03 P. M.

Respectively Submitted,

Mr. Billy Peaden, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent