

DATE: June 28, 2010 PRESENT: Mary Grace Bright, Chair
Jill Camnitz
Michael Dixon
Benjie Forrest
Jennifer Little
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Barbara Owens
Billy Peaden
Roy Peaden
Dick Tolmie
PLACE: Pitt County Office Building Mary Williams
ABSENT: Marcy Romary
Ralph Love, Sr.

Chair Mary Grace Bright called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session at 7:00 P.M. She expressed sympathy for the family of former Board of Education member, Delano Wilson, and asked for a moment of silence.

Mr. Benjie Forrest led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Bright then offered the Agenda for consideration. Mr. Dick Tolmie, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, moved the Agenda be accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Two members of the audience wished to speak during Public Expression. The first was Mayor Steve Tripp, representing the Ayden Board of Commissioners and citizens of Ayden, stating they are tremendously proud of all three schools in the Ayden Community. He commented that Ayden Elementary had been recognized as a Positive Behavior School and has had enhanced End of Grade test scores for the last three years. Ayden Middle School met high growth in 2009, was one of four pilot schools to receive \$20,000 in technology grants and Principal Seth Brown was named Principal of the Year in a ceremony this past spring. He stated Ayden-Grifton High School is a School of Progress meeting high growth in 2009 and had been nationally recognized for their vocational courses. Mr. Tripp commented that the Town of Ayden had answered the call to support their neighborhood schools years ago; and over the last five years, they have given \$77,000 to the three community schools to purchase numerous needed items. He stated they have worked concession stands at ballgames, supported the PTA meetings and hosted several Education Summits designed to bring teachers, parents, students and school administrators together. Mayor Tripp stated elected officials and the Town of Ayden were discouraged to learn that two Ayden schools will undergo leadership changes for the 2010-11 school year, and also, that they had to read about the changes in the newspaper. He commented that they would have liked to have had some input regarding the changes and possibly could have offered financial assistance to keep the present principals in place. Mayor Tripp stated advance notice of the changes would have been a common courtesy with partnership being a two-way street.

The second speaker was Ms. Terry Edwards from the Golden Living Center who thanked Mr. Benjie Forrest for partnering with this facility. She was present to offer a partnership with Pitt County Schools so that students needing volunteer hours could sign up as Senior Project volunteers, Health Sciences Academy volunteers or receive volunteer hours for credit in Speech, Occupational or Physical Therapy while having hands on experience

in these areas. Ms. Edwards stated the organization had students volunteering from Pitt County Schools who have received Silver and Gold Presidential Awards on Volunteerism. She believed that in working with these volunteer students at a young age, they learn to love and respect their community and want to give back to the community by helping others. The volunteers also realize they are somebody who can make a difference and succeed in their attempts. Ms. Edwards encouraged everyone to tour their facility and experience what it has to offer.

Under Consent Items, Mr. Michael Dixon motioned, second by Mr. Roy Peaden, that the Board approve the June 7, 2010 Minutes and the second Personnel Report for June 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Finance Committee Chair Michael Dixon reported that Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin will present a Proposed 2009-10 Budget Amendment – Number Three. He explained needed adjustments in the State, Local and Federal Funds as follows:

1. **State Public School Fund:**

The third Amendment to the State fund represents an increase of \$37,484.00. This increase represents amounts appropriated from the State Public School Fund through allotment revision #27.

2. **Local Current Expense Fund:**

The third Amendment to the Local fund represents an increase of \$5,847.74. This increase is the result of an increase in collections related to various Local grants accounted for in the General Fund.

3. **Federal Programs Fund:**

The third Amendment to the Federal fund represents an increase of \$43,507.24. This increase represents additional Federal Grant allocations to the Pitt County Schools through State revision #27.

The total increase to the Pitt County Schools' budget per Amendment #3 is \$86,838.98.

Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Mr. Michael Dixon, that the Proposed 2009-10 Budget Amendment – Number Three be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cowin then presented the Proposed 2010-11 Interim Budget Resolution as follows: "In accordance with the General Statute 115C-434 the Pitt County Board of Education hereby authorizes an interim appropriation for the purpose of paying salaries and the usual ordinary expenses of the Administrative Unit for the interval between the beginning of the Fiscal Year and the adoption of the 2010-11 Budget Resolution. Interim appropriations so made and expended shall be charged to the proper appropriations in the 2009-10 Budget Resolution. Mr. Michael Dixon moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Resolution be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Old Business, Policy Committee Chair Jill Camnitz and In-House Attorney Rob

Sonnenberg stated there were three revised/new policies being presented for First Reading. Athletic Director Ron Butler and Executive Director of Student Services Travis Lewis discussed changes in Policy 10.103 Resident Students Enrollment Requirements dealing specifically with the Loss of Athletic Eligibility (Middle and High School Students). This section was added to the current policy in an attempt to correspond with what the NC High School Athletic Association has implemented. It was stated that this information needs to be publicized to make everyone aware of what falsifying documentation for athletics could result in. Dr. Reep stated we may also need to add a signature page for parents to sign off on regarding rules which need to be followed regarding athletics. If someone confesses they should not be playing at this school before playing in a game, should they be penalized was discussed. It was decided that the policy will be revised before second reading to include issues discussed.

K-8 Director Marsha McLawhorn then shared with the Board the revision of Policy 9.206 Comprehensive Health Education Program. She then discussed a new Policy 9.212 Reproductive Health and Safety Education and explained the Procedure 9.212-P Procedure for Instruction on Reproductive Health and Safety Education supporting the new policy. Ms. McLawhorn pointed out the differences in the new and old curriculum, and shared that sixty days before use, parents are able to view the materials taught to their child and have the option to have their child opt out of any or the more comprehensive portion of the curriculum. She stated abstinence until marriage is still being taught as the only certain means to avoid out of wedlock pregnancy. The new curriculum will teach students how diseases are/are not transmitted to include the effectiveness of all FDA approved contraceptive methods in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Discussion is also held regarding sexual assault, abuse and reporting, and resources.

Ms. Camnitz then shared with the Board a revised policy/by-law for Second Reading. Several questions arose regarding credit hours described in Policy 1.003 – Code of Ethics for School Board Members and By-Law 1.111 Board Member Training and Conduct. Mr. Roy Peaden asked would the budget hinder board members from attending training sessions. Chair Bright stated webinars and other affordable local training have been helpful in gaining credit hours. Mr. Peaden also asked would there be an allowance made to make up missed hours due to sickness or other emergencies at a later date. Chair Bright stated these changes are mandated by the State and they would need clarification on some issues. Because of issues that do not have clear guidelines set by the State, Mr. Roy Peaden and Mr. Benjie Forrest stated they could not support the policy. Ms. Mary Williams asked did Board members have to sign off on the ethics material before completing the training. Chair Bright stated signing the signature page only verified that you have received and read the policy. Ms. Camnitz stated the wording in the policy was “I will comply”, therefore members may complete training sessions after signing the form. Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Mr. Michal Dixon, that the Board approve the revisions of the policy and bylaw as presented. Motion carried with four negative votes.

Superintendent Beverly Reep thanked Board members for attending graduation ceremonies. She stated all graduations went well, and she was impressed with the creativity of the speeches.

Dr. Reep welcomed newly appointed Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services, Cheryl Olmsted. She also congratulated the South Central student, Shayna Mooney, who was elected the national HOSA Secretary. Superintendent Reep thanked Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin for guiding Pitt County Schools through another year of economic trials, and congratulated Ms. Ferdonia Stewart as the new PAPA President. She asked all to remember Board Member Ralph Love in their prayers as he underwent surgery today.

Dr. Reep announced that Principals Seth Brown, Dennis Teel and Dawn Singleton have been selected as statewide trainers by the State PAPA Organization. The three participants will receive free training through the State and then share the training and mentor new principals in eastern North Carolina. She also reported that three high schools, North Pitt, South Central and Farmville Central, received SIG Grants and will have \$7 million dispersed over a three-year period to help improve their graduation rates and academic achievement.

In closing, Superintendent Reep expressed fond memories of former Board member Delano Wilson stating he was “more than just a Board member”. She stated he was known for his “gardening skills” and brought beautiful roses to all staff members in our building. Chair Bright also stated Mr. Wilson will be greatly missed and expressed sympathy to his family.

Chair Bright thanked County Commissioners Ephraigm Smith and Tom Johnston for their attendance, and all staff members for the remarkable jobs carried out during the graduation ceremonies.

Chair Bright also voiced some concerns received encouraging staff to keep students engaged through the last day of school.

In closing, Chair Bright reminded everyone of the Board Retreat at St. James Methodist Church scheduled for July 1 at 8:30 a.m.

Ms. Barbara Owens commented that Mr. Delano Wilson took advantage of all workshops offered, and a good tribute to him would be if current and future Board members attempted to follow his example.

Mr. Dick Tolmie stated that Mr. Wilson cared about all children in Pitt County Schools. He also thanked Dr. Reep and staff for their hard work in the SIG Grant writing process.

Mr. Benjie Forrest thanked Mayor Steve Tripp and Ms. Terry Edwards for sharing their public expressions and encouraged everyone to participate in partnerships as previously mentioned. He also stated that Mr. Delano Wilson was a relative and a tremendous person who would be greatly missed.

Mr. Michael Dixon stated Mr. Wilson was a fine and thorough guy to work with who loved all kids, not just the ones in his district. He too thanked the staff for a job well done in preparation for graduations. Mr. Dixon stated he was impressed with the number of minority marshals at the North Pitt and Farmville Central High Schools' graduations.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated she did not know Mr. Wilson personally, but sent sincere thoughts and prayers to his family. She also felt we had a better graduation rate, and stated the speeches were awesome and made her proud of all speakers, marshals and students for the money many received in scholarships. Ms. Little commented that we should get the information presented by Public Expression speaker, Terry Edwards, to our counselors in providing volunteer opportunities for our students.

Mr. Roy Peaden stated he had known Mr. Delano Wilson for 25 years and knew he was equally dedicated to other organizations as well. Mr. Peaden did state he was disappointed in the way administration allowed disruptive behavior of some of the Farmville Central students at graduation.

Mr. Dick Tolmie then moved, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, that the Board go 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 and 2) establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price and terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property [N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(5)].

Upon returning to Open Session with no further business to discuss, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Mr. Michael Dixon, that the Board adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted,

Ms. Mary Grace Bright, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent