

DATE: June 7, 2010 PRESENT: Mary Grace Bright, Chair  
Jill Camnitz  
Benjie Forrest  
Jennifer Little  
TIME: 7:30 P.M. Barbara Owens  
Ralph Love, Sr.  
Billy Peaden  
Roy Peaden  
Marcy Romary  
Dick Tolmie  
Mary Williams  
PLACE: St. James Methodist Church  
ABSENT: Michael Dixon

Chair Mary Grace Bright called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session at 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Dick Tolmie led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Information Officer Heather Mayo began the introduction of the 2009-10 Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award recipients for Pitt County Schools. Ms. Mayo stated there are over 3,000 Pitt County Schools employees, and these five recipients were selected by co-workers for their hard work, strong character and positive relationship with their peers, students and parents in their schools and in the community. The ABCD Award recipients selected were: Tracie Below, Media Coordinator from Hope Middle School; Shelia Latham, Teacher at Sadie Saulter School; Tammy Rowland, NC Wise contact for Ridgewood Elementary School; Charlene Best, Teacher Assistant for Farmville Central High School and Johnnie Moore, Custodian at Bethel School. Vice-Chair Dick Tolmie offered congratulations to each recipient on behalf of the Board of Education, and presented each employee with an Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award Certificate.

Chair Bright then offered the Agenda for consideration with an Amendment added to the Facilities Committee Report of a Resolution for Construction which needs approval by the Board. Dr. Ralph Love, second by Ms. Mary Williams, moved the Agenda be accepted with the adjustment as stated. Motion carried unanimously.

Two members of the audience wished to speak during Public Expression. The first was Ms. Lisa Labinski who discussed school attendance lines for a neighborhood, Moore's Pointe, between Ayden and Grifton. She stated she had lived in Moore's Pointe for ten years and her three children had always attended Ayden schools. Her youngest child is now a first grader in Ayden Elementary, and she asked permission for him to continue in this school. She runs a daycare from her home and stated she would lose some of her children if the school assignment is changed. Ms. Labinski stated her home was one and one-half miles from Ayden and six miles from Grifton. She also commented that the bus drops off her child at 3:15 p.m. coming from Ayden Elementary; whereas it would be 4:00 p.m. if he rode the bus from Grifton School. Ms. Laminski shared a map of the area asking the Board to allow children living in the development to remain in the Ayden school district.

The second speaker was Mr. Daryl Worthington who stated he was concerned about the emotional state of his daughter who attends Wintergreen Intermediate School. He

commented that the staff seemed insensitive to an issue regarding his child, and no one really investigated to get the specifics of the matter. He feels school personnel should engage with parents, but communication in this school is lacking

For the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, Exceptional Children's Director Cathy Keeter introduced her team to share with the Board the Adaptive Physical Education Program in Pitt County Schools. She also commented that Dr. James Decker from East Carolina University and Ms. Alice Keen with Community Schools and Recreation, who were present in the audience, had been instrumental on her committee. EC Program Specialist Tracy Hopkins, who works with the low incidence population, shared that Pitt County Schools and East Carolina University received a Pitt Memorial Hospital Grant through the Eat Smart/Move More Program. EC Teacher Rhys Potts and APE Teacher Lara Brickhouse work side-by-side with the help of ECU/APE Intern Patrick Southerland to implement and grow a PE program for students in Adapted Curriculum. They collaborate with Regular Education PE Teachers and EC teachers for more inclusive PE classes for these students. Goals for the Adaptive PE Program are to hire highly qualified APE Teachers, enlist more Regular PE Teachers to work with these students in inclusive classes with regular students, enlist more volunteers to assist these students, begin a peer buddies program and provide a Curriculum Notebook, a focus of the APE intern, for guidance and assistance to General PE Teachers and EC Teachers.

Under Consent Items, Ms. Jill Camnitz motioned, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Board approve the May 17, 2010 Minutes and the Personnel Report for June 2010 including Classified Reappointments and Non-Reappointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Facilities Committee Chair Roy Peaden stated Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu will present several items for approval of the Board that had been discussed at the Facilities Committee Meeting. Mr. Beaulieu stated the Committee recommends approval from the Board for Greenville Utilities to send out a request for proposal to solicit design of the Chicod Sewer. Mr. Roy Peaden moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that they move forward on the municipal sewer and allow GUC to send out a RFP for design services. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beaulieu then discussed a RESOLUTION OF THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS TAKEN AND TO BE TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH A "QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND" BY THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS which is necessary for the County to file application before June 15, 2010 to receive approximately \$6.5 million interest free for construction. Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Mr. Roy Peaden, that the Resolution be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Michael Cowin then updated the Board on a Proposed 2009-10 Budget Amendment – Number Two. He explained needed adjustments in the State, Local, Federal and Capital Outlay as follows:

- 1. State Public School Fund:**

The second Amendment to the State fund represents an increase of \$19,041.99. This increase represents amounts appropriated from the State Public School Fund through allotment revision #22.

**2. Local Current Expense Fund:**

The second Amendment to the Local fund represents an increase of \$13,400.00. 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 second Amendment to the Federal fund represents an increase of \$58,176.92. This increase represents additional Federal Grant allocations to the Pitt County Schools through State revision #22.

**4. Capital Outlay Fund:**

The second Amendment to the Capital Outlay fund represents an increase of \$8,558.25. This increase reflects an increase in the State DPI allocation for the replacement of school buses.

The total increase to the Pitt County Schools' budget per Amendment #2 is \$99,176.17.

Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that the Proposed 2009-10 Budget Amendment – Number Two be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cowin stated at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, he would present Proposed 2009-10 Budget Amendment – Number Three to carry Pitt County Schools through the remainder of this school year.

K-8 Director Marsha McLawhorn then introduced several directors from the Educational Programs and Services Department to present their specific areas for review or approval by the Board.

Exceptional Children's Director Cathy Keeter presented an Executive Summary of the Continuous Improvement Performance Plan. Ms. Keeter stated that the data used was actually two years old showing areas of improvement and slippage. She stated there were fifteen indicators used to measure performance in the following areas:

1. FAPE in LRE.
2. Disproportionality.
3. Effective General Supervision (Reference Fed. Reg. 616(b)(2)(C)).

Ms. Keeter informed the Board that three of the indicators were not measured by the State and two remain part of a three-year trend base-line data collection so the State targets have not yet been established. Out of the ten remaining indicators, two have been met – disproportionality has been approved and our "house is in order". She stated that because of the three-year trend data of improvement in this area, we are no longer required to set aside 15% of our Federal 60 money for early intervening services. The other eight indicators show significant progress has been made. In

those dealing with student performance on state-wide assessments, recent findings from a federal audit of North Carolina's accountability measures for students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study were not in line with the Standard Course of Study, therefore none of the scores for these students count. EC students did have an increase in their reading scores, so our goal is to show this same increase in math scores. We also had gains in reducing the dropout rate and increasing the graduation rate for EC students. Ms. Keeter stated we are anxiously awaiting scores for next year after implementing various programs to strengthen EC students.

Mr. Roy Peaden asked were there administrative issues that would not allow time-lines to be met for determining eligibility and provision for services for students with disabilities in students 3-21. Ms. Keeter responded that many times in following procedures for getting referrals made in the required time frame, parents would not show up for meetings, provide needed signatures, etc. She also stated that the Pre-K program was growing faster than they could supply teachers, psychologists, speech therapists, and others to provide needed services. Mr. Peaden asked Ms. Keeter was she familiar with the Lion's Club and their services regarding vision. Ms. Keeter stated yes, she was familiar with their work, and had offered to pay for services of professionals in the past, but again parents will not accept the offer and follow through with the plan. She stated they are trying to address these issues by getting vision and hearing screenings in the TAT process at the beginning of a student's enrollment, which is a corrective action that has been put in place.

Mr. Benjie Forrest asked why the participation rate was not met with Ms. Keeter responding that the Federal government audit for Title II did not approve the Occupational Course of Study curriculum of Occupational English in the ninth and tenth grades, Occupational Math II nor Science. The auditors stated this particular curriculum did not match the Standard Course of Study curriculum. She stated the student scores, even though they took the tests and did well on them, were not allowed to count. Ms. Keeter stated this occurred State-wide and not just in Pitt County Schools.

CTE Director Chena Cayton then shared with the Board an update on the Career and Technical Education Program stating there are 722 students enrolled in these courses for the upcoming school year. Ms. Cayton explained that her CTE allocation was measured in months and the State had dropped her allotment by six months for the upcoming school year. She explained a breakdown of her allotments to the six high schools for the upcoming school year and stated her biggest expenses had involved new automotive, graphic and welding updates, new appliances for Family and Consumer Sciences, new technology equipment for the CTE Program and manikins for Health Occupations.

Ms. Jennifer Little asked though sections had been added, were they still teaching the same courses. Ms. Cayton stated yes, but had added more sections for increased enrollment.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated additional sections had been added, but support from the State had been cut. Ms. Cayton stated yes, all high school CTE courses were allotted beyond the ADM allocation.

Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Ms. Mary Williams, that the Board approve the CTE plan for 2010-11 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Mary Williams asked how the CTE budget was affected by money provided by the County Commissioners. Ms. Cayton stated the County had provided seven local positions.

Ms. Jennifer Little asked did schools have a wish list for CTE classes with Ms. Cayton confirming she has a wish list. She stated she would love to see a Digital/Video Course offered if it became available.

Mr. Benjie Forrest asked about the major expense in preparing the necessary labs for CTE classes, and was State, Local and Federal money used. Ms. Cayton stated yes regarding the budget funding. He asked about money for teachers and resource materials they requested. Ms. Cayton stated she filled all her teachers' wish lists this year. She also stated that every CTE teacher was afforded the opportunity to attend the State Summer Conference this year, but all had not signed up to attend. Mr. Forrest asked if students travel with these classes. Ms. Cayton stated they follow the field trip policy like other students with one trip a year, but they do go to State and National competition if awarded at the district level. Mr. Forrest asked if the opportunity given to attend the Summer Conference improved teachers' attitudes with Ms. Cayton stating some are excited and happy they may attend, but some did not sign up to go.

K-8 Director Marsha McLawhorn then discussed the Title II 2010-11 Application. She stated these monies were used to improve teacher quality. Our percentage of highly qualified teachers has decreased on paper over the last three years due to an audit by the Federal Government resulting in a change of the definition of a highly qualified teacher of record in the Exceptional Children's Program. Pitt County Schools has a plan in place to address this deficiency with Title II funds being used to reimburse teachers for tests or classes that have to be taken to establish a license that is appropriate for meeting the definition of highly qualified. Title II money is also spent to place instructional coaches in each school as 92% of the certified responders to a survey asking questions regarding instructional coaches felt they had benefited teacher growth and individualized staff development to better fit teacher needs.

Title I Director Sylvia Mizzelle then presented the 2010-11 Title I Application for approval by the Board. Ms. Mizzelle gave a line item description of the proposed budget as well as per school allocations (22 schools have Title I funding) for Title I and Title I Stimulus funding. She stated mandated set aside money was dispersed for designated purposes, i.e. parent involvement, professional development, homeless children, school improvement, Pre-K and several other items. Ms. Mizzelle briefly discussed each item and told how the money was spent. She informed the Board that schools within the Poverty Band Range received \$485.06 per student, while those outside the Poverty Band received \$344.88 per student in Title I allocations. For stimulus money, schools within the Poverty Band received \$179.71 per student and outside the Poverty Band, they received \$137.95 per student. Ms. Mizzelle stated much of the stimulus money had been used in a district-wide project for placing Smartboards in schools as they provided advancement for different instruction for students. She stated additional staff hired with stimulus money had been told their

employment was for one year only as the stimulus money would be gone after this upcoming school year.

Ms. Little asked what measures were being used to test the effectiveness of Smartboards as new trends sometimes wear themselves out. Superintendent Reep stated we continue purchasing Smartboards as other counties using them have shown real progress in enhancement of the curriculum. Once we have enough data to factor into results from Smartboards, we will report the findings. Dr. Reep stated schools implement Smartboards in different ways depending on teacher preference. Ms. Mizzelle stated nothing could replace the importance of good instruction.

Mr. Roy Peaden asked are they worth the money they cost and will we still be using them five years down the road.

Ms. Mizzelle stated Mr. Cowin had told them to use all money allocated and not send any back.

Ms. Mary Williams asked with the different programs for students offered this summer through Title I like Camp SOAR, would we employ folks already in the system and would all employees be adults. She wanted to know how transportation for these programs work. Ms. Mizzelle explained that applications are taken and submitted to Transportation Director Joey Weathington. He puts in all data and prepares bus routes for students. Ms. Mizzelle stated about 600 students will participate in the Program this summer.

Ms. Mary Williams moved, second by Ms. Jennifer Little, that the Board approve the 2010-11 Application for Title I as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Mizzelle then discussed the 2010-11 Application for the Migrant Program. Again she went over line items for this proposed budget stating numbers were down for enrollment this year. Mr. Roy Peaden stated the Spanish population need to be encouraged to get involved in reaching younger students and receive pay for doing so, i.e. hire Spanish teacher assistants. Ms. Mizzelle stated their recruiter tries to build relationships with the parents of these students, but they are reluctant in becoming involved with the schools. She also stated some of this money is used for Camp Soar, and if more workers come in during July and August, enrollment could increase.

Dr. Ralph Love moved, second by Mr. Benjie Forrest, that the 2010-11 Migrant Education Application be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Beverly Reep shared with the Board that Dr. Mary Williamson's, former Associate Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services, brother died tragically off the coast of Emerald Isle. Dr. Reep stated that we had a phenomenal district of hard working and serving principals, assistant principals, teachers, teacher assistants, child nutrition workers, instructional coaches, bus drivers, support staff and facility services employees in Pitt County Schools. She stated, "Hats Off", to each of them for doing more with less dollars and more students in the classrooms. Dr. Reep commented that she hoped to bring good news to them in two to three weeks. Lastly, Dr. Reep encouraged all Board members to attend the six graduations Friday

night and Saturday and watch the smiles on the faces of the students and parents. After all, these students are the reason we're here.

Chair Mary Grace Bright thanked all those involved with judging Senior Projects. She stated she attended the first Business and Technology Academy Ceremony which was most impressive with their goals for the future. Chair Bright stated there were many going out the door at the Retirement Reception this week, and she was sorry she did not get to attend the Child Nutrition event this year. She then reminded everyone that the next Board meeting had been changed to June 28<sup>th</sup> for better insight into the 2010-11 budget.

Mr. Roy Peaden also congratulated the graduates and asked all to be safe this weekend with graduation ceremonies. He also stated that he was invited by Principal Kato to attend the Memorial Day Celebration at Farmville Middle School. He stated the celebration was honorable for our Veterans, flags were everywhere, music was wonderful and the presentations were heart wrenching.

Ms. Jennifer Little stated the two most consistent parent complaints she received from all grade levels during the past year are: 1) The tardy policy and how it's carried out in schools. She stated she studied the policy and there are no specific guidelines; commenting that perhaps we need to look at the policy for consistency in schools more closely. 2) The lack of communication between school administrators and teachers to our parents. Ms. Little feels this is an on-going problem and that some type of time frame should be put in place as policy to return calls - whether 24 hours, 48 hours or what was deemed appropriate. She feels the ALERT NOW system has helped with overall communication but not individualized feedback.

Ms. Jill Camnitz reminded everyone of the Policy Committee Meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Benjie Forrest stated he had the privilege to attend the CTE Honor Society Induction at D. H. Conley a couple of weeks ago, and it was tremendous to see those 76 students who have worked really hard be rewarded. He also spoke about being a Senior Project judge and applauded those involved for a job well done. He thanked all who retired from Pitt County Schools this year for their years of service to the system. He also thanked the County Commissioners for their continued support with an increase to our local budget and mentioned their suggestion to apply part of this funding to the CTE Program.

Mr. Billy Peaden spoke regarding the article in the Daily Reflector concerning a lunch of bread and water for a student during testing week and stated it was important to have a good meal during testing.

Mr. Dick Tolmie addressed the follow up article regarding Child Nutrition and the severe budget restrictions the department is under. He also mentioned the OCR complaint regarding school uniforms and wondered if an estimate of time and resources could be logged to retrieve the needed information to respond to this complaint.

Ms. Mary Williams commended the staff of Pitt County Schools for all the support shown during the past year. She also congratulated all students and staff working with the Twilight Academy for pushing forward and not “selling themselves short”. Ms. Williams then reminded everyone that hurricane season started June 1.

Mr. Dick Tolmie then moved, second by Ms. Jill Camnitz, that the Board go into Closed Session to: 1) 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)] and 2) consult with our attorney to consider and give instructions concerning a judicial action titled Pitt County Board of Education v. Adrian A. Garcia.

Upon returning to Open Session, Ms. Jill Camnitz motioned, second by Ms. Marcy Romary, that an Amendment be made to the June Personnel Report with a two-year contract being approved for Ms. Cheryl Olmstead as Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services and Mr. Mike King as Principal of North Pitt High School. Motion passed with three negative votes.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Board adjourn at 10:05 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