

DATE: October 19, 2009 PRESENT: Mary Grace Bright, Chair
 Jill Camnitz
 Michael Dixon
 Jennifer Little
 Ralph Love, Sr.
 Barbara Owens
 TIME: 7:00 P.M. Billy Peaden
 Roy Peaden
 Marcy Romary
 Dick Tolmie

PLACE: Pitt County Office Building ABSENT: Benjie Forrest
 Mary Williams

Chair Mary Grace Bright called the Board of Education to order in Regular Session at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Billy Peaden led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Bright then offered the Agenda for consideration. Mr. Michael Dixon, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, moved the Agenda be accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

For Public Expression, Ms. Miriam T. Bailey addressed the Board as an advocant for exceptional children. She stated she has a grandson in the autistic class at J. H. Rose High School. Recently it was implied that the class could attend the Pitt County Fair, only to find out three days later that they could not attend as a classroom field trip. Ms. Bailey felt that during a year with a very tight economy, outside funding for the bus and driver, and free admission and rides would have given the autistic class a learning experience at no cost for Pitt County Schools. While at the fair through Howell's Group Home, the South Central High School autistic class was seen. Ms. Bailey stated at Rose High, there is no equity for exceptional children in small class rooms in a new wing. She also stated that attending Special Olympics at Rose was not a "field trip" for these students. Ms. Bailey suggested that the Festival of Trees and the Recycle Fair be "given events" for the exceptional students as many of the children only have outside experiences provided by our schools. She implored the Board to revisit the Field Trip Policy and make a dedicated effort to provide equity in instruction, resources and facilities for exceptional children to receive meaningful transitional instruction.

Under Consent Items, Dr. Ralph Love motioned, second by Mr. Michael Dixon, that the Board approve the October 5, 2009 Minutes and the Second Personnel Report for October 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, Associate Superintendent of Operations Aaron Beaulieu presented to the Board a summary of the bids recommended for the Phase I construction at Eastern Elementary School, the new elementary school, Farmville Central High School and D. H. Conley High School. For Eastern Elementary School, (bid date 9/16/09) Mr. Beaulieu stated the recommended single prime contract is

WIMCO Corp. (Washington, NC) with a bid of \$8,225,200 and support costs of \$938,083 for a grand total of \$9,709,549. Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Mr. Michael Dixon, that the bid as presented be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

For the new elementary school (repeat design of Ridgewood Elementary School) (bid date 9/24/09), Mr. Beaulieu stated the recommended single prime contract is American South (Sanford, NC) with a bid of \$11,084,500 and support costs of \$2,036,032 for a grand total of \$13,120,532. Dr. Ralph Love moved, second by Mr. Roy Peaden, that the bid as presented by approved. Motion carried unanimously.

For Farmville Central High School (bid date 9/30/09), Mr. Beaulieu stated the recommended multi prime contract is Montieth (Monroe, NC) with a responsible low bid of \$2,053,900, Chappell Plumbing (Grifton, NC) with a bid of \$125,272, Allred Mechanical (Rocky Mount, NC) with a bid of \$275,750 and Pitt Electric (Greenville, NC) with a bid of \$315,000 for a total contract price of \$2,769,922. Support costs of \$391,335 were added for a grand total of \$3,161,257. Mr. Roy Peaden moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the bid as presented by approved. Motion carried unanimously.

For D. H. Conley High School (bid date 10/7/09), Mr. Beaulieu stated the recommended single prime contract is WIMCO Corp. (Washington, NC) with a responsible low bid of \$7,076,700 and support costs of \$1,126,063 for a grand total of \$8,202,763. Mr. Roy Peaden moved, second by Mr. Michael Dixon, that the bid as presented by approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy County Manager – Chief Financial Officer Melonie Bryan explained to the Board that the County will hold as collateral Farmville Central High School and Eastern Elementary School titles until the money being borrowed for construction for the Phase I projects had been paid off. She asked the Board members did anyone have any questions regarding the Resolution approving the conveyance of certain property to the county for the purpose of financing the construction of various school projects, the Lease Agreement or the Construction and Acquisition Agreement? With no questions asked, Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Ms. Jill Camnitz, that the Resolution, Lease Agreement and Construction and Acquisition Agreement needed by the County be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Beverly Reep discussed the revised Guiding Principles with the Board explaining that the these principles “provide guidance for long range planning and will be applied consistently across the system as much as possible recognizing that there will be exceptions in the process”. Dr. Reep stated the revision of Guiding Principle 4 is to “achieve a configuration of grade levels and school sizes throughout the District that allows for equitable and adequate academic programming, staffing and operational options for students in all schools”. With no more questions from the Board, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Dr. Ralph Love, that the revised Guiding Principles be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick Tolmie stated that maximal and minimal school sizes will be needed.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked regarding the time frame for the guiding principles – would they last through the ten-year plan? Dr. Reep stated the Phase I projects were already

in place and bids were accepted in tonight's meeting. Phase II will be starting in the future and stated the wording was changed in the Guiding Principles after listening to the communities regarding configuration, school size, and options for students in all schools.

Mr. Roy Peaden mentioned the mobile units and decreasing them in number by 10% each year. Mr. Beaulieu stated it had been decided to try to achieve decreasing the number of mobile units by 50% over three years.

With no further comments, Ms. Jill Camnitz moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, to approve the revised Guiding Principles as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Reep discussed increasing the attendance of the three small high schools. Several exploratory scenarios were discussed, not proposed. Staff at OREd are currently taking the 20-day numbers and looking at capacity figures as well as possible projection numbers for the next ten years.

Mr. Beaulieu stated that OREd representative Mike Miller had a previous engagement and could not be present at the meeting. He stated that capacity of a school is a huge difficult variable for student assignment. Mr. Beaulieu stated Pitt County Schools has to take ownership and understanding of each school capacity number. He shared the numbers for the DPI Standard Profile Capacity, the 90% Factor Capacity and the Month-1 Attendance at each school. 27 out of 35 schools are already over the 90% Factor for capacity. Mr. Beaulieu stated the fifth Guiding Principle is to move our schools capacities to within 85% to 95% of the Department of Public Instruction Standard Profiles for all schools. He also discussed ITRE updating their information, with the help of local staff, after receiving the 20-day attendance numbers and shared maps outlining the current Pitt County Schools districts for all grade levels. It is hoped this revised information will be available over the next couple of months for an updated version, which will be the baseline projections for our next student assignment.

Dr. Reep and Mr. Beaulieu then shared different scenarios of high school growth – adding a seventh high school or growing the three small high schools. The 2009-10 capacity numbers and projected enrollment figures for the year 2018-19 were discussed for these scenarios, as well as middle school growth numbers. Maps were provided demonstrating new district lines for each scenario for each high school and for A. G. Cox, C. M. Eppes and E. B. Aycock Middle schools. Mr. Beaulieu reminded the Board that the cost of a new high school will be in the neighborhood of \$50 million dollars, while growing the three smaller high schools would be approximately \$35 million.

Mr. Dick Tolmie stated he felt neither scenario was acceptable as presented. He would like to see the three small high schools grow to the 1200-student range. Moving the attendance lines as noted on the map he felt was not the best of ideas and wanted the attendance lines for the three smaller high schools left as they currently appear. Mr. Tolmie stated in the 2018-19 projections after adding a new high school, Farmville Central High School would have lower attendance than they do in the year 2009-10.

Superintendent Reep asked the Board did we have the courage to move lines that need to be moved to grow the three small high schools? In looking at the maps, they demonstrated districts having the shortest bus rides for students; but when all the other factors are added in, the maps are going to be much more patchwork in appearance. Dr. Reep stated finding the right solution for student assignment in our high schools was not going to be a simple task.

Mr. Roy Peaden stated we are going to have to redraw the lines whether we have a new high school or grow the three smaller high schools. To accomplish this difficult task, keeping the students and parents in mind as much as possible will hopefully gain community support. We will save \$15 million dollars by growing the three smaller high schools saving the price of a possible middle school. By growing the smaller high schools to have six more equal high schools, all will have more equitable athletic and academic opportunities. Mr. Peaden stated we are blessed to be a growing county, but with that comes growing pains.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated she agrees with Mr. Peaden, but sees pros and cons with both scenarios.

Mr. Beaulieu stated size, equity, and configuration apply to all schools – elementary, middle and high schools. He stated most districts used the “pie pattern” for school distribution feeder patterns, but Pitt County Schools has the “hub” in the middle of our district. North Pitt High School geographically has the largest attendance area.

Chair Bright asked with the virtual high school and on-line classes now available, how equitable are the smaller high schools in receiving viable opportunities?

Mr. Tolmie asked was it reasonable to leave the present district lines as they are for Farmville Central, Ayden-Grifton and North Pitt High Schools, and move students from J. H. Rose, D. H. Conley and South Central High Schools to fill a new high school? Mr. Beaulieu stated OREd/ITRE don't like using maps, but rather go with numbers for variables; and Mr. Tolmie asked that they use numbers (90% numbers) only from the three large high schools to feed a new high school and see what results are obtained.

Mr. Roy Peaden asked why change boundaries for the three large high schools, but not the three smaller high schools? Mr. Tolmie stated he would really like to see the three smaller high schools grow toward 1200 or more students and does not want to change their attendance lines changed to reduce their attendance. Ms. Jennifer Little and Ms. Barbara Owens wanted to know how the attendance would grow if the attendance lines are not moved? Ms. Jill Camnitz stated on the sheet Mr. Beaulieu sent in a Thursday packet, the projections for the three small high schools was given without changing the boundaries. On the projections, Chair Bright shared with the Board the numbers discussed from previously mentioned Thursday packet, North Pitt is projected to have quite a bit of growth with Farmville Central and Ayden-Grifton showing less growth. Mr. Beaulieu stated there was a total 649 student difference (with 60 of these students being high school students) in actual number of students in the elementary and middle schools – but would make the high school numbers off eventually. We are in the process of updating the actual numbers working with OREd and ITRE to revise the baseline data, which will be dispersed to the Board when available.

Ms. Jill Camnitz asked would the three small high schools be grown all at one time, or would a stepwise process be used?

Mr. Beaulieu stated that in action taken tonight, Farmville Central High School was approved for construction of ten new classrooms bringing it near 1100 students in capacity. North Pitt, with one possible small addition, will be prepared for 1100 student capacity, while Ayden-Grifton needs two additional wings to house 1100 students. He stated all high schools will be close to a capacity of 1100 students. Ms. Camnitz stated it would be hard to grow 500 students to fill Ayden-Grifton High School, but it could be done in stages. Dr. Reep then stated it could be grown for other causes, i.e. a magnet school, special programs, etc. Other LEAs could be studied to see what is offered and what works. Mr. Tolmie stated if you pulled students for a magnet school, you would be taking students from Farmville Central and North Pitt also – which defeats our purpose. Ms. Marcy Romary stated we could look at a magnet school and see what it would mean to put this possibility in place. Dr. Reep stated we need to look at what's out there and formulate ideas as we have the time to do this and money available to work with.

Mr. Beaulieu stated in looking at attendance lines for A. G. Cox to relieve over capacity, the new map used proximity to the school only as a guide. In applying current data, the numbers will change slightly.

Dr. Reep shared that in drafting a timeline for having a feeder pattern of elementary schools by Fall 2011, clarified criteria issues and determined data needed to be complete. Finding neighborhood segments to move has been mentioned in relieving the overcrowding at A. G. Cox, but doing this would have a bearing on elementary schools involved in feeding the middle schools.

Mr. Dick Tolmie asked was there a reasonable option of waiting to relieve Cox of its overcrowding for a year? Mr. Beaulieu stated situations at A. G. Cox have been taxing for a good while with over 1100 students being in place at one point. Mobile units provide temporary relief, but are not a final solution. Mr. Beaulieu also stated the front section of A. G. Cox was constructed in 1936. Another factor affecting A. G. Cox is that Ridgewood Elementary, a feeder school, is also reaching its capacity. Doing something intermediately may help the overcrowding at A. G. Cox until an elementary feeder pattern has been developed. Dr. Reep stated that even though Cox is overcrowded, no one wants their child moved to another school. The ideal plan is not to move students twice – don't move 200 students now and then in a year have a large reassignment plan that involves all students. Dr. Reep stated local changes had been made at A. G. Cox to help with safety – moving fences, adding phone lines in each room, etc.

Ms. Camnitz asked could we put a cap on enrollment in some schools? Dr. Reep replied that a cap could be looked at but would also be a temporary solution involving less people.

Superintendent Reep discussed a proposed Timeline for Fall 2011 Student Reassignment. Chair Bright suggested changing some dates on the timeline as new Board members would be sworn in in December 2010, and it would be good to have the

timeline complete before that occurred. Dr. Reep concurred and stated that once the elections were held in May, it would be a good idea for newly elected Board members to attend the Board meetings to listen and become familiar with issues involving student reassignment. Dr. Reep stated due to unresolved student reassignment issues, the decisions regarding middle schools in Phase II of the Long Range Facility Plan would be delayed.

Mr. Tolmie asked could neighborhood segments be studied that would be comfortable going to the new elementary school? Dr. Reep stated that once needed criteria had been clarified, it was feasible to look at surrounding neighborhoods.

Ms. Jill Camnitz stated elementary student assignment was in a patchwork configuration currently. Dr. Reep stated that student assignment issues need to be resolved with a possible meeting with the State Board of Education. She assured the Board that she will revise the proposed Timeline for Fall 2011 Student Reassignment.

Dr. Reep thanked Aaron Beaulieu, Public Information Officer Heather Mayo, Jimmy Hite of Hite Associates, and the staff at OREd for all their help and hard work on Phase I of the Long Range Facilities Plan. She also thanked County Commissioner Tom Johnson for his continued support for Pitt County Schools. Dr. Reep stated we are blessed to live in a community who passed a ¼ cent sales tax for support of school construction.

Chair Mary Grace Bright again encouraged Board members to attend the breakfast sessions each month with County Manager Scott Elliott and a mix of County Commissioners. She also reminded everyone of the Education Summit being held Thursday, October 22, and the Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year Ceremony being held Thursday, October 29, 2009.

Ms. Camnitz reminded everyone of the Policy Committee Meeting being held Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

Mr. Dick Tolmie expressed thanks to Pitt County's Chief Financial Officer Melonie Bryan for her help and support of Pitt County Schools.

Mr. Roy Peaden stated he appreciated the support of the County Commissioners.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Dick Tolmie moved, second by Ms. Barbara Owens, that the Board enter Closed Session to: *consult with our attorney to consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action.* [N.C.G.S.§143-318.11(a)(3)]

Upon returning to Open Session, Mr. Michael Dixon moved, second by Mr. Dick Tolmie, that the Board adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Ms. Mary Grace Bright, Chair

Dr. Beverly B. Reep, Superintendent