

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, January 9, 2012**

Members Present: Donald Johnson, Chair; Marjorie Edwards, Vice Chair; Erica Smith-Ingram, Lafayette Majette, Kelvin Edwards, Rhonda Taylor, Dr. Eric Bracy, ex officio
Members Absent: Bill Little
Others Present: Administration, press and interested parties

The Northampton County Board of Education held its regular meeting on January 9, 2012 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Chair Donald Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Majette and APPROVED, the Board convened in closed session at approximately 5:40 p.m. pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of confidential personnel files under G.S. 115C-321 or other information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to state or federal law, or not considered a public record; pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Board's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege and pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider matters relating to initial employment of an individual employee or a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual employee. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram and Mr. Kelvin Edwards were not present for the vote.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. The first closed session ended at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Board Agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram voted against.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Johnson requested that the Board and audience stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Good News Award

Ms. Tanya Byrd-Robinson along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Donald Johnson recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate to the following recipients:

Professional Educators of NC Teacher Grant – Ms. Paulette Smallwood, a teacher at Gaston Elementary School, was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for receiving a **Professional Educators of NC Teacher Grant for New Teachers** in the amount of \$250.00. The grant will be used for instructional materials that will impact student learning. Ms. Smallwood will be featured in the winter issue of The Voice and her accomplishments will be shared in the spring and summer issue of The Voice.

First Annual Northwest Halifax Girls' Basketball Tournament Winners – Coach Jerry Adams along with the **Northampton High School West STEM Girls' Basketball Team** was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for winning the **First Annual Northwest Halifax Girls' Basketball Tournament**.

5th Annual Northampton High School-West STEM Christmas Tournament Winners – Coach Jonathan White along with the **Northampton High School West STEM Boys' Basketball Team** was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for winning the **5th Annual Northampton High School West STEM Christmas Tournament**.

Voice of Democracy Contest (Post 4312 VFW of Seaboard) – Cadet Sergeant Nancy McDowell, a junior at Northampton County High School-East, was recognized and presented a certificate from Mr. Steve Jackson from VFW Post 4312 of Seaboard for being the **2nd place winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest**. Cadet Sergeant McDowell serves as the First Sergeant for Company A in the JROTC Ram Battalion and she was selected to compete at the Regional Level after her essay, “Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military,” won at NCHS-East and the local VFW Post 4312 from Seaboard. She competed with over 500 students from this region to win this honor and her winnings totaled \$200.00.

Mr. Steve Jackson thanked Chief Alfonse Dixon, JROTC Instructor at NCHS-East, for his assistance with the essay contest and for making sure Ms. McDowell was present at the Board Meeting tonight.

Shining Star Character Education

Ms. Tanya Byrd-Robinson along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Donald Johnson recognized and presented the following students with **Shining Star Award Certificates** for demonstrating the focus of “Courage” for the month of December:

Jamuri Moody (absent), Central Elementary School
Jaliyah Sledge, Squire Elementary School
Rhadejah Davis, Northampton West Stem High School
Lloyd Pitman, Northampton County High School-East
Jayonna Joyner, Willis Hare Elementary School
Jaden Majette, Conway Middle School
Matthew Bazemore, Conway Middle School
Ky’Juan Mobley, Gaston Elementary School
Zachary Pyles, Northampton County Alternative School

Introduction of New Personnel

Mr. Phil Matthews introduced the following Northampton County Schools’ new personnel to the Board and audience:

Della Deloatch, Mentor, Rich Square-W.S. Creecy Training & Community Center
Susie Dickens, Mentor, Rich Square-W.S. Creecy Training & Community Center
Corey Williams, Mentor, Rich Square-W.S. Creecy Training & Community Center
Charles Edwards, Site Coordinator, Rich Square-W.S. Creecy Training & Community Center
Peggy Cary, Youth Career Education Advisor, Rich Square-W.S. Creecy Training & Community Center
Anita Calhoun, Senior Career Education Advisor, Rich Square-W.S. Creecy Training & Community Center

Public Comments

Chair Johnson announced to the audience that according to our rules for Public Comments, there is a limit of time. The time will be limited to 3 to 2 minutes. There are lot of children here this evening and we want to give everyone the opportunity to speak. We will call your name in the order that you signed up.

The following persons addressed the Board during Public Comments:

Mr. Clinton Williams – “I am here to make comments in reference to the school merger adopted to have one high school on the eastern end. I am concerned most of all with the travel time. The 2009 MBAJ study recommended that you have a uniform grade configuration. You paid \$16,000.00 to have the study done. This report was done to have four options and #1 was most feasible. Why make the decision when you have mirrors on both ends. We are requesting that you take a second look before you merge the high schools.”

Mr. Grover Rook – Mr. Rook stated, “I would like to yield my time to Rev. Richard Webb.”

Ms. Ella Lundy – “This is the day that the Lord has made. Dr. Bracy and Mr. Matthews, at the August 10, 2011 meeting you stated the bus ride would take 2 hours. You did not give the cost to make renovations and repairs at NCHS-E, which is \$5 million dollars.”

Ms. Tawanda Harris – “I have a concern for myself. I am a NCHS-West student and I am a junior. You are putting us in a dangerous position. We will be learning what we have already learned. A lot of us (students) don’t want to get up now and I don’t like getting up. I want to graduate from NCHS-West. We don’t get along now and you are going to put us together. The students should have gotten the first notice about merging. I still have to think about the travel time and traveling to a game.”

Mr. Anthony Roberts – “Good evening Board Members, I will be brief. In the overview you stated that you would be cutting positions. You just introduced new employees. Northampton County Schools is the largest employer in the county. How can you cut those positions? Why didn’t you go back and run those routes again. The renovations to Central Elementary you decided to go against. We are asking you to reconsider your vote on a plan and look at the figures.”

Ms. Sonia Clements – Ms. Clements stated, “I would like to yield my time to Rev. Richard Webb.”

Ms. Nidiet Eason – Ms. Eason stated, “I would like to yield my time to Rev. Richard Webb.”

Chair Johnson stated to the audience, “Yielding to someone else is not giving you an opportunity.”

Attorney Rod Malone informed the audience, “Your comments are limited to a total of 15 minutes. The Board decided to give everyone 2 minutes, not to exceed 15 minutes. The plan was not to allow any more than 3 minutes.”

Ms. Smith-Ingram stated, “Being that these citizens drove from the western end they should be allowed to speak more than 2 minutes. It is a shame you would put a student of Northampton County on a time limit. They should get 6 minutes.”

Chair Johnson clarified, “If they are going to give their 2 minutes away then that person should not go beyond 6 minutes.”

Ms. Regina Freeman – Ms. Freeman stated, “I would like to yield my time to Rev. Richard Webb.”

Mr. Richie Harding – Mr. Harding stated, “I would like to yield my time to Rev. Richard Webb.”

Ms. Brenda Phillips – “Good afternoon. I will not echo what has been previously stated. I come as a guardian and parent of a student at NCHS-West. I have come to speak about the academics. I have looked at the AYP results of both schools. Last year no AYP, but both made it this year. I am concerned about my children going to East. If it is not broke, why fix it. Riding to East is like riding to Rocky Mount. I am concerned about the tutorials, academics and the time after school. I need my child to be safe. I would love it if the travel time was 45 minutes.”

Mr. Zachary Pyles was not present to speak.

Ms. Tawanda Rook stated, "I would like to yield my time to Rev. Richard Webb."

Ms. Susan Fields – "Who in Northampton County came up with this idea to merge? What school board member came up with this? All of the studies that have been done did not select for the merger to be at East. If it is not broke, don't fix it."

Rev. Richard Webb – "Good evening Board Members. I thank God for this opportunity. My 12 minutes won't be long. We have a lot concerned citizens, parents and community persons here tonight. A lot has been said. We represent the "Concerned Citizens of Northampton County to Save Our School" and we have collected over 600 signatures. We want to say to you, Save Our Schools, Save Our Students and Save Our Economy. I urge the Board to reconsider your decision of December 5, 2011. You have violated our citizenship. It is not our intentions to threaten any action, but we are just standing up for the rights of our children. It is not about you, but it is about our children. We have copies of General Statute: 115C-572 and Roberts Rules of Order. You are in violation of this statute and we have prepared an injunction. If you don't comply with the feasibility study following what was said from MBAJ, we are asking you to leave our schools alone until you can build a centrally located high school. Within ten (10) days, I expect to hear your decision or we will have to act."

Audience Speaker – "This room was filled with NCHS-West students. In your decision, you don't have a plan for the students to get to and from practice. Look at your attendance zones. Since then, the Board has rezoned the districts. I have the maps. Why did this rezoning take place? The enrollment projected by DPI is 620 students. We have more land at NCHS-West and there is more room. It will not take \$5 million dollars to add on to NCHS-West?"

Rev. Richard Webb – "I just wanted to remind you that we expect your response within 10 days. I would like that in writing. If you want to meet with us we are here."

Chair Johnson stated, "Thank you all for your comments."

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board unanimously APPROVED the consent agenda consisting of the following items, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Board Minutes – Closed Session – November 7, 2011 and December 5, 2011

Regular Meeting – September 6, 2011 and September 26, 2011

Request for Fund Raiser

Central Elementary Guidance Dept. – King/Queen Cotillion & Dance – January 1, 2012 – February 10, 2012

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and The AYA Center – Supplemental Educational Services – Effective: January 10, 2012 through March 22, 2012

Northampton County Schools and Capitol Educational Support, Inc. – Supplemental Educational Service – Effective: January 10, 2012 through March 22, 2012

Northampton County Schools and Margaret Hawes Blackwell – Personal Care Services Effective: November 16, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Business Before the Board for Information

Directors' Updates – Mr. Matthews shared the Directors' Updates with the Board for the month of December 2011.

Business Before the Board for Approval

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board unanimously APPROVED revisions to the Drug Testing Policy for Student Athletes for second reading, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

The recommended changes are as follows on page 2, item 2 under Testing Procedure – Test Frequency of Board Policy No. 4450 - Drug Testing for Student Athletes:

[The policy currently reads, “Initially a drug test shall be performed on every athlete who tries out for all sports. A minimum of one random drug test shall be conducted during each sports season, but the principal may order additional random tests to ensure that there always is a possibility that students may be tested.”

The recommended change would read, “A minimum of one random drug test shall be performed on athletes during the tryout period for all sports. A minimum of one random drug test shall be conducted during each sports season. In addition, the principal may order additional random tests to ensure that there always is a possibility that students who tryout and participate may be tested.”]

Ms. Smith-Ingram: How will the donation from The Lamb Foundation be allocated?

Mr. Matthews: It will be put in the Exceptional Children’s budget.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Will we receive an update on how the money was spent?

Mr. Matthews: We can request an update be provided to the Board.

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board unanimously APPROVED a donation to the Exceptional Children Department from The Lamb Foundation of NC in the amount of \$2,500.00 to be used to help with the needs of exceptional children, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously APPROVED a revision to the 2011-2012 Calendar for NCHS-West STEM to make up a day on Saturday, January 21, 2012 that was missed on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram voted against.

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. K. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED the personnel listed below as discussed and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Personnel

Certified Recommendations:

Norma J. Drewette, Early Literacy Specialist, Northampton County School-Wide, 1/10/12

Jibrell Davis, 6th Grade Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 2/1/12

Johnnie Rawles, 3rd Grade Teacher, Central Elementary School, 1/5/12

Eliot Raynor, Spanish III/IV, NCHS-East, 1/3/12

Gregory Kennedy, Exceptional Children’s Teacher, NCHS-East, 1/24/12

Cynthia Taylor, 6th Grade Teacher, Conway Middle School, 1/11/12

Classified Recommendations:

Valerie Smith, Tutor, Conway Middle School,

Geraldine E. Thompson, Substitute Teacher, All Schools, 1/10/12

Resignations:

Dawn Leseney, 3rd Grade Teacher, Central Elementary School, 1/5/12

Marvette Speller, 6th Grade Teacher, Conway Middle School, 1/13/12

Retirements:

Betty Vincent, Media Coordinator, NCHS-West, 1/31/12

Brenda Taylor, Federal Programs Director, Central Services, 3/1/12

Rescind Retirement:

Evelyn Ivey, 3rd Grade Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 1/2/12

Superintendent's Information

Dr. Bracy addressed the Board and audience as follows:

- I wish to announce to the Board that Ms. Susan Silver with the DPI Needs Assessment Team will be conducting a Needs Assessment at Central Services January 9-12, 2012.

Ms. M. Edwards: I would like to extend congratulations to Mr. Kelvin Edwards for being selected Principal of the Year in the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District! The Board and audience applauded Mr. Edwards.

Ms. LaToya Williams requested permission to distribute a handout in regards to a 21st Century Youth Project. Ms. Williams informed the Board that she would like to come back at another time to give a presentation to the Board.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Can we invite Ms. Williams to come back for a presentation?

Chair Johnson: Yes, we can do that.

Board Information

- January Calendar of Events.
- Next Regular Board Meeting – February 6, 2012 – Board Room – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Majette, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Approved: May 7, 2012

Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent