

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY OF FORMAL ACTIONS TAKEN AT
MONDAY, February 8, 2016, REGULAR MEETING**

This document summarizes formal actions taken on substantive matters at the regular meeting of the Northampton County Board of Education on February 8, 2016. This document is provided for the convenience of the public and does not constitute the official minutes of the meeting. For details such as the precise substance of main motions, any subsidiary motions, the names of members who made and seconded motions, staff presentations and public comments, and the times the meeting was called to order, recessed, reconvened, and/or adjourned, please consult the official minutes of this meeting, which are maintained as audio or video recordings and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent and on the Board of Education website.

Members Present: Rhonda Taylor, Chair; Marjorie Edwards, Vice Chair; Clinton Williams, Lucy Edwards, Kelvin Edwards, Phil Matthews, Keedra Whitaker, Dr. Monica Smith-Woofter, ex officio
Others Present: Administration and interested parties

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Closed Session. The Board entered closed session at 5:46 p.m. pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(1), (a)(3), and (a)(6) to discuss student matters and personnel matters. Mr. Kelvin Edwards was not present for the vote.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda. The meeting agenda was approved as presented. Mr. Kelvin Edwards arrived at the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Public Comments. The Board approved to amend the agenda to waive the Guidelines for Public Comments Policy to provide feedback or to answer questions that could be answered by the Superintendent or Board that were asked by both Public Comments speakers.

Rescheduling of Board Retreat. The Board approved to amend the agenda to move the Rescheduling of the Board Retreat to item #10.02 on the agenda. It was the consensus of the Board to reschedule their Board Retreat for February 22, 2016 at 5:00 p.m., with the location to be determined. A second date would be scheduled if needed.

Break. The Board took a two-minute break at 7:50 p.m. The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda. The Board approved the minutes under the consent agenda. The consent agenda included the approval of closed session minutes for December 14, 2015 and January 11, 2016; the regular minutes for July 2, 2015 and August 10, 2015; and the special meeting minutes for July 20, 2015 and August 26, 2015. The consent agenda also included the following Request for Fundraisers and Contracted Services:

Request For Fundraisers

Gaston Middle School – Hospitality Club – Valentine Baskets/Bags – February 8-13, 2016

Willis Hare Elementary School – Kindergarten Department – Bucks for Books – February 9, 2016 thru April 8, 2016

Contracted Services

Harvey P. Byrd – Transportation Reimbursement Agreement – Effective January 13, 2016 thru June 8, 2016

Budget Amendments. The Board approved Budget Amendments #01 - #03 for fiscal year 2016 to reflect various transfers of funds into the appropriate purpose codes based on receipt of additional funds, decreases, or as requested by directors or principals. Posted transactions meet the requirements of Public School Laws of North Carolina as it pertains to Budget and Fiscal Control (115C-433).

Chair Taylor announced that she would like to take this opportunity to inform the audience that Ms. Cathy Gillus, Interim Finance Officer, presented the budget amendments this evening, because this will be Mr. Joe Holloway's last Board Meeting as Finance Officer, as he will be retiring. Ms. Taylor informed Mr. Holloway that he has been a true asset to Northampton County Schools and we have appreciated everything that you have done for us!

Cumulative Folder/Transcript Fee. As recommended by the Policy Committee, the Board approved that the school system charge a \$35.00 fee for cumulative folder and disability requests. Cumulative folder requests include the staff making copies of all items within the cumulative folder varying from 30-40 pages of documents. Disability requests usually come from disability attorneys and include the staff making copies of the students' transcripts, attendance, discipline, and EC information (IEP), etc.

Board Policy No. 2500 – Hearings Before the Board – Option A. The Board approved Board Policy No. 2500 – Hearings Before the Board – Option A and Option B at their January 11, 2016 regular Board Meeting. However, the Board needs to select only one of these options; therefore, as recommended by the Policy Committee, the Board approved Board Policy No. 2500 – Hearings Before the Board – Option A. Option A provides specific detail and guidance.

Board Policy No. 4201/7271 – Injury & Loss Prevention Revisions. Also, the Board previously approved Board Policy No. 4201/7271 – Injury & Loss Prevention during their November 30, 2015 Special Call Meeting. However, Attorney Rod Malone sent recommended changes to the policy for the Board to consider the changes following that meeting. The Policy Committee reviewed the changes during their February 8, 2016 Policy Committee Meeting. The Board approved the revisions to Board Policy No. 4201/7271 – Injury & Loss Prevention.

Board Policy Updates. The Board approved to waive the first and second reading of the following Fall Board Policies, as recommended by the Policy Committee:

Board Policies 1010, 1100, 1200, 1510/4200/7270, 1720/4015/7225, 2120, 2121, 2123, 2300, 2320, 2341, 2400, 3000, 3430, 3540, 4000, 4270/6145, 5000, 5120, 6000, 6120, 6420, 6421, 6430, 7100, 7405, 7810, 8920, 8000, 8100, 8510, 9000, 9120, 9220, 4700, 5070/7350, 5071/7351.

Attorney Rod Malone informed the Board that Tharrington Smith is recommending a couple of additional changes to the Nepotism Policy that is included in these policies and that he would be

forwarding those changes to the Board in the next couple of days. He added that the NCSBA did respond to their recommended changes, but his firm had some additional changes. The Board does not have to accept the changes and what you already have will work, but we would like for you to review the recommended changes.

Revised/Proposed Retiree Health Insurance Coverage by the LEA.

Dr. Mark Rumley presented the Revised/Proposed Health Insurance Coverage by the LEA to the Board. He informed them that the document in BoardDocs before them is in reference to returning retirees to service, particularly as substitute teachers for those who would perform long-term, interim, or non-permanent work. As you all may recall, the issues we were having with the Affordable Care Act in which they defined full-time work as an average of 30 hours or more hours per week. Dr. Rumley stated that because of the change in health insurance for retirees returning to work, they were afraid of losing their health insurance, we lost a valuable service, and our students lost really fine teachers who were helping us in a variety of areas. The N.C. Legislature has provided this remedy and it became effective in January 2016; therefore, we are recommending that the Board of Education pay the cost of the retirees' health insurance when they serve in the capacity of a substitute teacher (non-permanent employee) at the cost of \$463.68 per month, which is the cost of the 80-20 Plan) and any employee carrying the 70/20 Plan the cost would be less. Also, if we had regular teachers employed in these positions, you would be paying the same amount for those folks. Therefore, this is the remedy that the N.C. Legislature has provided for this one classification of employees that has already benefited us and will benefit us going forward in filling long-term positions, interim positions, emergency situations, and anything that stretches up to six-months.

The Board approved the Revised/Proposed Retiree Health Insurance Coverage by the LEA in that the Board would pay the cost of the retirees' health insurance for those who work an average of 30 hours or more hours per week to be paid from state funds.

Personnel. The Board approved the following personnel as amended. Ms. Marjorie Edwards voted against the motion.

Certified Elections:

Loretta Riddick, Interim Assistant Principal, Willis Hare Elementary School, 3/1/16 thru 6/10/16
Kashek Hardy, School Counselor, Central Elementary School, 2/15/16

Classified Elections:

Benketa Harrell, Teacher Assistant (temporary position), Central Elementary School, 2/10/16 thru 6/10/16

Substitutes/Volunteers:

Anne Brown, Volunteer, Central Elementary School
Carol Simmons, Substitute Teacher
George Holley, Substitute Teacher
Shirley Gatling, Substitute Teacher
Trina Silver, Substitute Teacher
Johnnie Rawles, Substitute Teacher
Yvette Long, Substitute Bus Driver
Leroy Lashley, Jr., Substitute Bus Driver
Jamar Watson, Substitute Bus Driver
Samuel Branch, Jr., Substitute Bus Driver

Additional Assignments:

Jane Mann, Homebound Instructor, Conway Middle School, 1/25/16
Tammy Branch, Homebound Instructor, Central Elementary School, 2/1/16
Cecilya Williams, Homebound Instructor, Central Elementary School, 2/1/16
Demetra Lassiter, Homebound Instructor, Central Elementary School, 2/1/16
Sonya Johnson, Homebound Instructor, Central Elementary School, 2/1/16
John Turner, Community Coach/Assistant Basketball, Northampton County High School, 2/15/16
David Hasty, Head Baseball Coach, Northampton County High School, 2/15/16

Leave of Absence:

Mervintine Scott, Teacher, Central Elementary School, thru 3/28/16
Blythelm De Sare, Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 1/4/15 thru 1/14/16
Juanita Moore-Mosley, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, 1/4/16 thru 1/12/16
Betty Sue Harris, Media Coordinator, Central Elementary School, 1/4/16 thru 6/10/16
Vera Ricks, Payroll Technician, Central Services, 1/21/16 thru 2//16
Sharoyne Hardy, Bus Garage Office Support, Central Services, 1/4/16 (ongoing)
Martha Lassiter, Bus Driver, Central Elementary School, 1/5/16 thru 2/16/16
Alice Woods, Office Support, Willis Hare Elementary School, (approximately 3+ months)
Brooks Ard, Teacher, Willis Hare Elementary School, 2/17/16 thru 5/6/16
Brent Wood, Teacher, Central Elementary School, 1/22/16 thru 2/12/16
Julie Darden, Teacher, Willis Hare Elementary School, 1/25/16 thru (unknown)

For Information

Resignations:

Hessy Bateman, Teacher, Northampton County High School, 2/5/16
Mervintine Scott, Teacher, Central Elementary School, 2/26/16

Business Before the Board: Information (Administrative)

The Way Forward Plan Update. Dr. Smith-Woofter updated the Board as follows in regards to The Way Forward Plan:

- I have visited all of the Town Hall Meetings with the exception of the Rich Square Town Hall as their meetings are scheduled on the 1st Thursday of the month, which is the same time as the Garysburg Town Hall meeting is scheduled; therefore, I will not be able to visit them until March. I, along with Mr. Miller, have presented to the mayors and the council members and we were pleased to have questions asked by them and we were able to respond to their questions.
- We were very pleased with the turnout and the attendance at our last forum at the Wellness Center. We look forward to the 2nd one on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at the Lake Gaston Community Center at 6:00 p.m. We ask the public that if you still have questions or concerns to please join us that evening.
- On February 3, 2016, we had school visits scheduled jointly with the Board and the County Commissioners that was cancelled. At this time, Ms. Turner does not know when the Commissioners will determine a date to have the school visits.

Reorganization of the Board. A motion was made by Mr. Clinton Williams, Seconded by Ms. Keedra Whitaker, to amend the agenda to add an agenda item, Reorganization of the Board, as item 14.02 as an action item. The Board did not vote on the motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Kelvin Edwards, Seconded by Ms. Marjorie Edwards, for the Board to take a five-minute recess. The motion passed.

Recess. The Board took a five-minute recess at 9:10 p.m. The board reconvened the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Adjournment. The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Monica Smith-Woofter, Superintendent