

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, April 8, 2013**

Members Present: Kelvin Edwards, Chair; Erica Smith-Ingram, Vice Chair; Donald Johnson, Marjorie Edwards, Rhonda Taylor, Phil Matthews, Clinton Williams, Dr. Eric Bracy, ex officio
Others Present: Administration, press and interested parties

The Northampton County Board of Education held its regular meeting on April 8, 2013 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Chair Kelvin Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards and APPROVED, the Board convened closed session at approximately 5:05 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; and 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 7-0.

Open Session

A motion was made and seconded to go into open session. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The Board's closed session ended at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Mission Statement

Chair Kelvin Edwards read the Northampton County Schools' Mission Statement to the audience as follows: To provide each student the opportunity to gain skills, knowledge, and values necessary to function effectively in society through a cooperative effort of school, family, and community in a safe and nurturing environment.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Donald Johnson led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board unanimously APPROVED the agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Good News Award

Ms. Catina Hoggard along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Kelvin Edwards recognized and presented Good News Award Certificates to the following recipients:
Northampton County High School Basketball Players Receive All District Honors – Barkim Moses (absent), a member of the **NCHS Boys' Varsity Basketball Team**, was recognized and presented a plaque for being selected **2nd Team All District**. **Andre Evans**, also

a member of the **NCHS Boys' Varsity Basketball Team**, was presented a plaque for being selected **3rd Team All District**. This honor goes along with **Barkim** being selected **Tar Roanoke Player of the Year** and **First Team All Conference** as a sophomore and for **Andre** being selected **First Team All Tar Roanoke Conference**.

Cherry Elected & Selected – Mr. Mel Cherry, Central Services Technology Wide Area Network Engineer, was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for recently presenting at the North Carolina Educational Technicians (NCET) Conference and was elected to a leadership position, Vice President, of the professional organization. Mr. Cherry also serves on the Board for NCET for the 2013-14 school year.

Two Northhampton County High School Students Chosen for Governor's School – Taevon Dickerson of Conway and **Jonathan Martinez** of Gaston, both **juniors** at **Northhampton County High School**, were recognized and presented Good News Award Certificates for being selected to attend the prestigious 2013 Governor's School of North Carolina, a publicly funded five-week residential summer program for intellectually gifted high school students in the state of North Carolina. **Dickerson** is the son of Wallace and Jennifer Dickerson and he was selected for his achievements in English and Language Arts. **Martinez** is the son of Pascasio and Graciela Ruiz-Martinez and he was accepted into the program as a mathematics nominee. Both young men have aspirations to attend college upon graduation from Northhampton County High School; Dickerson to pursue a major in either Art History or Journalism as he prepares for a career as a writer, and Martinez indicating a desired major in Music, as he hopes to extend his list of achievements into the music industry.

Northhampton County Board of Education Members' Recognition - The Northhampton County Board of Education was recognized and presented certificates for their achievement levels obtained for the 2011-2012 North Carolina School Boards Association Academy of School Boardsmanship. Board members must earn 30 hours of training annually as approved by the local board and reviewed by NCSBA. The following Board Members were recognized while attending the North Carolina School Boards Association 43rd Annual Conference for Board Member Development on November 15-17, 2012 in Greensboro, NC: **Ms. Marjorie Edwards** – Certificate of Advanced Achievement; **Ms. Rhonda Taylor** – Certificate of Merit; and **Mr. Kelvin M. Edwards** – Certificate of Merit.

The **Northhampton County Board of Education** was also presented a **Special Achievement Award Certificate** for their successful completion of the 12-hour training requirement by all members of the Board.

Shining Star Character Education

Ms. Catina Hoggard along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Chair Kelvin Edwards recognized and presented the following students with **Shining Star Award Certificates** for demonstrating the focus of "Kindness" for the month of March:

Antonio Scott (absent), Central Elementary School

Shamonyi Jacobs (absent), Conway Middle School

Raymond Belcher, Jr., Gaston Elementary School

Elijah Shearin, Gaston Middle School

DeAngelo Rawls, Northhampton County Alternative School

Quincy Robusky (absent), Northhampton County High School

Mi'ane Harrison, Squire Elementary School

Aaron Burgess, Willis Hare Elementary School

Break

The Board recessed in a five-minute break at 7:04 p.m.

Introduction of New Personnel

Dr. Eric Bracy introduced the following Northampton County Schools' new personnel to the Board and audience:

Tabitha Kielhack, Middle School Math Teacher, Northampton Alternative School

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board APPROVED the consent agenda consisting of the following items, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Board Minutes – Closed Session – March 4, 2013

Regular Meeting – February 25, 2013

Business Before the Board for Information

Exceptional Children Program's Indicator 14 Post School Outcome Data – Mr. Joe Holloway presented the Exceptional Children Program's Indicator 14 Post School Outcome Data to the Board, which is part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (2004), Part B State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report. This data is being presented to the Board as information. He stated that Northampton County Schools was sampled during the 2010-2011 school year and the percentage for Measurement "C" was 56%, while the state average for Measurement "C" was 66%. Exceptional Children Director Tikisha Joyner will be meeting with the job coach, administrators and EC teachers to address the current transition activities that they have in place and to discuss new activities such as a transition fair, parent night and to make sure students are referred to Vocational Rehabilitation to help address post-secondary needs.

Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Budgets: FY 14 – Mr. Holloway informed the Board that the Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Budgets for fiscal year 2014 are being provided for their information. Mr. Holloway stated that the budgets would be presented at the May Board Meeting for approval.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Mr. Holloway, I know the Finance Committee is going to meet, but do you want the Board to review the budgets and get back to you with any recommendations by a certain time?

Mr. Holloway: Yes and if any Board Member has anything that is not in the budget that they want considered, please inform me of that so that it can be entered.

Directors' Updates – Mr. Holloway also shared with the Board the Directors' Updates for the month of March 2013 along with two attachments. The attachments were as follows:

- Professional Development Survey Summary
- NCS March 15th Professional Development

Ms. Taylor: I appreciate the fact that you included the survey with the Directors' Updates in regards to training provided to the staff. It allows them to share their honest opinion while being anonymous and I think that is a good idea. Letting us view it was a great idea as well.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: In viewing some of the feedback they discussed professional development. I know as a teacher, it is often very hard to fit that in as well as try to meet all of the challenges. I have thought often times there was a need to defer the training and be able to have the time to

implement it. What I also saw in the survey was a strong response to some sort of stipend associated with staff development. I hope this administration is doing some of the things in that we are looking at ways to offer the professional development during the summer on off-days so that our staff can be more refreshed as opposed to having it during half-days. If you are going to put in extra time during the summer, we could look towards securing some funding for stipends. I know that we have run a Fund Balance for the last couple of years and maybe we can look into that to provide stipends so that our staff can take staff development during the summer. That way they can devote their time to receiving the information and be able to develop some resources so that they can implement what they have learned.

Business Before the Board for Approval

Mr. Joe Holloway presented the Child Nutrition National Lunch Section 205 Compliance to the Board. Mr. Holloway stated that Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296) provision requires school food authorities (SFAs) to ensure that schools are providing the same level of support served to students who are not eligible for free or reduced lunches as they are for lunches served to students eligible for free lunches. To ensure continued compliance and gradual implementation of this ruling as required, the administration recommends increasing the price of paid student lunch from \$1.70 to \$1.80 for the 2013-2014 school year. To add a little more information to that, previously two or three years ago, the Board acted to make a gradual change to the lunch price and at that time the price was increased by 5 cents instead of 7 cents and for two of those years the figure was rounded down. This year, the \$1.80 takes us closer to where we should have been two years ago.

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board APPROVED the Child Nutrition National Lunch Section 205 Compliance to increase the price of a paid student lunch from \$1.70 to \$1.80 for the 2013-2014 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Mr. Matthews: This compliance is federal law required and we are not raising the price of lunch just to be raising it, but we are doing it because the federal law requires it.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I wish to share some feedback that I have received from some of our parents who are concerned about some of our practices when a child does not have his or her money to pay for their lunch. We have talked about that in some instances that a lot of our principals were incurring the cost so they have suffered the bad as well as have worked with the Child Nutrition Program. We don't want that to happen, but if we could get an update on that to see if there is still an issue with students not paying and a deficit being left. Also, what supplemental meal are those students being provided? I hope this is not true, but one parent has concerns that their child was not fed period; that they did not receive a lunch at all because they did not have the money.

Ms. Taylor: The year before they were fed peanut butter sandwiches and last year they were fed nothing.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I have had two parents call me and complain about their child not being fed that day, because they did not have money on their account. I know that notices are sent home and students are told ahead of time that their account is low, but there has to be something better we can do, even if it is a piece of fruit or something of sustenance that we could give that child so that he or she would not be inhibited from lunch. If we could see what the practices are and do a survey of the schools and find out.

Dr. Bracy: Ms. Williams, can you get that done for us?

Ms. Carolyn Williams addressed the Board as follows: We have a procedure in place for the elementary school students. If students do not have a lunch they are referred to the principal's office, because Child Nutrition cannot, by federal law, give away food. However, I believe Mr. Holloway stated that we do have a fund or funding, and he will confirm it, to let the district reimburse Child Nutrition for it. Unless you suggest that we send out notices to the parents of elementary school children.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Ms. Williams, what about middle school students?

Ms. Carolyn Williams: We do not have a recourse for middle school students. If they do not have their money, usually they are referred to the office, but if they don't have their money a lot of times they are turned away.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Do you still have the fruit and vegetable give-away program?

Ms. Carolyn Williams: We do have the fresh fruit and vegetable program still in the elementary schools; however, USDA has streamlined their regular requirements or regulations with that. When we first received the program we were free to put it in the hallways and other places, however, now we can only give one serving, which may be an apple or an orange per day and that is strictly for elementary school children.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: So you are saying that middle school children would not have access to a piece of fruit if they don't have their money?

Ms. Carolyn Williams: Yes.

Mr. Williams: Ms. Williams, haven't you worked on a plan before to be presented to the Board? What happened to that plan?

Ms. Carolyn Williams: We presented it to the Board and it came back to us, but I don't think the Board made a decision on the procedures.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Chair Edwards, can we go back and revisit that plan, because we left that open-ended? I would like to see us be able to do something and I know high school students are more responsible and will have their money, but a middle school student, especially if you are talking about a sixth grader, may not be as organized as one of the complaints came from a middle school parent. I would suggest that the Board look at that plan and follow-up with it.

Ms. M. Edwards: My concern was that we discussed earlier about the situation where people got fired for not feeding the children and having them throw their lunch in the trash because they did not have quite enough money. I would hate to see any child not get anything to eat and I am sure we can put something in place where if the child does not have their money they could eat. It may even be a high school student who may not have their money on a particular day. As I have brought this up before, but to see that article in the paper with those three people losing their jobs for telling those students to throw their food in the trash because they did not have quite enough money on their card. Rather than throw it in the trash, let the child go eat the food and take care of that afterwards, because that may be their only meal that whole day. I would also like to see us revisit that plan for Child Nutrition.

Mr. Johnson: Please let it be known that it was not in Northampton County where those people got fired, but it was in Boston.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Ms. Williams, isn't there a program that offers free breakfast? Is that program here?

Ms. Carolyn Williams: Yes we have it at three out of our eight schools. We have implemented the "Grab and Go Breakfast" Program in those schools to increase the participation and ensure that every child receives at least one meal per day. As you know, 89% of our students are free or reduced and reduced students do not pay anything, because that is reimbursed by the state.

Therefore, we are looking at maybe 11% of our students who are paying for breakfast and lunch. As I stated before, 89% of our students are free or reduced.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: In that case, we should not have such a big problem.

Ms. Carolyn Williams: The only problem that we have is usually at the beginning of the school year. We have about 30 days that we have to receive applications in and it does not matter if they are free, reduced or paid. If we do not receive those applications in a timely manner, we are not allowed to serve that child without payment. We can serve them on their old status for the first 30 days and after that, if no affirmation has been received, they have to go to a paid status. Usually, 90% of our problems come during that time. We have to put something in place in order to get those applications in so that we can serve the children. We do try to be sensitive to their needs.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Is that free breakfast program at either one of our middle schools?

Ms. Carolyn Williams: Yes, as a matter of fact the free breakfast program is at both of our middle schools, Gaston and Conway, and at one of our elementary schools, Gaston Elementary.

Ms. M. Edwards: Couldn't there be a line item set up for accountability?

Mr. Joe Holloway: We can set that up in the budget if that is the desire of the Board. We could formulate that for next year to reimburse Child Nutrition.

Ms. M. Edwards: Ms. Williams, you are doing a great job with Child Nutrition. I just don't want to see a child not go through that line.

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED the personnel list below as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1. Mr. Kelvin Edwards voted against.

Personnel

Classified Recommendations:

Nathalie Grant, Administrative Assistant, Curriculum & Instruction/Central Services, 3/12/13

Delois Purnell, Tutor, Central Elementary School, 4/9/13

Resignations:

James L. Jordan, Custodian, Northampton County High School, 6/14/13

Clementine Hux, Teacher Assistant, Squire Elementary School, 6/14/13

Connie Smith, Elementary Teacher, Central Elementary School, 4/30/13

Leave of Absence:

Laura Reyner, English Teacher, Northampton County High School, January 31, 2013 through March 28, 2013

For Information

Camp Get Connected 2013 will begin the last week in June and will extend into the 2nd and 3rd week in July. There will be no camp activity during the 1st week in July. Funds to support the camp will come from the Rural & Low Income Grant, Career-Technical Education and Title I. Below is a list of potential employees for the camp (those who have successfully interviewed and available to teach/work during the camp days). Actual employment will be based on student registration. There are 150 students registered for this hands-on camp. All areas must infuse literacy as a part of their camp. A pre and post assessment will be conducted which may vary from subject area to subject area.

Bus drivers will be selected by Mr. James Tillery based upon the need after bus routes are established.

Instructional staff who are currently employed with Northampton County Schools:

1. Tameka Powell – Camp Director

2. Mark Barfield – Lead Teacher
3. KJ Whitfield – Camp Assistant
4. Tanya Byrd- Robinson – EC Support in classrooms (only extra pay necessary is for weeks in July)
5. Sheri Garner – Introduction to Medical Professions
6. Perry Roberts – Agriculture Education (no extra pay necessary -already 12 months)
7. Amy Lamm- Bass – Healthy Choices
8. Brenda Wilkins – Culinary Arts
9. Margaret Putney – Career Counseling
10. Minester Thomas or Sharia Joyner if application is completed – Cosmetology
11. Meta Stratton – Career/College Counseling (only working 2 weeks of camp due to family engagement final week)
12. Amy Eley – Computer Technology
13. Kimblyn Moore- English Language Arts
14. Ronald Owens – English Language Arts
15. Mildred Broadnax – English Language Arts
16. Kimberly Brown – English Language Arts
17. Judy Adams – Math
18. Rhonda Holmes – Visual Arts (Upper Elementary/Middle/High)
19. Angela Ramsey - Visual Arts – (position only if needed)
20. Janett Walker – Culinary Arts Assistant – (position only if needed)

Instructional Staff who are not currently employed with Northampton County Schools – Criminal Background checks have been completed and these staff will receive a 1099 at the end of the tax year.

1. Kimeko Vaughan – Math (Hertford County High)
2. Ryan Ewell – Science (Warren County New Tech High)
3. Aletea Joosten - Dance (Warren County New Tech High)
4. Keedra Whitaker – Science/Math (Edgecombe County Schools)
5. Taylor Whitehead – Photography (Warren County High)

Board Information

- NSBA Annual Conference – April 13-15, 2013 – San Diego, CA
- NCSBA Community Use of Facilities Webinar – May 7, 2013 – 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. (Speaker: Janine Murphy, NCSBA Assistant Legal Counsel)
- Next Regular Board Meeting – May 6, 2013 – Board Room – 5:00 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- Special Board Meeting (Personnel) – May 14, 2013 – Board Room – 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Smith-Ingram announced that the Finance Committee needed to meet prior to the Board Meeting on May 6th. A Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled for April 24, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Ms. Ingram asked for comments from the Board Members in regards to the budget that was submitted for information.

Chair K. Edwards also announced that the Board needed to schedule another Board Retreat.

Mr. Williams: A few of the Board Members have tossed around the idea of having the principals attend a section of that meeting.

Mr. Johnson: I have not heard anything about that and why am I being left out? When you make the comment that it has been tossed around, I would like to be involved in that.

Mr. Williams: As I stated, it was just a few and that would be two or three.

Dr. Bracy: This is my first time hearing about inviting the principals to the Board Retreat. I have never heard about the Board wanting to meet with the principal so I am completely confused.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I submitted an email to the Chair to add it as an agenda item for us to be able as a Board to sit down with the principals and meet with them for a few minutes to express our support for them and find out if there is any additional support that we can provide for them as they move into this test time and crunch time. We place a lot of responsibilities on our principals and we want to set aside some time for them. What we are trying to do is to change the organizational structure in Northampton County and we are trying to build our collaborative effort. That was the big motivational piece of our first retreat and in continuation of that I submitted a recommendation to the Chair to add that as an agenda item for our next retreat. But, since we had to modify our retreat at the last one, we did not add it. This is just an effort for us to build the organizational culture in Northampton County.

Mr. Johnson: I don't mind attending meetings and I try to be as prompt as I can, but when I go to a meeting and we are supposed to be there at 4:00 p.m. and we don't get started until 4:30 p.m., then I have wasted 30 minutes of my time. If you are going to call a meeting, set the meeting for the time we all are going to be there. I know things come up, but if we are going to set them let us adhere to them.

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a Board Retreat on May 2, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Williams: I think the last meeting that was held at the Hampton Inn was a great meeting. I think folks felt relaxed in that place, as it was a common place for everyone. I just think we had a really good meeting and I would recommend that the meeting be held there.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I would like to recommend something more centrally located like the Garysburg Town Hall or the Garysburg Cultural Arts Development Center since that might be closer for all of our principals as we are asking them to come.

It was the consensus of the Board that the location would be determined for the Board Retreat on May 2, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Chair K. Edwards requested that the Board submit all agenda items for the Board Retreat to the Superintendent by Tuesday, April 30, 2013.

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Approved: June 3, 2013

Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent