

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, January 7, 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 January 7, 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.

The Northampton County Board of Education launched BoardDocs LT at its first Board Meeting in January 2013. The Board used laptop computers to navigate through the agenda versus board packets. BoardDocs LT is an entry level electronic board document management system that was developed specifically for governing bodies of smaller organizations. BoardDocs LT provides a means of immediately publishing and revising agenda items, support documents, policies, and procedures via the internet. The administrations can quickly and easily create, approve and track agenda items and other correspondence. This service provides governing bodies with a simple way to eliminate written documentation while maintaining a searchable legal repository for all documents.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, 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

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The Board's first closed session ended at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously APPROVED the agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED to amend the agenda to add a second closed session after item number XVI., as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair K. Edwards requested that Mr. Williams lead the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Good News Award

Elizabeth City State University – Northeastern North Carolina Leadership Grant –

Ms. Myrna Goldberg, Instructional Coach; Ms. Pamela Miles, Instructional Coach; and Ms. Regina Ash, Chief Academic Officer, were recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for applying for and receiving a Problem-Based Learning Initiatives Grant from Elizabeth City State University’s Northeastern North Carolina Leadership Program in the amount of \$14,134.33. The grant entitled “Bringing Science to Life: Integrating Science and Literacy,” was written to help teachers better implement scientific inquiry and real-world assignments to positively impact student performance. The grant will be used for the following: 1) To fund professional development activities for teachers to provide best practices in helping students experience hands-on and minds-on activities that are exemplars of scientific inquiry and experimentation; and 2) To provide science kits and literature for students in grades k-4. These materials will be used by students as they investigate real-world issues.

What’s Good in the Schools Report! – Mr. Hans Lassiter gave the following “What’s Good in the Schools Report!” to the Board stating that the months of November, December and January proved to be very rewarding and successful in terms of positive publicity and recognition for the achievements of students and staff in Northampton County Schools. Our friends in the local media contributed to these recognitions by featuring the accomplishments of our students and staff in various and Sunday articles that are included in tonight’s Board of Education packet as follows:

Northampton County High School

“Classroom Takes on CSI in Northampton” – Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald

Willis Hare Elementary School

“Willis Hare Toy Drive Helps Less Fortunate” – Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald

“Principal Home at Willis Hare Elementary” – Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald

Squire Elementary School

“Lowe’s Helps Squire Elementary Kids Play” – Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald

Gaston Middle School

“Gaston Middle Students Sing for Hampton Manor Crowd” – Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald

“Healthy Start Cornerstone of Northampton Effort” – Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald

“A Man Among Boys” – Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald

Additionally, Northampton County High School hosted their Fall Career Services Interview Day, organized by Student Services Representative Meta Stratton and it was held in the Northampton County High School Gymnasium. The event was a success!

Shining Star Character Education

Mr. Hans Lassiter 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 “Courage” for the month of December.

Chloe Powell (absent), Central Elementary School

Charles Sumner, Conway Middle School

Daisy Lowe, Gaston Elementary School

Zi`Qayreyeis Pittman, Gaston Middle School

Dashawn Harris, Northampton County Alternative School

Bryanna Williams, Meagan Briggs & Meagan Piland, Northampton County High School
Timothy Moody, Squire Elementary School
Dy`Monaja Cherry (absent), Willis Hare Elementary School

Introduction of New Personnel

Mr. Hans Lassiter introduced the following Northampton County Schools' new personnel to the Board and audience:

Amy Mesiti, 2nd Grade Teacher, Willis Hare Elementary School

Break

The Board recessed in a five-minute break at 7:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, 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 – December 3, 2012

Regular Meeting – November 28, 2012 and December 3, 2012

Overnight Field Trip

The Northampton County High School Marching Jaquars “Institution of Sound” to travel to Atlanta, Georgia on January 25-26, 2013 to participate in the Honda Battle of the Bands at the Georgia Dome.

Request for Fund Raisers

Conway Middle School – Media Club – Scholastic Book Fair – January 15-24, 2013

Central Elementary School – School-wide – Yoyo Sales – January 15-22, 2013

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and Tri-County Industries – Vocational Training Services – Effective: October 23, 2012 until June 30, 2013

Northampton County Schools and Northampton County Health Department – Nurse Family Partnership – Effective: January 7, 2013 until December 31, 2014

Business Before the Board for Information

Directors' Updates – Mr. Holloway shared the Directors' Updates with the Board for the month of December 2012.

Business Before the Board for Approval

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Matthews, the Board unanimously APPROVED to increase the business standard mileage rate to 56.5 cents per mile from 55.5 cents per mile as set by the Internal Revenue Service effective January 1, 2013, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. This increase in mileage will apply to travel occurring on or after January 1, 2013.

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Mr. Matthews, the Board unanimously APPROVED Budget Amendments #01- #04 to reflect various transfers of funds into the appropriate purpose codes based on reversions, discretionary cuts, receipt of additional funds, or as requested by directors or principals, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. Posted transactions meet the requirements of Public School Laws of North Carolina as it pertains to Budget and Fiscal Control.

Ms. Taylor made a motion to approve an Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2013 with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC. Ms. M. Edwards seconded the motion.

The Board held the following discussion regarding the Audit Contract with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC:

Mr. Matthews: Mr. Holloway, how many years have we used Anderson Smith & Wike?

Mr. Holloway: This year will be our third year with them.

Mr. Matthews: That means that with three more years added we would have been with them for six years and they are honoring the same contract price?

Mr. Holloway: That is correct.

Chair K. Edwards: Is that the least amount of time that the contract can be for?

Mr. Holloway: It could be done for one or two years.

Ms. Taylor: Would the contract be the same rate for one or two years?

Mr. Holloway: Yes.

Attorney Rod Malone: The actual contract that is attached is only for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Mr. Williams: Isn't there generally a clause that allows us to get out of that if we give a certain amount of notice?

Attorney Rod Malone: The way I look at it is that the attached contract is literally just for the 2012-2013 school year. I don't think there is anything contractual that would make it difficult for you to terminate the other remaining two years if you so chose to. Without the LGC approval of the agreement, it is not a valid agreement anyway.

Mr. Holloway: This is not the actual contract period, but it is just to have the revenue out there if we say we are going to have the additional three years. Each year it has to go to the Local Government Commission for approval.

Attorney Rod Malone: The motion could be worded to approve the audit firm for the 2012-2013 school year with the understanding that the Board is willing to extend the contract for the next two years. This way no one can point to the board action as somewhat committed beyond the 2012-2013 school year.

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board amended the motion to approve the Audit Contract with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC for the 2012-2013 school year with an option of extending the contract to three years, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I would like to share some comments about the Budget at this time.

Mr. Holloway and I have had the opportunity to meet and I would like for him to share with the Board about the Budget Call and explain it.

Mr. Holloway: The Budget Call was issued to the principals and all of the directors. The Board also has the opportunity to present to me anything that they would like to include in the budget submission. There are forms available and everyone can be given a copy of that tonight before you leave. There are things that we have already discussed that I think the Finance Committee will need to meet on for consideration from last year that we have to get done. Those forms are available for your input.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Specifically Board Members, I have some concerns about several items as follows:

- 1) An update for a budget we received for the NCHS facility. It was budgeted \$419,000 just for the facility alone and all of these projects have not been done, therefore I would like a current update of what expenditures have gone out since our September meeting. How close are we to fulfilling this list from the May 18th budget?

- 2) I also have concerns when I looked at the budget with the middle school supplements for coaches. The Finance Committee will be meeting about that soon, because we need to have a discussion about that.
- 3) Some Board Members have questions regarding the Budget Reversions from the September meeting about the allocations and the percentages. If we could get a clean update on both recommendations that were made.
- 4) I have a Capital Outlay Budget that was presented in December, but it is hard for me to ask over and over again for the same information. When I do get the information, it has not been in a ready format that I can really see what is going on with it. I have been asking for a current budget on every dime that has been spent and I have not received it to-date. I have been asking for this since May and Dr. Bracy will tell you the same. Mr. Holloway, I want to thank you because you have done a good job in getting me this information that I ask for.

Dr. Bracy: Can I get clarification on what you are seeking?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I want to know all of what has been spent at the high school in regards to the facility. Dr. Bracy, this is what you gave out at the last meeting and when I compared it there was not an update of expenditures.

Dr. Bracy: That is correct because everything was not done.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: It does not have the latest update of expenditures to include the air quality test that cost \$33,000 done in November.

Dr. Bracy: The \$33,000 was only an estimate and we did not get that done.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: There was something done, because you gave us an update. Therefore, just to be clear, I need a report of every dime that has been spent at NCHS since May 2012. Please let it be up-to-date and I would like to get that report within the next two weeks.

Dr. Bracy: Do you mind meeting with me later to see what discrepancies that are not there that you may need?

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Yes I can.

Mr. Williams: Do you think it would be helpful, because I think there were a lot of budgeted items and the district is not reflecting all of that, because some of those items have not been done. You may need to have a spreadsheet with what your plans were and the monies that were earmarked versus monies that were spent.

Dr. Bracy: The spreadsheet that you have is for what was earmarked.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: There were some additional expenditures that have occurred this school year (first semester) that were not included in that.

Dr. Bracy: That should not be difficult to find.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I just want a running budget with everything that has been done on this report with any other additional services, treatment, cost, repairs, etc. I am referring to every dime that has been spent on the NCHS facility and I am not talking about including uniforms.

Dr. Bracy: Uniforms were left out of that report and I gave that report out in December. At that time, I did not know that report was not what you wanted. Had I known that, I would have had it for you tonight.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: The report was part of what I wanted, but just not complete.

Chair K. Edwards: We also need know the cost on the air quality study that was done at NCHS.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Also, please include the mold treatment and so forth, as those reports were emailed to us, but I just want to be sure that a budget was in place or see the line item as we are counting up the cost.

Dr. Bracy: Ms. Ingram, I will meet with you after this meeting.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Whatever it takes to get that information.

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board unanimously APPROVED the personnel list below as revised and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Personnel

Certified Recommendation:

Patrick Nelson, Middle School Math Teacher, Northampton Alternative School, January 8, 2013

Classified Recommendations:

Wayne Welch, Jr., Substitute Teacher, Northampton County Schools, January 8, 2013

Amy Moran, Tutor, Gaston Middle School, January 8, 2013

Minerval Phillips, Tutor, Gaston Middle School, January 8, 2013

April Archer, Long-Term Substitute, Northampton County Schools/NCHS, January 8, 2013

Betty Phillips, Bus Driver, Northampton Alternative School, January 8, 2013

Dwander Dawson, Tutor, Northampton County High School, January 8, 2013

Felix Jerome Williams, Substitute Teacher, Northampton County Schools, January 8, 2013

Leave of Absence Recommendations:

Katie Pugh, Child Nutrition Assistant, Conway Middle School, 11/6/12 – 1/15/13

Jackie Manley, Job Coach, Northampton County High School, 10/3/12 – (1/23/13 evaluation)

Carolyn Clay, Custodian, Gaston Elementary School, 12/17/12 – (1/28/13 evaluation)

For Information

Retirement Recommendations:

Juran Squire, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, 2/1/13

Hattie S. Hunter, P.E. Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 2/1/13

Melinda Flythe, School Nurse, Northampton County Schools, 2/1/13

Resignation Recommendation:

Dionne Redding, English Teacher, Northampton County High School, 12/17/12

Superintendent's Information

Dr. Bracy addressed the Board and audience as follows:

- I wanted to speak on the tragedy of the lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. I speak for everyone at this table that it breaks our hearts as educators, but as parents. I want everyone to know in this school system that safety and security is priority #1. We had lengthy discussions about this at our last Administrative Staff Meeting about safety in the schools and as a result and response to strategies, we asking all of our administrators to adhere to safety procedures, assess potential security risks and practice safety preparedness. One of the key things we discussed regarding safety is to heighten the awareness of your surroundings. Certainly, our hearts and prayers go out to those families in Newtown, Connecticut. It is an absolute tragedy. All I ask is for this Board and everyone in this room to keep those families and that community in your prayers.
- Dr. Bracy: Let me commend Ms. Patricia Harris for transitioning into the digital age.
- Ms. Harris has done a wonderful job with our paperless board packet. Certainly Ms. Harris we congratulate you for a job well done! This is our last meeting with notebooks, right Ms. Harris?
Ms. Harris: Whatever the Board wants to do.
- Ms. Smith-Ingram: Ms. Harris, I was just asking our Chair about putting all of those documents on BoardDocs since August. It would be nice if those documents were at our fingertips.

Board Information

- NCSBA School Board 101 – January 7-8, 2013 – NCSBA Assembly Hall, Raleigh, NC
- NCSBA Understanding the Role of the School Board Chair – January 16, 2013 - NCSBA Assembly Hall, Raleigh, NC
- NCSBA School Board 101 – January 17-18, 2013 – NCSBA Assembly Hall, Raleigh, NC
- Next Regular Board Meeting – February 4, 2013 – Board Room – 5:00 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- NCSBA February Special Issue Seminars – February 21-22, 2013 – NCSBA Assembly Hall, Raleigh, NC

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards and APPROVED, the Board convened closed session at approximately 7:25 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

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The Board's second closed session ended at approximately 9:55 p.m.

Chair K. Edwards made the following announcements:

- The Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners will meet in a Joint Meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Northampton County Central Services Board Room.
- The Board of Education will convene following the Joint Meeting with the County Commissioners on January 9, 2013 to discuss the construction of a new high school and other school system issues.

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Approved: February 4, 2013

Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent