

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, October 8, 2012**

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 October 8, 2012 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Chair Kelvin Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor and APPROVED, the Board convened closed session at approximately 5:50 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 Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, 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 Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board unanimously APPROVED the Board Agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously APPROVED to amend the agenda to add the addendum items listed below to the agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

XII. Business Before the Board for Information

Northampton County High School Discussion
Service Solutions Information/Discussion
Garysburg Elementary School Property

XIII. Business Before the Board for Approval

Board Policies 1000-2000 Series

Pledge of Allegiance

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

District Mission

Chair K. Edwards stated that the Board would like to recognize that October is “National Breast Cancer Awareness Month” and pink ribbons are being worn throughout the schools and the community in awareness of breast cancer.

Chair K. Edwards also shared the District Mission of Northampton County Schools 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. He added that these are our guiding principles of the Northampton County School District.

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 “Respect” for the month of September:

Marcus Jarrell, Central Elementary School

Jaila Ramsey, Conway Middle School

Tarrel Benjamin, Gaston Elementary School

Alexis Ingram, Gaston Middle School

Kara Roberts, Northampton County Alternative School

Cody Umphlett, Northampton County High School

Markhial Rawles, Squire Elementary School

Perla Bautista, Willis Hare Elementary School

Chair K. Edwards: The Board certainly appreciates the 100% attendance of all of our students tonight.

Introduction of New Personnel

Dr. Eric Bracy introduced to the Board and audience Mr. Oliver Holley stating that he is here for the first time in his new role as Principal of Conway Middle School.

Public Comments

The following person addressed the Board during Public Comments:

Mr. Joe Lyons – “Good evening Board Members. I recently moved my children back to Northampton County Schools. I have had several issues with the Uniform Policy, as Mr. Holley is aware. My biggest issue is that I understand that there needs to be some kind of a standard dress, but the color format I don’t agree with. My son went to school wearing the wrong colored shoes and they pulled him out of class and made him sit in the office until someone brought him some more shoes. He is there to get an education. If he is wearing the wrong colored shoes or the wrong style shoes, please send a note so that we will know he can’t wear those shoes or that colored shirt. Keep him in class not pull him out, because he is there to get an education. My son got sick last week on a Monday. I did not find out about it until he got sick on the bus coming home. I have two cell phones and the school has three contact numbers, but I heard nothing until my daughter text me and told me he was sick on the bus. Mr. Branch stopped the bus at the high school, cleaned him up and asked me if I could get someone else to come pick him up. This thoroughly infuriated me. If I have a child to get sick at 8:00 in the morning, call me. They can call me if he is wearing the wrong colored shoes or the wrong colored shirt, but they could not get in contact with me that day when he was sick. I guess most of you have children. How would you feel if it were your child lying there with a fever, throwing-up and no

one bothers to tell you? As far as the Uniform Policy goes, I would like for you to go more with a dress code instead of wrong colored shirt—you can't sit in class. Make it a standard of "keep your pants up" and "keep everything covered". It does not matter what color the clothes are as long as they are worn in a respectable manner, such as no tank tops and no spaghetti straps. Not, you are wearing a red top and you can't sit in class today. That is a little too extreme, because our children are there to get an education. I think uniforms were started because of gang issues. I don't know if anyone has been keeping track or if there is any kind of record as to what trouble there was before the uniforms and what kind of trouble there is now. Uniforms are just there so that everyone will look the same, but you are taking away our children's individuality, freedom of expression and the way I look at it is also kind of a discrimination issue. They are being discriminated against because they are not wearing the right colored shirt. I may be wrong, but that is my view."

Chair K. Edwards: Mr. Lyons, thank you for your concerns. Someone will be getting back in touch with you.

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously 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 – The Closed Session minutes for September 5, 2012 were deleted.

Regular Meeting – July 16, 2012, August 6, 2012, August 18, 2012 and September 5, 2012

Mr. Clinton Williams requested that a correction be made in the August 6, 2012 minutes on page 5, paragraph 4 to read: "In the early 2000's I voted to bring this Uniform Policy here as a Board Member."

Request for Fund Raisers

Central Elementary School – Guidance Club – Drug Free Dance – October 26, 2012

Squire Elementary School – School-wide – Candy Sales – October 16, 2012 – November 8, 2012

Gaston Elementary School – Fund Raising Committee – Monthly PBIS Social – October 1, 2012 – May 30, 2013

Northampton County High School – FCCLA Club – Bake Sales – October 1, 2012 – May 31, 2013

Northampton County High School – Early Childhood Club – Candy Bags – October 15-31, 2012

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and Venassa Person – Exceptional Children Homebound Services – Effective: August 27, 2012 until June 7, 2013

Business Before the Board for Information

Budget Adjustments – Mr. Joe Holloway informed the Board that in their board packets there is adjusting journal entries to move \$10,000.00 from Current Expense PRC 841 (Superintendent's Budget) to Local Current Expense PRC 002 (Salaries).

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

Ms. Taylor: On page 2 of the Directors' Update, the dates for Mr. Tillery's update appear to be the wrong dates.

Ms. Patricia Harris: I did not realize that Mr. Tillery had forwarded the wrong update. I will send the correct update to the Board's emails.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I would like to ask Mr. Holloway to mention what was explained in the Finance Committee Meeting that we don't have the federal allotment yet, because there were some corrections that needed to be made and some adjustments in salaries. Can you make a statement regarding that please?

Mr. Joe Holloway: As of 6:00 a.m. this morning, we received our last Budget Revision from the Department of Public Instruction and it did not contain the federal budget pieces that we needed to complete the budget before it comes to the Board. We did make adjustments internally by doing adjusting journal entries to make the transactions happen that I just mentioned.

Chair K. Edwards requested that the Board allow Ms. Ash to give her Curriculum & Instruction Update at this time before the Northampton County High School Discussion addendum item.

Curriculum & Instruction Update:

Ms. Regina Ash addressed the Board regarding the Curriculum and Instruction Update informing them that on September 27-28, 2012 the school staffs participated in a Professional Development. You should have received a five-page description of all of the activities that took place from Dr. Bracy by way of email.

Our Curriculum and Instruction Team meets monthly and we discuss everything of importance that is going on in Northampton County Schools, including one of the items that is on your agenda for approval this evening. In addition to the feedback from the Professional Development days where our people, our employees, are telling us how they felt about what they participated in and what they still need. We make plans based on that feedback. The feedback comes from a survey that is online that was administered to our staff the day after the professional development activities. We currently have over 90 responses so far. It asked staff everything from, "was the professional development activity beneficial to them" to "what they would have if they felt that it was less than great, what would they do to have it better for them in the future". "What could that presenter have done to have made it better?" The survey is ten questions and it can be filtered so that we can tell which session they participated in, what school, and what grade-span that the teacher or paraprofessional was in. This is something that gives us a lot of data and it will allow Curriculum & Instruction to be able to plan better professional development variety. That is the biggest project that has taken place since the last Board meeting.

Mr. Williams: Can you tell me what your thoughts are regarding the need for developing teachers in the area of classroom management?

Ms. Regina Ash: That is an area that we do work on and we are currently discussing the need for a full-time instructional coach. We have some very young and inexperienced teachers that we feel have the content, but their classroom management is weak. We are working with them, but we need to dedicate more resources to help them develop skills for management.

Mr. Williams: Have you considered using your more experienced teachers who may have better classroom management in teams or in the 7th grade team to mentor some of those individuals?

Ms. Regina Ash: Yes, we have had principals request whether they can use professional development money from Title I to free a teacher in need to go and work with a more experienced and capable teacher. We have discussed coordinating classroom observations and walkthroughs.

Northampton County High School Discussion:

Mr. Williams: This is to my fellow Board Members first and then to get some information from others as time goes on. I have made several visits to the high school this year, specifically in the capacity of a Board Member, to go and walkthrough and to get an understanding of how the

school is going, because it is a fairly new situation for all of us. When I went through on that first visit, I was concerned about the conditions of the school. I know so far we have put a lot of money in what we know now as Northampton County High School, formerly Northampton County High School-East. I am concerned that we have our high school students being educated in a school that is in the condition that Northampton County High School is in. I was concerned about the cleanliness of the building. I was concerned about the issue that centers what a lot of students, staff and now parents are concerned and complaining about in terms of asbestos having been in the building; the way the whole situation was handled. I am constantly getting information and I know a lot of students have had medical issues, secondary to the conditions that may be related to the possibility of air borne particles. This is very tough, because once that gets in the air it is tough to deal with it. Once it gets into your system it can create some major issues. There are a lot of issues going on there and I think that we need to be aware and that is something we need to look into to make sure that our students and staff are safe in that environment. I have issues with sinus and when I left out of that school building my sinuses were in a wreck. As I was leaving the building, there was a student coming up complaining about having a headache. It is my understanding that there is a frequent problem with sinus problems, asthma problems and complaints of headaches. My main thing is that I don't know what the air quality of the building is. Dr. Bracy mentioned that he had the air quality tested to make sure that everything was well there. I am concerned that maybe it is, but I don't know that we have done enough given some of the complaints that I am aware of. At this point, I did not want to go any further than we are tonight without bringing this issue up so that we can look this over to make sure that everyone involved is safe, including myself who has to go into that building. I thought about this whole issue when I was going through the Board packet of which the Code of Student Conduct was included. On the first page, it has the list of definitions for the Character Traits. As I looked over those Character Traits I realized that I needed to bring this issue up tonight so that we can address it and we need to make sure that our students, parents, staff and everyone else are safe and if there is some information that needs to be shared that it is shared. One of the reasons that I am concerned is because I watched two of my older brothers pass away from cancer. Neither one of those cancers were secondary to anything that was air borne that I am aware of or asbestos, but I know that was a pretty horrific thing for my family to go through and much worse for my brothers to go through. I don't want to see a student, a staff member or a visitor go through that particular issue.

Service Solutions Discussion:

Mr. Williams: The other thing that I am concern about is the issue with the cleaning service that we brought on board, because that service was supposed to go in and get our schools up to par. I was taken back when I went into the school because I expected to go in and see a pretty clean and polished atmosphere and I did not see that. Although on my third visit so far this year I have seen an improvement. When I mentioned it to Dr. Bracy by way of email, he said we are going to get on it and he has done just that and the building has improved. The lighting in the hallways is dim. I think that the environment that the students are in is not conducive for learning. I am concerned about any possible health risk factors that may be present as well. I think this is something that we really need to stop right now and take a look at. I am hoping that before we leave tonight that we are in a position to at least agree on an action plan to make that sure our children are in the right conditions. I could not come here tonight and not talk about it. I could not come here tonight, leave here, be concerned and to go home knowing that this is something that we should be addressing. I would like to know if anyone else might have any concerns such

as that or what your thoughts are about some of those things that I talked about. I would like for this Board to consider asking Dr. Bracy to look at those cases of our students and staff that may have been affected by some of those things that I have mentioned tonight without being too specific.

Chair K. Edwards: I would like for the Board to take a five-minute recess.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I would like to go on record before we go to recess. I need to put my opinion out there.

Chair K. Edwards: I call for the Point of Personal Privilege.

Mr. Johnson: As Chairman of the Facilities Committee, I would like to talk to Mr. Williams in more detail after this meeting is over, because we would like to have a Facilities Committee Meeting and address the issues that you spoke about. The meeting will be held this week.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I had the opportunity to visit the high school today. I had not visited the high school in about three months. I have to say that while it was cleaner it still is a building that I don't feel is not appropriate for us to be educating our children in the 21st century. I am quite appalled at the appearance and that we took the worst building in our district and put high school students there. I looked at some of the painting and in speaking to someone I used the analogy, "if I were an old hag you can put lipstick on me and I would still look like an old hag". When you look at behavior that is associated with the environment you are in, especially we as Board Members, we state in our policies that to the best of our ability we will assure that all of our school buildings, classrooms and campuses are safe, clean, inviting and are conducive to education. When you go into that building, I don't care how much paint you put on that building it is still a building that is 50-years old. Every school board knows that when they are doing planning, the life cycle of most school buildings is 50 years. That high school building has already served out its time and no matter how much money we put in it, it is not going to be appropriate to continue to educate children there. To take it a step further, there are people who are getting sick; children with asthma episodes are now more prevalent. It is my understanding that paramedics have been called out for several asthmatic episodes. I have a child with respiratory conditions and we owe it to the children and their safety and their medical well-being to get these kids in a better building. I don't care if we have to put kids in a church, if we have to rent a building, if we have to pull in mobile units, or we do something rather quickly to get that building in better condition or move them to a temporary location until we can work out what we need to do facility wise. The answer is not to continue much longer in that building. The best looking spot in the entire building on the campus is the gymnasium and I thought this was about education. We spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to get the gym in shape. Even putting any amount of money in that building I don't think it would be satisfactory. People who have mold problems and I just recovered from a respiratory problem and it cycled back on me that fast, because there are tiles and with wet tiles you can see the mold. In one room, the history classroom, where there was a lot of problems they replaced the tiles on Friday. I also understand someone was there to look at the roof on Friday. I picked a good day to go because it was raining and there are still trashcans in the hallways collecting water. Anytime you have water coming through tiles you know you are going to have mold problems and mold problems are going to exasperate whatever asthmatic conditions these children have. I pray to God daily that no child has to suffer a severe asthma episode to the point that it is fatal, because we have children in that type of environment. I am appalled that we as Board Members would put children in the worst facility that we have. We need to close that building down and we need to do what we need to do to advocate for a new centrally located high school, even if we have to

renovate one of the existing structures that we have, but we have to do something better. We tried it and we thought it would work, but at this point we need to come together and say maybe this wasn't the best option. I am not saying we should not have one high school, but we need a better facility. Where those children are it is not safe and I am glad my child is in Pre-K, because we have plenty of time to work it out. There are other parents I am speaking for whose children are there, because children don't have a choice. They have to go to that building. Also, the layout of the campus defies all of the safety requirements that are more noticeable since Columbine. You have four buildings that are all open. I am not making any suggestions, but you could have a crisis where you could not contain it because the buildings are open. If I go out of the side door no alarm sounds so how would you know that I have left the campus. You have cameras, but are they even 100% fool proof? I am just saying that the Facility Committee needs to meet this week and we as a Board has got to do better than what has been done, because that building is not conducive to education.

Ms. Taylor: I understand the frustration and everything, but I am upset as well. My son has been in that building for the last three years and this is his last year. No one had any concerns or problems until the schools combined. Did anyone care about my son's health in the prior three years? I am a parent first and foremost and then I am a Board Member. I have spoken before and nobody listened. I too go into those buildings and have spoken with the janitors and the staff here. I have pointed out certain things, but it is not my place as a Board Member. I feel they that should know what needs to be done, but again I get frustrated.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Chair Edwards, I would like to pull the board records; because I went on record saying it was not a safe campus. I said that two years ago, three years ago, and one year ago. We had a feasibility study that said that building's maintenance equipment could not take on an additional load of students, but what did we listen to. We did not listen to that and I know for one I have spoken about the conditions of that building and that children did not need to be in there. I am especially concerned about the layout of the campus. It is not a safe campus, not since Columbine. Ms. Taylor, I did go on record not just for your son, but all of the children that were there. That building should have been closed a long time ago.

Mr. Williams: I will be glad to talk about the next item briefly. I would like to go on record saying that I will be very disappointed that we shared some of this information around this room and that I am hearing now Mr. Chair, what is the next item. I am going to piggyback on what a Board Member said tonight in another discussion and I will not call any names. The one thing that will cause you problems is when you have information in place and you don't go by that. I think that this spills over a little and it applies equally that when you know that you know and someone else knows that you know and we do nothing. There is a word called negligence, but forget about negligence. I liked it when President Barack Obama said to the Senators and Congressman, "Look folks, we can get into a shouting match and we can talk about what is going to happen at the voting poles, but there are folks in trouble now and we need to address those folks' concerns right now, because people are suffering". I don't think that it would be appropriate for us to leave this building tonight and not have some more discussion about this particular issue. We honored children tonight because they have done so well in school and most of what they have done fell right in line with these Character Traits. All of us around this table share these same character traits and I think it would be less than this for us not to deal with this particular issue. Our high school students are forced to go to this particular place to receive their education in this particular place and because they have to attend school in that particular place we have to make sure that we are being responsible by making sure that place is safe. I cannot

tell you that I believe that it is safe. I want to go on record by saying this is not some kind of contest about me saying, "Oh didn't I tell you so," because that is not what this is about. This is about a Board Member who stood right there where Mr. Holloway is now on July 16th. I took an Oath that I was going to do whatever I can to make sure that our children receive the best education possible. My not dealing with this particular issue I would be neglecting my duties. I believe that this is something that needs to be discussed and doing a little bit more than saying that this is sharing of information. This is not simply Business Before the Board, but I think this is Business Before the Board that needs some discussion and some action. I would be glad to move on from that particular issue now if someone wants to hear about Service Solutions. I am hoping this will become an item for discussion if there is anyway that we can discuss it. I heard Mr. Johnson say that there is going to be a Facilities Committee Meeting on this.

Chair K. Edwards: Before we leave the item of the high school, have you finished making the points that you wanted to make about it so that we can talk about the next steps? You know we can refer this issue to the Facilities Committee.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Williams and I can meet afterwards, because I need to get some more information.

Chair K. Edwards: What I have heard is that we do have some concerns about the facility and I want to say nothing is out there just falling on deaf ears.

Mr. Williams: I was just waiting on the Board to say okay let's do this. I wanted to hear the Board say we are concerned and let's act on this. I heard Mr. Johnson say clearly that he would.

Mr. Matthews: Mr. Johnson, you are the Chair of the Facilities Committee and I am a member of that Facilities Committee? I am not sure who the third member is, but I believe it is Ms. Ingram. Since Ms. Wyche is the Principal, I believe it would be appropriate to hold the Facilities Committee Meeting at the school if Ms. Wyche would agree to that. If any Board Members would like to come and point out some things to the committee we invite them to do so.

Chair K. Edwards: I was going to suggest that the meeting be held at the school. Can we discuss a date and time now so that we can discuss this at the high school?

Mr. Johnson: After this Friday, Mr. Matthews will be out of the town until the next Board Meeting. I was trying to expedite things before Mr. Matthews leaves town to get the meeting together. We will discuss a place and time following this meeting.

Chair K. Edwards: The committee is Mr. Johnson, Mr. Matthews and Ms. Ingram and what I clearly heard stated was the meeting taking place on Friday, October 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Unfortunately I am not retired and I have a professional development activity in Charlottesville and will be leaving on Wednesday. I will not be back until late on Thursday. I would suggest the meeting be held on Friday afternoon at maybe 4:00 p.m. Also, I have been to the high school and I would suggest that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Matthews could go on Friday morning and they could teleconference with me during my planning period between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Johnson: I will discuss this with Ms. Ingram after the meeting and we will get together on the time.

Service Solutions Discussion:

Mr. Williams: Where are we with Service Solutions and is that company actually on board now?

Mr. Holloway: That is correct, Service Solutions is in operation.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Are there any problems and are the custodians adjusting well?

Dr. Bracy: Yes it is going well. I would ask that Mr. Tillery approach the Board for any other questions.

Mr. James Tillery addressed the Board as follows regarding Service Solutions: Good evening Board Members. We are in the process of working with Service Solutions. They are in all of the schools and they are working. They are in the process of hiring a couple of more employees and they are going through credit checks. They have run into some problems with getting good background checks on some employees. They are constantly putting new equipment in the schools and they are developing quite well in the schools. Yes, we are having some issues and you do expect to have some issues at this time, but they are constantly working through those problems that we had.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: What percentage of the custodians work on the night shift?

Mr. James Tillery: Basically at most of the schools, we have one person who comes in during regular hours such as 7:00 a.m., one person may come in at 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. and we have some who come in during the evening hours. When you look at cleaning a building and we talked to Service Solutions about this that it is virtually impossible to clean a building when everyone is in the building. That is why they do most of the cleaning at night.

Mr. Williams: My assumption was that Service Solutions would be doing the deep cleaning and taking care of some of the cleaning item issues that we were struggling with in the past.

Mr. James Tillery: That is what they are intending to do. Service Solutions is building up their personnel to do that. I believe they will have to hire approximately three more employees. Another problem they have run into is that we have a few custodians who are out on medical leave. By not having them in place it makes things come up a little short and it makes a lot of difference.

Mr. Williams: What is their role at the high school?

Mr. James Tillery: Their role is the same as it is at all of the schools to keep the buildings clean.

Mr. Williams: So when I go into a school it would be unusual for me to see someone other than the normal staff who would generally be cleaning? In other words, if I ask for a supervisor from Service Solutions would they be on-site at that time?

Mr. James Tillery: There is pretty much one person with Service Solutions who is the manager and he looks after eight schools plus the Central Office. That person is also the person who carries the supplies out to the schools. What we usually do if we want to make contact with him we call him and set up an appointment. You would not see him at just any one of the schools.

Mr. Williams: I just wondered if that person would be in the schools at certain points of the day. My concern would be, are we any further ahead or along with cleanliness of our schools and overall presentation than we were prior to bringing this company on board?

Mr. James Tillery: We are ahead of the cleaning right now. The manager that we have is in the process of training the employees and it is going to take one person a while to get everyone trained the way Service Solutions wants them trained. That is what we are in the process of doing right now.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: Mr. Tillery, you probably have no control over this, but I personally will be monitoring this to see if they are worth the cost. Are we better off with having a third party come in and manage us or are we better off managing our own people?

Mr. James Tillery: We are in the process of looking at that too.

Chair K. Edwards: The Board voted to employ them for only one year.

Garysburg Elementary School Property:

Ms. Smith-Ingram: My only issue with the Garysburg Elementary School site is that another month has passed and we have not made any definitive decisions. It still seems to be in limbo. The Town of Garysburg has approached us and seems to be interested in sitting down with the Board and discussing ways that we can work out a relationship with them. I have said from day one that we implement policies, we are a School Board and we are a school system. We are not a real estate company and we are not here to manage property and I would like to see us allow that building to be used by the community at-large and the taxpayers who paid for the building. If that is going to service the people in that community I would like to see us work out a relationship where they can have the building. I am not interested in any older buildings and if we continue to let it sit there we are going to have another Jackson-Eastside or a school in Gaston. Let's do what we need to do as a Board and figure out how we can allow them to purchase the building from us even if it is over a period of years at a cost that they can afford. I just want us to get out of the real estate business so that we can focus on policy and what matters with our children. We can't even take care of the buildings we do have. Why do we want to keep extra buildings around?

Mr. Johnson: I read somewhere today in going back through my materials that we did offer them or there was proposal one time of letting them purchase it for so many dollars per year over a ten-year period.

Chair K. Edwards: It was over a twenty-year period at the cost of \$100,000 over the twenty years.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: If they have made an offer and there is no discussion I am ready to move this along. This has gone along over a year and a half now. Is the Board ready to take action tonight? Can Chair Edwards or Attorney Malone update us on what the last discussion was? What is holding this up and what is preventing us from coming to the table and making a decision and moving forward?

Attorney Rod Malone: My memory of where we left off and I apologize if I am wrong was that I thought that Mr. Matthews, when he was in his other capacity, told the Board that the building had some value that was worth \$1 million dollars. I explained to the Board that under the Constitution you can't just give it to them for less than fair market value. You can offer it to the County Commissioners and they can buy it from you and they give it to them. You can't give it to them, because you have to get fair market value for the building or something close to fair market value. I do know that you had offered them some ability to pay whatever they deemed fair market value is over some twenty-year period of time. Unless Mr. Matthews tells me otherwise, I don't remember the value of the building being \$100,000. I can't believe that we would have made that offer to them. They did offer to purchase it from you for \$100,000, but that is no where near the value of the property and you are not in a position to sell it to them for less than the fair market value.

Mr. Johnson: I was Chair of the Board at that time and I was in contact with Mayor Bell. I had received the letter from him and I responded to that letter by phone call stating what he had said and how things had progressed. Mr. Matthews had a letter from Mr. Jenkins stating that the County Commissioners did not want the property. Therefore, when they refused the property it became ours again; is that correct Mr. Matthews? They refused because if they had given it away it would have been detrimental to their political careers. But, I did read today and I might be mistaken that the property had been offered to be sold to them over a twenty-year period for \$100,000 per year, which would have given them fair market value.

Attorney Rod Malone: At \$100,000 per year, that at least sounds more like it.

Chair K. Edwards: Just for clarity, I stated that we were made an offer to purchase the building over a period of twenty years at \$100,000.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: The buck keeps passing. I don't know why we are in this position. It seems like no one wants to do the expedient thing. I know what we have to do and that is surplus it. If the Commissioners don't want it then we can't give it to them. We are sitting here still leasing a property and our leasing with them is not enabling them to compete for contracts, grants and be able to submit proposals that will serve our community. If the children in the community are benefiting, can't this Board make a decision? Because the buck is being passed to us, let us not keep passing the buck or sitting on all of the bucks that have been passed around and just doing nothing. They have approached us several times and it is time for us to go to the table and do what we need to do so that the citizens can be served by the building that their taxes paid for. We did not buy it, the citizens paid for it. Can we find a way to allow them to get the property even if they have to purchase it over a term of years? It may not be \$100,000, it may not be \$1 million, but let's sit down and negotiate what the price can be so we can make this communicable. Then we can get rid of the property and they can use the property to benefit the community. I am ready to put that in the form of a motion.

Attorney Rod Malone: Can I read the email I received from their attorney Maria Misse yesterday? She is the lawyer for the Town of Garysburg. "Any luck with the Board getting a meeting with the Town Commissioners to discuss the long term use or purchase issue. They are very anxious to hear from you." Ms. Ingram, it sounds like they would like to sit down and talk and maybe that is the direction that we should consider first. There are one or two things I might want to explore.

Mr. Williams: In 2012 and the economy being the way that it is, \$100,000 may be more than fair market value, particularly with the oil tank that has to be removed from the ground and the complaints that there may be some traces of lead in that building. What is really fair market value and does anyone know at this point? We need not to have that liability on our hands and Ms. Ingram made a good point that the Town being able to access grants and loans that will help get that building in the shape that it needs to be in. They have already missed a lot of deadlines and money that they could have had their hands on to make those repairs. We are at a stand still in figuring out how to put them in a position to do that. They have to be able to take ownership or a long-term lease. We should agree tonight to sit down with the Town of Garysburg administrators and talk about making it happen. I would feel good about it.

Ms. Smith-Ingram made a motion to submit two dates of October 22nd or October 29th to the Town of Garysburg Council to meet and discuss the Garysburg Elementary School Property.

Chair K. Edwards: Mr. Matthews stated that he could not be in attendance.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: That way we can get to it before our next Board Meeting so that we can take action in November. I apologize that Mr. Matthews cannot be here.

Mr. Williams: Attorney Malone, would it make sense for us to look at October 22nd so that if we come to some kind of conclusion it would give you the opportunity to help us with any complications or expected problems?

Attorney Rod Malone: I don't know that your issue is necessarily the Board, but it is probably both Boards' desire to try to figure out a way to get it done. Your real issue is a legal issue in what you can and cannot do. What might be the best use of time would be for me to try to get up with Ms. Misse one more time to see if we can get our hands around what the Board legally can and cannot do. Then I would try to coordinate a meeting or conference call with the Mayor and

Superintendent about building use, long-term use and what use of the building we might be able to preserve long-term, which might be something we could use as compensation that could help lower the price. There may be some way to go about this that might be worth exploring with her, if we can get everyone on the same page.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I will withdraw my motion.

Mr. Matthews made a motion that at the conclusion of the set agenda the Board would go into closed session pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Board's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege to discuss the disposal of the Garysburg Elementary School Property. Ms. Smith-Ingram seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson: I was erroneous in my statement and would like to apologize to the Board. I found the minutes that I was reading and I misread them. I will read the following statement that Attorney Malone made during the July 16, 2012 Board Meeting. "I honestly thought they were going to follow-up and be here to follow through other than the email I have received from their attorney. They have asked for a couple of things, such as 1) they buy it for \$100,000 payable over 20 years." I wish to correct the statement that I made earlier in which I said \$100,000 per year and that I should have said \$100,000 payable over 20 years.

The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 to hold a second closed session immediately following the set agenda to preserve the attorney-client privilege regarding the Garysburg Elementary School Property, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Business Before the Board for Approval

Mr. Matthews stated that when he read the agenda item he asked the two following questions:

1) Do we have the money in the budget or is it budgeted? 2) Do we have technology support?

The answer I received was positive for both questions.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to purchase the OdysseyWare Online Curriculum Delivery System in the amount of \$24,100 for a one-year subscription. The motion was seconded by Ms. Taylor.

Ms. Smith-Ingram: I had the chance to speak with Dr. Bracy earlier today regarding this item.

My concern is that before this item is passed, we have tried online programs before and this one is geared particularly for the Alternative School. I do not want this program used in any way as to replace a teacher, which is what was done last time. Our students who are most at-risk had to sit in front of a computer and try to learn. It is hard enough for them to learn as it is. Dr. Bracy assured me that this program is totally different and they will still have live teachers and this is an extension of their learning and it will offer course recovery to other students.

The motion passed by a vote of 7-0 to purchase the OdysseyWare Online Curriculum Delivery System in the amount of \$24,100 for a one-year subscription, as recommended by the Superintendent. OdysseyWare is a research-based, interactive, intuitive, online curriculum delivery system designed to reach digital natives and students who are challenged within the constraints of the traditional classroom. OdysseyWare is accessed via customizable, web-based platform, is Common Core-aligned and includes courses in the core subjects as well as dozens of electives.

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board APPROVED the personnel list below as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram voted against.

Personnel

Certified Recommendations:

Betty Liverman, Principal, Central Elementary School

Dionne Redding, English Teacher, Northampton County High School, 10/8/12

Classified Recommendations:

Daphne Goode, Substitute Teacher, All Schools, 10/9/12

Jeraldene Brooks, Substitute Teacher, All Schools, 10/9/12

Sharonda Barber, Substitute Bus Driver, All Schools, 10/9/12

Latrese Huff, Substitute Bus Driver, All Schools, 10/9/12

Walter Edmonds, Substitute Bus Driver, All Schools, 10/9/12

Linda Avent, Substitute Bus Driver, All Schools, 10/9/12

Calvin Smith, Substitute Bus Driver, All Schools, 10/9/12

Gloria Jean Beale, Child Nutrition Assistant, Conway Middle School, 10/9/12

Risha Scott, Child Nutrition Assistant, Northampton County High School, 10/9/12

Michelle Hines, Child Nutrition Assistant Substitute, Northampton County High School, 10/9/12

Leave of Absences:

Polly Drake, 2nd Grade Teacher, Willis Hare Elementary School, 10/17/12

Geneva Joyner, Teacher Assistant, Central Elementary School, 9/23/12 – 10/13/12

Amanda C. Ramsey, 2nd Grade Teacher, Gaston Elementary School, 1/23/13 (estimate 6 weeks)

Linwood Lambertson, Custodian, Willis Hare Elementary School, 9/7/12 – 10/1/12

Resignations:

Jeraldine Broady, Custodian, Willis Hare Elementary School, 9/7/12

Danielle Smith, English Teacher, Northampton County High School, 10/5/12

Jamie Kendall, Math Teacher, Northampton County High School, 10/5/12

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board unanimously APPROVED to adopt the additional Board Policies 1000 and 2000 Series and the corrected policies as presented today and waive the second reading, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Board Information

- NCSBA 21st Annual Law and Public Policy Conference – October 17-19, 2012 – Asheville, NC
- Next Regular Board Meeting – November 5, 2012 – Board Room – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session)
Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- NCSBA Annual Conference – November 12-14, 2012 – Greensboro, NC

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Williams and APPROVED, the Board recessed open session at approximately 8:05 p.m. pursuant to General Statute: 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Board's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Ms. Smith-Ingram, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The Board's second closed session ended at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Ms. Smith-Ingram, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Approved: November 19, 2012

Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent