

**REGULAR MEETING
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, February 4, 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 February 4, 2013 in the Board Room of the Northampton County Schools administrative building. Chair Kelvin Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Closed Session

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Mr. Matthews 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 5-0. Ms. Erica Smith-Ingram and Ms. Marjorie Edwards were not present for the vote.

Open Session

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, the Board adjourned closed session. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The Board's closed session ended at approximately 6:45 p.m. Chair Kelvin Edwards exited the meeting following closed session due to being under the weather. Vice Chair Erica Smith-Ingram presided over the open session meeting in Chair K. Edwards absence.

Mission Statement

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram 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

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Board Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board unanimously APPROVED the agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Good News Award

Mr. Hans Lassiter along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Vice Chair Erica Smith-Ingram recognized and presented Good News Award Certificates to the following recipients:

Nurse Family Partnership Program – Mr. Hans Lassiter announced that we would like to acknowledge the Nurse Family Partnership Program and we wish to recognize **Ms. Sue Gay**, Director of the Northampton County Health Department and **Ms. Kelly Traylor**, RN, MSN Nurse Supervisor for the Northeast Collaborative Nurse-Family Partnership. Mr. Lassiter stated that in January 2012, the Northampton County Health Department received funding from a State Incentive Grant from the Nurse Family Partnership National Service Office to implement a Nurse Family Partnership Program (NFP). This program seeks to improve the maternal health, child development, and economic self-sufficiency of first-time, low-income mothers and their children. These funds will support the collaboration between the school systems and other organizations to promote the partnering of a Registered Nurse and the first-time mother to provide support and education. The NFP will provide this program to students pregnant with their first child, while allowing for one elective credit to be received upon completion of fourteen home-visits in the NFP program. This means that students, who once upon a time had to discontinue their education due to pregnancy, will now be able to remain in school and complete their requirements for graduation. Northampton County Schools has entered into an agreement with the Northeast Collaborative Nurse-Family Partnership where expectant student-parents are eligible to receive elective course credit to encourage and facilitate graduation.

Ms. Sue Gay addressed the Board as follows: “I wish to let the public know that Northampton County Schools needs to be commended for being the first school system in the State that has listened. We presented to you our concept and we thought it would work along with 14 other states. All of you should be commended for taking that leap of faith and that step forward. We think it is a program that will be a turning point for our young ladies to build their self-esteem and to continue in the education process after high school. We really think this is a step in the right direction, not only for the mother, but for the child as well. I would also like to introduce Ms. Kelly Traylor who is the supervisor for that program and she has done a fantastic job for covering, not only Northampton, but the other three counties as well. Thank you.”

National Board Certificate of School Nurses Item Review Weekend Session – One of Northampton County Schools’ nurses, **Ms. Lisa Barnes**, RN, MSN, NCSN (absent), was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for being chosen to participate as a member of an **item review weekend session** with the **National Board Certificate of School Nurses** on April 20-21, 2013 in Raleigh, North Carolina. This is an outstanding honor, as Mrs. Barnes will serve with a body of her peers to review test items for their relevance and importance as test questions for those nursing professionals seeking National Board Certification.

North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) Educational Support Professional Emerging Leaders for 2013 – **Ms. Margaret Powell**, ISS/PBIS Coordinator of Conway Middle School and President of Northampton County Association of Educators, was recognized and presented a Good News Award Certificate for being nominated to serve as one of **North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) Educational Support Professional (ESP) Emerging Leaders for 2013**. Ms. Powell was nominated by the NCAE staff and President Rodney Ellis as one of the two ESP Emerging Leaders to represent North Carolina. Her nomination was based on her strong leadership potential as an educator and member of NCAE/NEA during her participation in state level events and committees. Her ability to build and nurture professional relationships has also been an enabling factor in her nomination. Along

with this nomination Ms. Powell will attend the National Educators Association (NEA) ESP Conference in Louisville, KY to participate in a series of professional development. The training is designed to build skills necessary to lead in a culture of organizing and technology, make effective contributions to the education community, and improve professional practices.

Shining Star Character Education

Mr. Hans Lassiter along with Dr. Eric Bracy and Vice Chair Erica Smith-Ingram recognized and presented the following students with Shining Star Award Certificates for demonstrating the focus of “Self-Discipline” for the month of January:

Tonari Gorham, Central Elementary School

Breona Joyner (absent), Conway Middle School

Cameron Rook, Gaston Elementary School

Derrick Davis, Gaston Middle School

DeVontay Morris (absent), Northampton County Alternative School

Jasman Peele, Northampton County High School

Camille Bracy, Squire Elementary School

Dominic Robinson, Willis Hare Elementary School

Introduction of New Personnel

Mr. Hans Lassiter welcomed back the following Northampton County Schools’ personnel to the Board and audience:

Dwander Dawson, Math Tutor, Northampton County High School

Jamie Kendall, Math Teacher, Northampton County High School

Public Comments

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram reviewed the Public Comments guidelines with the audience. The following persons addressed the Board during Public Comments. *Ms. Lashonda Owens* and *Ms. Chenika H. Rook* were not present to speak during Public Comments.

Rev. Richard Webb – “Thank you Board Members for giving me the opportunity to come before you this evening. Good evening Vice Chair, Board Members, Dr. Bracy and citizens. One pastor told me this as a young pastor. I said to him, “You have a beautiful church here.” I said, “It is nice and lovely.” He said, “Out of all of the beauty that you see, there are still some little things that eat into your wood and you don’t know about it until you step on it and fall in to the floor.” He said, “As beautiful as this building is, there are termites somewhere eating it away.” Out of all of the shining that we do, there are still some things in us that we don’t see. I come tonight to first of all commend this Board on a job that you intended to do successfully. However, there are some parts that are still left out and some that need to be worked on. How long will our children remain in harms way? When will this Board get off their pride and stop exploiting our children for their selfish gain? I am concerned most about the health of our children rather than a building. You can always build a school, but you cannot replace the life of a person. I am not a violent man and I don’t fear no man, especially when injustice is done that will affect the learning of our children. I will not ask the citizens of Northampton County to support this Board who puts children’s health at risk. How can you build a new school when this Board knew and knows now that the enrollment is constantly declining? I will not ask the citizens of Northampton County, who pays taxes, to support this Board in building a centrally located school until the Board can be honest and make a sound decision to remove our children

and employees to a safe environment that will not harm them. You may not see the immediate affect now, but in the long run the health issue will surely be revealed, if it is not already revealed. I am glad you are going to build and new school, but that does not change or release you from your obligations to provide and protect the children right now. Within ten days we are expecting to receive a letter on this matter from the School Board about your plans for the removal of our children into a safe environment. Thank you.”

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram: Thank you so much Dr. Webb and we will respond to you accordingly.

Ms. Susan Fields – “Good evening everyone. I am here to speak on behalf of my son who is a sophomore at Northampton County High. He is a sports lover and he loves to play sports. He is a straight “A” student and he is very smart. He wants me to throw out there that his health is continually failing and we don’t know why. He went to NCHS-West last year and from up until time for school to close he was using one asthma pump. I have just purchased his eighth asthma pump and his doctor wants to know if we are using or just losing the pumps. However, he is going to a chest doctor who will be checking him out and he is due to go back on February 13th. At that time, he is going to let us know what is going on. My son likes going down to Northampton High, despite that I have asked him to change schools. He says he can’t change schools and he said he is afraid because he wants to participate in sports. He was told that if he goes somewhere else he would not be able to participate in sports. I don’t know where that came from and I am still waiting to find out where that came from I will deal with it. I can say the kids like the school and they are dealing with it probably a whole lot better than the parents are. If there is anything that can be done, please just call me. My son has two more years at Northampton High and he has told me he does not want to go anywhere else. Yes, if I could I would pull him out tomorrow and send him somewhere else. I feel like it is his school, he wants to go there, he likes the people there, but his health is continually failing. With the way it is going and his basketball career, it is going to hurt him. He loves playing basketball. He is a straight “A” student and he wants to go to school somewhere. If he continues to go down here, I don’t know what will happen. I am not a doctor, but I do have to take him and pay the bill. I have all of my documentation and he goes back to the doctor on February 13th and we will come up with something. If there is a problem and you know there is a problem, please look into it. He is happy there and he is going to stay, but I can’t let him stay if he keeps getting sicker and sicker every day. He is not going to be any good for anybody. Thank you.”

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram: We always invite the community to come and share with us, because we are all in this together. We would like to sincerely thank each of you who came out to share with us tonight. We have heard your comments we will be addressing them appropriately in a very timely manner.

Break

The Board recessed in a five-minute break at 7:15 p.m.

Consent Agenda

On a MOTION by Ms. M. Edwards, SECONDED by Mr. Johnson, the Board APPROVED the consent agenda consisting of the following items, with the exception that the contracted services listed below will be approved pending review by the Board Attorney, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Board Minutes – Closed Session – January 7, 2013 and January 9, 2013

Regular Meeting – January 7, 2013 and January 9, 2013

Request for Fund Raisers

Willis Hare Elementary School – School-wide – Candy Man Products – February 11-22, 2013

Northampton County High School – FCCLA Club – Homemade Lollipops – February 1-14, 2013

Contracted Services

Northampton County Schools and East Carolina Health/D/B/A Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital – Pediatric Asthma Services – Effective: February 5, 2013 until June 30, 2013

Northampton County Schools and Jennifer Peele – Transportation Services

Effective: December 12, 2012 until January 10, 2013

Northampton County Schools and Jennifer Peele – Transportation Services (Addendum)

Effective: January 10, 2013 until June 7, 2013

Business Before the Board for Information

BoardDocs LT End User Agreement – Mr. Joe Holloway presented the BoardDocs LT End User Agreement in the amount of \$3,700.00 to the Board as they had previously approved the implementation of BoardDocs LT at its September 2012 Board Meeting. BoardDocs was successfully implemented at the Board’s January 7, 2013 Board Meeting as it is an entry level electronic board document management system.

Mr. Johnson: There is a cost factor in the contract where one of the boxes is not checked.

Mr. Matthews: Where the box is not checked it is a cost of \$12,000. This makes our added cost to be \$3,700.

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram: For clarity Board Members, this contract is on a different amount depending upon how much of the software that we purchased to use this year. So we are at the \$1,000 plus the \$2,700 level and we are not doing the \$12,000 this year. Also, Ms. Moses, our technology guru, was able to help me with opening up more documents upon documents. I will ask Ms. Moses to show the rest of you how to pull it up at some point.

Parent University Course Catalog Draft – Mr. Holloway presented to the Board the Northampton County Schools Parent University Course Catalog draft for the 2013-2014 fall semester that was developed by the Curriculum & Instruction Department.

Ms. M. Edwards: I wanted to share that Ms. Hoggard had a wonderful Community Café at the Wellness Center for the parents and the community alike and I am hoping we will have more. It was well attended and people were working together. I thought it was well put together and I am hoping we will have more because that parental involvement and community involvement will prove to help our children. Thank you for that work.

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram: Ms. Hoggard, can you let the community know how they can access this information so they can sign up for any other Cafés?

Ms. Catina Hoggard addressed the Board and audience as follows: There was a mailing list that went out for the next Community Café that we put together and we wanted to expand it to more individuals, because we are looking for partnerships. As you can see with the Parent University being our first project, having community members and agencies to list up with the partnership in providing some of the classes to inform the parents through parenting, fitness and the road to college as you see the different items in there. Also, to keep our parents informed about different student options so that we can get Northampton County moving and getting everyone involved in our students. We are looking for the next Community Café day to be in March so that too much time will not pass, because the people who attended the first one were very eager and enthusiastic and ready to get started. The next session will be a work session and we will be

looking at the Parent University Course Catalog to assign individuals to different sessions. I have gone through the next school year and set aside Tuesday and Thursday dates for various sessions so that part has been taken care of. We can then assign individuals to certain sessions so that we can kick this off in July of the next school year.

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram: To our community stakeholders, there is a wealth of information in this program such as: Gang Awareness, Cyber Bullying, Internet Predators, Sexting, Fitness, The Food Made Me Do It and Substance Abuse just to name a few. We really want to thank you Ms. Hoggard, because what we do here is build strong communities and that is through education and partnership. Also, for informational purposes at our next meeting we should have it up and running, but we would like to project our board agenda so that everyone can see what we are seeing.

Directors' Updates – Mr. Holloway also shared the Directors' Updates with the Board for the month of January 2013.

Business Before the Board for Approval

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Mr. Matthews, the Board unanimously APPROVED a donation from The Lamb Foundation of NC, Inc. in the amount of \$4,981.00, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. The Lamb Foundation is a Catholic Organization in Roanoke Rapids, which has chosen Northampton County Schools' as one of their two charities in which they raise money yearly to help with the needs of Exceptional Children.

On a MOTION by Ms. Taylor, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board unanimously APPROVED revisions to Board Policy No. 3470 – North Carolina Graduation Project, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0. Board Policy No. 3470 is a revision to the policy originally adopted by the Board on December 3, 2012 requiring implementation during academic year 2012-2013. This revision would change the implementation of Board Policy No. 3470 to become effective during academic year 2013-2014.

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram: It is for implementation and we may not hit all of the elements, but we did want to get started and introduce our students to this in a way that they can meet certain criteria so that they will be able to compete in a global society.

On a MOTION by Mr. Matthews, SECONDED by Mr. Williams, the Board unanimously APPROVED the personnel list below as submitted and recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Personnel

Certified Recommendations:

Jamie Kendall, Math Teacher, Northampton County High School, 2/4/13
Derrick Stevenson, Elementary Education, Northampton County Alternative School, 1/25/13
Col.(Ret.) Jonathan Robinson, JROTC, Northampton County High School, 2/4/13
Dr. Bader Abid, Math Teacher, Northampton County High School, 1/30/13
Leon Eason, P.E. Teacher, Conway Middle, 2/5/13
April Archer, English Teacher, Northampton County High School, 2/5/13

Classified Recommendations:

Edwina Vann, Substitute Teacher, Northampton County High School, 2/5/13
Doris Vinson, Substitute Teacher, Northampton County High School, 2/5/13
Tosca Townes, Reading Tutor, Gaston Elementary School, 2/5/13
Dollie Bishop, Reading Tutor, Gaston Elementary School, 2/5/13

Jerry Hawkins, Math Tutor, Willis Hare Elementary School, 2/5/13
Dawn Leseney, Reading Tutor, Willis Hare Elementary School, 2/5/13

Leave of Absence Recommendation:

Patricia Gay, Child Nutrition Manager, Conway Middle School, 1/17/13

For Information

Resignation Recommendations:

John H. Thomas, P.E. Teacher, Conway Middle School, 2/1/13

Jewell Smith, Mentor, Rich Square-Creecy Training & Community Center, 1/8/13

Peggy Cary, Youth Career/Education Advisor, Rich Square-Creecy Training & Community Center, 1/18/13

Retirement Recommendations:

Jane Mann, Middle Grades Teacher, Conway Middle School, 3/1/13

Myrna Lawson, Exceptional Children Teacher, Gaston Middle School, 3/1/13

Rescind Retirement Recommendation:

Melinda Flythe, School Nurse, Northampton County Schools, retirement date changed from 2/1/13 to 6/1/13

Mr. Williams: I would like to know where we stand with filling positions in all of our schools.

Mr. Hans Lassiter gave the following update:

Northampton County High School – 100% Staffed

Gaston Elementary and Gaston Middle – Vacancies (one each)

Conway Middle – 7th Gr. Language Arts – Vacancy

We have four certified position vacancies. We advertise certified positions on a continual basis, but our priority was to staff our high school and we accomplished that objective.

Superintendent's Information

Dr. Bracy addressed the Board and audience as follows:

- I wish to announce that Financial Aid Night for Northampton County High School seniors and their parents will be held at the Northampton County Cultural and Wellness Center on Thursday, February 7, 2013 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Ms. M. Edwards: Will the parents be notified to bring something with them or will there be some information given over the Alert system?
Ms. Felisha Whitaker addressed the Board as follows: We have sent out flyers, put it on Facebook Page and on the District Home Page and we will send out an AlertNow.
- Dr. Bracy stated to the audience: Please like us on Facebook and follow us Twitter, as we send out weather on Twitter and information on Facebook.
- I wish to thank this Board for approving for our high school band to take a trip to Atlanta, Georgia to the “Battle of the Bands”. I thank Mr. Monte` Freeman, Ms. Altroise Terry and all of the chaperones. It was an overnight trip and I know that is serious business for a Board to approve for children to spend a night in a strange city. I have talked to Ms. Fields’ son and he said it was just an awesome experience that they had. They attended the Honda Battle of the Bands and it was a wonderful trip for our students. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I want to commend this Board for allowing our students to experience that. There were about 60 to 70,000 people in the Georgia Dome watching the bands. Madam Chair, I heard A&T did the best!

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram: Was there any doubt? I was there in 1991 when A&T won and they made the movie about us called "Drumline". You need to check it out! On another note, the battle of the bands is a wonderful experience.

Dr. Bracy: I wish to commend Ms. Whitaker for submitting that trip to me so that I could bring it to the Board. I thank our chaperones: Ms. Terry, Mr. Griffin from the middle school, our parents and drivers, Mr. Williams and Mr. Bennett. Everybody came together to get our kids safely to Atlanta and that is a big endeavor when you take that many kids to spend the night. I thank all of those persons who made that possible.

Ms. Felisha Whitaker stated: I wish to thank Mr. Ed Piland, Mr. Tillery and the Transportation Department, because on the Friday that the students left during the snow storm, Mr. Piland was very instrumental in calling Mr. Freeman every hour on the hour to make sure every thing was going well with transportation. We just commend them for that and they also made sure that we left early that morning ahead of the storm and we appreciate them for working with us on that.

Dr. Bracy: When Mr. Piland talked to Mr. Freeman, he would call me all times of the night to let me know where they were and I was not going to rest well without knowing. Mr. Tillery, please send our regards to your entire staff for the wonderful work being done. Not only for that trip, but also for the trip that you sent our students on to Raleigh for an AIG trip last week as well. Certainly, we say "thank you" for the wonderful work being done by our staff in Northampton County. Sometimes you can go about your work and not say that we appreciate what you do. Ms. Fields, please don't take my Drum Major from me!

Vice Chair Smith-Ingram: Thank you Dr. Bracy for that wonderful update! That is really good news that we love to hear and it is about coming together to address our needs, address our challenges and making sure we are putting out our best product, because our children do deserve our absolute best. This community in Northampton County deserves the best. Please join me collectively in thanking all of our employees of Northampton County Schools in a standing ovation!

We would also like to ask that you say a special prayer for our Board Chair Kelvin Edwards who is very under the weather. He really wanted to stay, but he was not feeling well. We send out our regards and well wishes to him for a quick recovery.

Board Information

- NCSBA February Law Seminars – February 21-22, 2013 – NCSBA Assembly Hall, Raleigh, NC – 10:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
- NCSBA It Can't Wait: Legislative & Public Policy Update – March 4, 2013 – NCSBA Assembly Hall, Raleigh, NC – 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Next Regular Board Meeting – March 4, 2013 – Board Room – 5:00 p.m. (Closed Session) – Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- NCSBA School Law Academy – March 12-13, 2013 – NCSBA Assembly Hall, Raleigh, NC – 12:00 noon
- Our Board held a 9 hour Board Retreat on last Monday, January 28, 2013. I want our community to know that coming together and getting on one accord, because we owe you the best.

Dr. Bracy: Let me also thank Mr. Tillery, Mr. Piland, Mr. Lassiter and Ms. Moses for the wonderful job that they did when we were in doubt for inclement weather. Mr. Tillery and

Mr. Piland goes out on the road, Mr. Lassiter puts it on the radio and TV stations, Ms. Moses is gracious enough to put it on our website and then I send an email to the Board and staff. Thank you all so much!

Adjournment

On a MOTION by Mr. Johnson, SECONDED by Ms. M. Edwards, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Approved: March 4, 2013

Dr. Eric C. Bracy, Superintendent