

**THE HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

**CALL MEETING**  
**AUDIT REPORT**  
**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**  
Monday, December 15, 2014

The Halifax County Board of Education met in a call meeting on Monday, December 15, 2014. The meeting was held at the Central Office, located on Hwy 301 South, Halifax, North Carolina 27839.

**Present:** Ms. Carolyn Hawkins, Chair, Mrs. Debbie Hardy, Vice-Chair, Mr. Charles Hedgepeth, Mrs. Susie Evans, Mr. Claude Cooper, Mrs. Joyce Lashley, and Dr. Donna Hunter.

**Others present:** Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Personnel, Mrs. Linda Bulluck, Finance Officer, Ms. Charlene Jones, Representatives from DPI: Ms. Catherine Brooks, Dr. Pascal Mubenga, and Board Attorney Larry Armstrong.

Ms. C. Hawkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. She gave words of welcome.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The Mission Statement was read in unison.

Ms. C. Hawkins asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the meeting agenda. Dr. D. Hunter seconded the motion. Motioned carried. (**Agree** – Hardy-Hunter-Evans-Cooper-Lashley) (**Oppose** – Hedgepeth)

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that his reason for opposing is that the paper stated that this was an open session meeting and should have stated that this is a special call meeting. This meeting is illegal.

Ms. Hawkins read the Conflict of Interest Statement to the board members. All board members responded that there was no conflict of interest to the matter

Dr. E. Frederick introduced Mr. Mike Wike of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC audit firm and stated that he was here to present the audit for the 2013 thru 2014 year.

Ms. Hawkins asked if all board members received their information in a timely manner. She stated that you have had time to submit questions concerning the audit.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth asked for a copy of the contract that was listed in the audit report that was not approved by the board.

Mr. Mike Wike stated that it was another year of improvement. The district received an unmodified opinion report, a clean report. Mr. Wike reported that there were reductions in audit findings of 2 for the 2013-2014 year. He explained the findings found in the audit. The school system is moving in the right direction.

Findings included:

- Finding 14-01: School Food Service Fund Paid Meal Revenue
- Finding 14-02: Expenditure Violations

Finding 14-01 is a carry-over from last year. This is assigning student ID # in a timely manner at individual schools. This finding is corrected, all students eat free.

Finding 14-02: the original contract is dated 2011, part of the expenditures were spent in 2014 (page 49). This expenditure was made in violation of federal requirements and Board policy.

Not noted as an audit finding but mentioned in the Management letter was the calculating of overtime pay. The automated time system was removed from the district. You have to work 40 hours per week before you can receive overtime pay. Mr. Wike suggested that we go back to the automated time system.

Mr. Wike stated that the firm had no difficulties from management and staff in receiving information in a timely manner. He thanked everyone for their assistance.

Dr. E. Frederick asked for approval of the 2013-2014 Audit report as presented by Mike Wike of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC audit Firm.

Mrs. Debbie Hardy moved to approve the 2013-2014 Audit Report as reported by Mr. Mike Wike of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC. Dr. Donna Hunter seconded the motion.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that finding 14:02 happened 2011. What took so long to find it? This school system needs to be investigated by the DA's office.

Attorney Armstrong stated that the work was performed and this is not an action for the DA's office.

The motion was carried. *Agree* (Cooper-Evans-Lashley-Hunter-Hardy) *Oppose* (Hedgepeth)

Mrs. D. Hardy stated that she was pleased with the audit. We have had problems in the past.

Dr. D. Hunter stated that she was very pleased to have gotten a good report. She thanked the finance staff, central office, all schools and staff for working with the auditors.

*Mrs. Susie Evans* stated that she was pleased to hear of the good audit.

*Mrs. Joyce Lashley* thanked everyone for coming out. She stated that we should be okay with the money we did approve.

*Mr. Charles Hedgepeth* stated that we should keep our eyes on everything. He stated that those that do right, we treat them like crap. He asked how much money did you have to pay to get to this point.

*Mr. Claude Cooper* stated that he read the report from cover to cover. He complimented the team on what they are doing. He could see someone signing the contract to get things done. He will continue to compliment Halifax County Schools.

*Ms. Carolyn Hawkins* stated that she is not the majority. God and I make the majority. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe trip home.

*Dr. Eleese Frederick* thanked Mr. Wike for the report. This has been a team effort and long hours have been spent. Thank you for your support and a job well done.

Mrs. D. Hardy made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second.

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Board Chair

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Secretary

January 12, 2014