

# **THE HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Halifax County Administration Building**

9525 Hwy 301 South

Halifax, North Carolina 27839

## **OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**Monday, June 1, 2015**

The Halifax County Board of Education met in open session on Monday, June 1, 2015. The meeting was held at the Halifax County Administration Building, located at 9525 Hwy 301 South, Halifax, North Carolina 27839.

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

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

Ms. Carolyn Hawkins welcomed everyone to the Board meeting. Ms. Hawkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance which was lead by Latoria Jones, a sixth grader at Enfield Middle School and a Moment of Silence.

The Mission Statement of the Halifax County Board of Education was recited in unison.

Ms. C. Hawkins asked for the approval of the Board Agenda with the addition of one Action Item: (F) Overnight Field Trip.

Mrs. J. Lashley moved to approve the meeting agenda. Mrs. D. Hardy moved in second. *All Agree*

### **Public Comments:**

**Mrs. Sarah Richardson** represented the parents and grandparents of Hollister Community. She would like to get an answer to what is going on with the Pre-K class moving to Hollister Elementary School from White Oak Child Care Center for the 2015-2016 school year.

Ms. C. Hawkins asked if any board member had a Conflict of Interest to the matters on the board agenda. All board members responded that there was no conflict of interest to the matters on the board agenda.

Ms. C. Hawkins asked for the approval of the consent agenda.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the meeting consent agenda as discussed in closed session. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried. *All Agree*

**Personnel Recommendations** as presented in Closed Session:

**RETIREMENTS:** Linette Hewlin, Phyllis Sanders.

**RESIGNATIONS:** Victoria Maciejak, Carmar Wade, Renee Knight, Kassidy Ferranti, Christopher Ferranti.

**ELIGIBLE FOR REHIRE:** Ida Nicholson.

**TEACHER NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CONTRACT RENEWAL:** Freling Wallenbeck.

**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT LIST:** Mary Williams, Sandra Pittman, Linda Sanders, Teresa Boyd, Jamilah Sweet, Yolanda Portillo, Gerson Correa, Benita Hewlin, Yvette Richardson, Carla Amason, Jewel Marrow, Cheryl Wester, Rue Dale, Angela Hilliard, Octevia Torian, Charlene Nicholson, Georgeanna Minggia, Carolyn Mitchell, Tameka Robinson, Linette Hewlin, Nina Hines, Pauline Bridgers, Victoria Kearney, Barbara Clanton, Linda Hedgepeth, Brenda Horton, Madeline Bowser, Lisa Hart, Connie McWilliams, Nannie Clements.

**RESTORE SCHOOL NUTRITION MANAGER TRAINER POSITION:** Carlton Gilchrist.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth motioned to reinstate the person whom we had the hearing on earlier today. Mrs. J. Lashley moved in second. Motion carried. *All Agree*

Mr. K. Hoggard and Board member, Mrs. J. Lashley, gave special recognition to the *Student of the Month* for May, *Jason Chen*, a fifth grade student at Dawson Elementary School who is a positive role model for the students in Halifax County Schools. A certificate and a bag of goodies were given to Chen.

Mr. K. Hoggard and Board member, Dr. D. Hunter, gave special recognition to the Employee of the Month, *Stephanie Williams*, the Pittman Elementary School Physical Education Teacher. Mrs. Williams was presented with a certificate.

Ms. Carolyn Hawkins presented Latoria Johnson with a sticker; My Board of Education is Proud of Me, for participating in the opening ceremony tonight. Ms. Hawkins also recognized the schools with the best student attendance for May: Hollister Elementary with 95.7%, Northwest High with 84.45% and William R Davie Middle with 92.5%.

Mr. C. Cooper showed recognition to Jessica Norman for competing in the 1A NCHSAA State meet on Friday, May 15, 2015 at NC A&T State University at Aggie Stadium. Also, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the 100 and 200 Meter Dash in Greensboro, NC and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the 100

Meter Dash in Jacksonville, NC. We very seldom talk about athletics. Our children can excel, just give them a chance. For all you do, we are proud of you. He also recognized David Watford who was given the Extra Effort Award from Wral-TV. He was honored with the award as a result of his athletic and academic achievements at Southeast Halifax High School. Please make us proud where ever you go.

Dr. E. Frederick recognized Northwest and Southeast High Schools students who completed the Senior Projects for the second Semester. Ms. Brinkley, advisor from Northwest, and Mr. Watford from Southeast are very proud of our students. Mrs. Brinkley stated that a student at Northwest built a greenhouse to give as a gift to his grandma.

Dr. E. Frederick and Mrs. Kinsey Shipp gave special recognition to Mrs. Brandy Whitman's class at Inborden Elementary School for their participation in *Book It!* The "Book It" program motivates children to read by rewarding their reading accomplishments with praise, recognition and pizza.

Dr. E. Frederick and Ms. LaVonne McClain gave recognition to the Battle of the Books Winners: Dawson Elementary and Scotland Neck Primary took home First place. A certificate was given to both schools. Enfield Middle School won Regional Third Place. A certificate was also presented to the school.

Dr. E. Frederick and Mrs. Kinsey Shipp recognized art students from Mr. Carmichael's class for their entries in the "World Air Games" Art Contest. Joshua Moore was a finalist in the Junior Division.

Dr. Frederick introduced Mr. Allen Purser, Business Education Partnership of the Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce. He gave an overview of what the chamber has to offer to us.

Dr. Frederick recognized two students from Southeast Halifax High School (Kwiana Lowe and Datuila Vinson) for participating in the state level Art Contest.

The Long Range Facilities Committee met on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Scotland Neck Primary. We will have contracts to come before the board tonight so that we can begin to move forward.

Mr. C. Cooper stated that the Public Relations Committee met on Tuesday, at the Central Office at 8:30 a.m. If there is any one that would like to join us, please come to the meeting. He highlighted some of the activities that we have going on in Halifax County Schools: Flyers at Churches and Schools, Banner on Display at Central Office, Lights on sign at the central office, Faith Based Community Meeting held at South Street Baptist Church, Letters sent to parents to boost Halifax County Schools, Van painted by donations, Senior Night at Northwest and Southeast High Schools, etc. He stated that he will never ever put Halifax County Schools down.

Mrs. T. Battle gave the board an overview of the Curriculum and Instruction Department. The focus will be on Summer Programs that we have planned; Summer Experience for

Champions, to be held on July 6 – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Grade 3 students – Read to Achieve – “Loving, Learning & Literacy Camp”; Migrant and Homeless Students – “It’s A Small World Summer Enrichment”; Summer Excursion Sites – Inborden Elementary and Aurelian Springs Elementary Schools. There will be about 200 children attending. Funds did not allow us to partner with Little John.

Dr. P. Mubenga updated the district on the services and support that NCDPI has given for the month of May. He was sad to announce that Dr. B. Champion, Dr. J. Jones, and Dr. M. Grant, School Transformation Coaches, will be leaving the county. They will be greatly missed.

Ms. C. Jones and Ms. K. Clark stated that they are in the process of resolving the outstanding checks situation. At the July meeting there will be another update.

Ms. C. Jones gave a budget summary report. There are no budgets in the red as of June 1, 2015.

Ms. Hawkins stated that the board members received the following board policies which will be placed on the table for review for thirty days. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hawkins.

Attorney Armstrong asked for board approval for the Right of Way Agreement. He also stated that the right of way property is owned by the county.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to execute the right of way agreement. Dr. D. Hunter moved in second. Motion carried. *All Agree*

Mr. A. Alston seeking approval for electrical constructional service for William R. Davie Middle School related to the relocation of modular units. Contract awarded to the lowest bidder: Mason Builders, LLC, Gaston, NC 27832.

Mrs. S. Evans moved to accept the contract as presented by A. Alston. Mr. C. Cooper moved in second. Motion carried. *All Agree*

Mr. A. Alston seeking approval for electrical constructional services for Scotland Neck Primary related to the relocation of modular units. Contract awarded to the lowest bidder: Mason Builders, LLC, Gaston, NC.

Mrs. J. Lashley moved to accept the contract as presented by A. Alston. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried. Agree (Cooper-Hardy-Hunter-Lashley-Evans) Oppose (Hedgepeth)

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated his reason for opposing was it’s a bad decision to close Dawson.

Mr. A. Alston is seeking approval for the contract to relocate and setup modular units at William R. Davie Middle School and Scotland Neck Primary School. Contract awarded to the lowest bidder: B & R Mobile Home Set-up, Kitrell, NC.

Dr. D. Hunter moved to accept the contract as presented by A. Alston. Mrs. S. Evans moved in second. Motion carried. *Agree* (Hunter-Hardy-Cooper-Evans) *Oppose* (Hedgepeth-Lashley)

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that his reason for opposing was that we only have two bids and by law we need to have three bids.

Mr. Alston stated that he had one bidder to decline to bid and that was counted as a bid.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated but you did not get three bids.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that we cannot keep doing things like we have been doing.

Ms. C. Jones stated that every year we have to adopt an Interim Budget Resolution to continue to operate. Ms. Jones is seeking approval for the Interim Budget Resolution for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2015 and ending October 31, 2015.

Dr. D. Hunter moved to approve the Interim Budget Resolution as presented by Ms. C. Jones. Mrs. D. Hardy moved in second. Motion carried. *Agree* (Hardy-Hunter-Evans-Cooper) *Oppose* (Hedgepeth-Lashley)

Mr. Hedgepeth stated that his reason for opposing is that you cannot balance the old budget and now talking about a new budget.

Mrs. Lashley stated that her reason for opposing is that she did not get the information ahead of time and we are expected to vote on it.

Ms. C. Jones asked for board approval for the State Public School Fund, Direct Grants Fund, Federal Grants Fund and Local Current Expense Fund.

Dr. D. Hunter moved to approve the Budget Amendments as presented by Ms. Jones. Mr. C. Cooper moved in second. Motion carried. *Agree* (Hardy-Evans-Hunter-Cooper) *Oppose* (Hedgepeth-Lashley)

Mrs. S. Evans asked if monies from incentive pay were returned.

Ms. Jones stated that they allocated more money than we paid out.

Mr. C. Hedgepeth stated that his reason for opposing is that he asked for the local budgets, supplement, bonuses and layoffs, he never received it.

Mrs. J. Lashley stated that her reason for opposing is she never received information she requested two months ago.

Mr. Hedgepeth stated that PRC 027 was allotted for teacher assistants. The state allotted for teacher assistants and you took those funds to pay someone else.

Dr. E. Frederick asked for approval for an Overnight Field Trip for the Inborden students to attend the 2015 NCDPI Student Leadership Institute on June 15, 2015 – June 18, 2015 in Misenheimer, NC.

Mrs. D. Hardy moved to approve the Overnight Field Trip for Inborden Elementary School. Mr. C. Cooper moved in second. Motion carried. *All Agree*

*Superintendent's Comment:*

- Need to set a date before June 30<sup>th</sup> for final Budget Amendments
- Proposed Board Meeting Calendar, if you have concerns call this office
- At the County Commissioners Meeting...Distribute the sales tax equally among the three districts
- Working through the consolidation of schools, may have to have call meetings.
- If the Board need Graduation tickets, see Ms. Thorne
- Testing Week, the staff will be out of the building monitoring
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*The folder for the Board included:*

- Business Holders of Unclaimed Property
- Early Learning Committee Meeting
- NCSBA Legislative Update
- Bank Reconciliation
- Attendance
- 2014-2015 District End of Year Activities/Events
- News Articles
- Profile Leading The Valley
- Meeting Evaluation

Attorney Armstrong stated he did not find any Statue on construction. Also he had a buyer for Bakers School for \$45,000.00. What is the consensus of the Board?

Dr. Hunter asked if we have had the school appraised.

Attorney Armstrong stated that it is difficult for someone to appraise. We have to offer to the County Commissioners at that price. The consensus of the board is to wait.

Mr. Charles Hedgepeth was chosen for Board's comments. Have a safe trip home and good night.

The Halifax County Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. by ***ALL***.

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Board Chair  
July 6, 2015

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Secretary