

Halifax County Board of Education  
December 7, 2009

MINUTES

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, December 7, 2009. The meeting was held at the central office administrative building located on Hwy. 301 in Halifax, North Carolina.

Present: Debbie Hardy - Chair, Gladys Walden – Vice-Chair, Tyrone Williams, Michael Hawkins, Dr. Donna Hunter and A. Faye Young. Absent: Carolyn Hawkins.

Others present:, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Elease Frederick, Assistant Superintendent, Charles Chambliss, Finance Officer, Carrie Neal, Representatives from DPI: Dr. Pat Ashley, Catherine Brooks, and Board Attorney, Larry Armstrong.

Chairman Hardy called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Those present participated in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

There were no public comments.

Mrs. Walden as a point of personal privilege presented certificate to Debbie Hardy, Board Chair from the Northampton and Halifax County Association of Retired School Personnel in honor of National Education Week.

Mr. Williams moved to approve minutes from Nov. 2, 2009. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Mrs. Young moved to appoint Dr. Elease Frederick as Supt. of HCS with a two year contract. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Hardy stated that this is a very proud day for her to be able to see this day come to fruition. Thanks to the State of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Dr. Frederick stated that this “is new”. But it is different this time. A very good different. It is a happy, happy day for me. Working together really works. I thank you all for the vote of confidence. We are going to bring about changes in HCS. This has been a dream come true. With the help of DPI, we are going to remove the barriers, and approve student achievements. We need to focus on “attendance”. We are here for the boys and girls in the district. We believe in the children. We’ve got to improve student achievement. We’ve got to work together (community, business leaders, faith-based community). We’ve got to make sure our finances are secure. HCS is on the move, are you with me or not?

Mr. Williams moved to approve personnel recommendations as presented in closed session. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried.

Board members recognized Antonio Alston, a senior at Northwest Halifax High School as Halifax County Schools’ Student of the Month for November 2009.

Board members receive the following board policies to be placed on the table for review for the following thirty (30) days:

- #2300 – Board Meetings
- #2310 – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- #2320 – Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
- #2321 – Closed Sessions
- #2325 – Board Meeting News Coverage
- #2330 – Board Meeting Agenda
- #2335 – Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials
- #2340 – Parliamentary Procedures
- #2341 – Quorum
- #2342 – Voting Methods
- #1710/4021/7230 – *Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying*
- #1720/4015/7225 – *Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure*

Board members received an update from instructional coaches on their work in the schools under the supervision of Susan Frazier, DPI and MiShawna Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

January 20<sup>th</sup> will be the next professional development and it will be a full day.

Dr. Hunter requested contact information for the instructional coaches. Mrs. Frazier and Miss Moore will provide e-mail addresses to all board members.

Board members received an update from Dr. Pat Ashley and Ms. Catherine Brooks regarding the DPI Transition Team. Review of the State Board of Education Presentation regarding the 6 month report on the DPI Partnership. Dr. Ashley assured the State Board that things are going very well.

Focus on Leadership –     District Level  
                                      School Level  
                                      Classroom Level

Dr. Ashley noted that we have changes in personnel::

- Board Chair
- Superintendent
- Human Resource Director
- Testing Director
- Technology Director
- 11 Instructional Coaches
- 2 principals

Professional Development (held in the summer)

We are reviewing many aspects on how the district is functioning to improve student achievement.

Board is participating in Master Board Training, which is held one Saturday each month.

Dr. Ashley spoke about "Race to the Top." The entire State of NC under the leadership of Gov. Perdue is applying for federal funding (\$400 million dollars), which will flow to school districts in the state, DPI, and other agencies which offer educational services. (50% will go directly to school districts and 50% will go to educational services in the state). The purpose of the money is to provide leadership in raising student achievement. To be eligible and to receive money at the district level, school district must sign a memorandum of understanding/agreement. The persons needing to sign the document are: the Board Chair, the Superintendent and the President of District NCAE. This is a wonderful opportunity, everything to be gained and nothing to be lost. The Board must authorize the board chair, superintendent, etc. to sign this document as the deadline is January 11, 2010.

Mr. Williams asked what else will be required of the board. Dr. Ashley indicated that the Board will just have to state that they will implement resources that will be available through the state.

Mr. Williams moved to accept the proposal to accept the \$400 million Race to the Top grant and authorize the Board Chair, the Superintendent and President of NCAE to sign memorandum of understanding/agreement documents. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Board members received a Monthly Financial Report for FY 2009-2010 from Mrs. Carrie Neal, Finance Officer. She shared the following information:

- Budgets to date reflect spending within a balanced budget; however, mid-year local cuts and decreased State funding based on declining ADM are not reflected in these reports;
- The County has requested 2 scenarios based on a 7-10% mid-year Local Budget cut that would be between ~ 200,000-300,000; I sent all of this information to the Board on 11/30/09 and met with the Board Chair and Dr. Frederick;
- DPI is expecting to send out revised allotments soon, after they receive all 2nd month ADM numbers;
- We must proceed with caution;
- The State of NC is still in a cash flow crisis;
- Budget amendments to date are already reflected in your updated Board report that I am passing out tonight, and
- We are progressing with both audits.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the Application for Building Capital Fund (NC Education Lottery) in the amount of \$350,000.00 to be used for roof repair replacement at Southeast Halifax High School, as presented by Mr. Charles Chambliss. Mr. Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Mr. Williams asked whether the NC Lottery funds are already in the county or if the funds are held at the State.

Board members received a proposal for their consideration and approval from Mrs. Amy Taylor, Executive Director of COMPASS regarding the utilization of the former Bakers Elementary School for a juvenile transition house.

Mr. Williams moved to support the COMPASS Proposal for the utilization of the former Bakers Elementary School for a juvenile transition house, as proposed by Mrs. Amy Taylor with the legalities to be worked out later. Mrs. Walden moved in second. There was discussion by the board. Motion carried.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$383,276.91 bringing the total budget to \$3,245,695.91 for Grants Local Fund and in the amount of \$1,415,445.04 bringing the total budget to \$12,026,729.01 for Federal. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried.

Mrs. Young moved to approve the revised 2009-2010 Testing Calendar, as presented by Mrs. Peggy Howard, Testing Director. Mrs. Walden moved in second. Motion carried.

Dr. Hunter asked Dr. Frederick if we hadn't run into this problem before due to state mandated days? Dr. Frederick indicated that this information had been shared with Mrs. Tyrana Battle, Regional Testing Director.

Mrs. Young moved to approve an Agreement for Purchase of Energy Conservation Savings between Halifax Electric Membership Corporation and Halifax County Schools to purchase at a rate of .5 cent per kilowatt hour for every documented and measurable kilowatt hour of energy savings during the period of this agreement. (This is a prototype, nobody's done this before). This is based on Senate Bill 3. Mrs. Walden moved in second. Motion carried. Dr. Hunter opposed.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:**

- Educon Summary will be at January 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- K-2 Assessment completed
- K-2 Report Card
- America's Choice
- ClassScape
- Drop-Out Prevention 74,000 Grant
- Resource Officers Contract through (Gang Grant)
- January Calendar – Early Release for high schools for EOC's
- Student Absences (especially on early release days)
- Weekly Attendance for schools
- Staff Attendance
- Shuttle Bus Service for Bus Drivers at Enfield and W. R. Davie (as requested by Dr. Hunter), which is a cost saving factor.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS:**

- Dr. Donna Hunter – Has the LEANDRO Plan been approved? I would like to thank Mrs. Archibald for information pertaining to her school. I thank 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parents for coming out and participating in the first training session at

Enfield/Inborden (which requires 15 to 18 months). I received a call from Miriam Edmonds regarding the McIver gym, and wanted for Dr. Frederick to see if there is anything that can be done. The finance committee met and will meet again at December 14<sup>th</sup>. When I go to the HCS website, I still do not know what TATU means, and just feel we need to indicate what the acronym stands for. I apologize because I was not able to attend the HCAE Retirement Program, I did not get the information in time. Congratulations to Dr. Frederick. Merry Christmas.

- Mr. Michael Hawkins – I am glad to see everyone in attendance. Congratulations to Dr. Frederick, whose middle name is accountability. I attended the NCSBA Conference and we “the Board” received a plaque for the first level of Master Board Training. We had our first training last Saturday for Level II of Master Board Training. I have passed out the minutes for the Buildings and Grounds Meetings held. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the delegate from this board.
- Mrs. Faye Young – I would like to thank Michael for going to the NCSBA Conference and representing us as a delegate. I congratulate Dr. Frederick; we look forward to working with you. The Policy Committee will meet directly following this meeting. Merry Christmas.
- Mrs. Gladys Walden – I would like to thank everyone for coming. The Curriculum Committee met on November 13<sup>th</sup> and will be meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> and will be visiting Northwest and Southeast High Schools. Thank you for coming and staying with us.
- Tyrone Williams – If you have an opportunity to be in the Enfield area, go by and see the work on the Enfield Middle apartments (36 unit senior apartment building). This is what happens with partnerships. This school system cannot afford to let these closed school buildings to go unused. We need to look at re-adaptive use. There will be some sort of ground breaking in January. Dr. Frederick, sometimes we look around the world and we don’t look at home. This time we looked at home. You are home-grown and home-planted. Merry Christmas. Take time to spend time with your families. Don’t take anything for granted.
- Mrs. Debbie Hardy – Recognized the Mayor of Scotland Neck, James Mills and his daughter. We enjoyed the lunch and fellowship with the county commissioners. Thanks to the Retired Teachers Association. Thanks to DPI for their work in helping us to select Dr. Frederick as our Superintendent. We are going to continue to work hard and stay focused. I hope everyone has an enjoyable safe holiday and comes back ready to work hard next year to take our children where they need to be. Mr. Hoggard plays Santa Claus for our exceptional children. We have received a beautiful plaque from the Enfield Warriors thanking us for our support.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:
  - Policy Committee Meeting – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 p.m. at the central office
  - Curriculum Committee School Visits (Southeast & Northwest) Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
  - Finance Committee Meeting – Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 p.m.
- Others:

- Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Task Force Meeting – Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.
- Early Dismissal for Students and ALL District Employees – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon and 12:30 p.m.
- Optional Workday – Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>
- Christmas Holiday – December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- New Year’s Holiday – Jan. 1st

Mrs. Walden made a motion to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. Mrs. Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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Board Chair

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Secretary

December 7, 2009