

The Halifax County Board of Education
November 3, 2008

MINUTES

The Halifax County Board of Education met in session on Monday, November 3, 2008. The meeting was held the central office administrative building located in Halifax, North Carolina.

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

Others present: Superintendent, Geraldine Middleton, Associate Superintendent, Dr. Elese Frederick, Assistant Superintendent, Charles Chambliss, Public Relations Officer, Keith Hoggard, Finance Officer, Andrew Callihan, and Board Attorney, Larry Armstrong.

Chairman, Tyrone Williams called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

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

Mr. Williams read the Conflict of Interest Statement, which refers to Board Policy #1050. There were no conflicts.

Mrs. Walden moved to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of VII. C. Repayment Plan, VII.D. - Assignment of Claim, and VII.E. Budget Amendments. Michael Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hardy moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held October 6, 2008 with any said corrections. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried.

As Mr. Hoggard came to the podium to introduce the student of the month, Ms. Middleton publicly thanked Mr. Hoggard for personally purchasing the gift items for previous Students of the Month. She is pleased to announce that administration has looked at the budget and found funds available to purchase items for future Students of the Month.

Board members recognized Analaura Pablo Flores, an eighth-grade student at Brawley Middle School as Halifax County Schools' Student of the Month for October 2008.

Board members recognized the following for receiving the National Bronze Level Award from The Alliance for a

Healthier Generation, who were recognized at the Healthy Schools Forum held in Little Rock, Arkansas at the Clinton Presidential Center in August 2008.

Mclver Elementary

Allen Sledge – Principal
Chanta Robinson – Academic Tutor
Stephanie Williams – PE Teacher
Brandon Corley – Student

Pittman Elementary

Bettie Archibald – Principal
Nina Lee – 1st Grade Teacher
James Hunter – Counselor
Jade Gary – Student

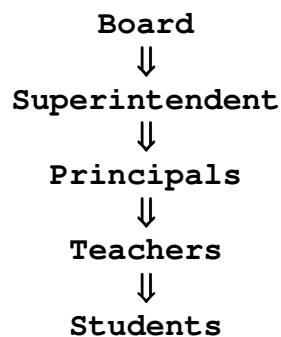
Scotland Neck Primary

Bonnie Johnson – Principal
Patricia Edmondson – Teacher
Tamakwa Brown – Student

(The persons noted will be attending the State Board of Education Meeting on Thursday, November 6th in Raleigh for recognition).

Ms. Middleton gave a little background information regarding the new executive/principal's evaluation (which also includes the teacher evaluations and superintendent's evaluation). She introduced Mr. Reginald Wilkerson from the Department of Public Instruction to share a little more about the evaluation, which went into effect July 1. He shared a copy of the manual with each board member. We began this process last November 2007. One of the things we are doing is making sure that all principals are trained and tracked.

This is a Linear Process:



Goals need to be set. Evaluators have been advised to not wait until mid-year to find out if someone is progressing or not progressing.

Mr. Callihan, Finance Officer shared a financial update with the board members. At the January meeting he will be rebalancing the state and local budgets.

Ms. Middleton introduced Mrs. Flora Pitchford who has worked diligently along with her staff to get the Ecology and Environmental Studies Magnet Program to where it should be. Magnet schools were a way in the 1970's for school systems to dissegregate. Magnet schools have tripled in the last decade. They fit the needs of the community. There are approximately 2 million students enrolled in magnet programs today.

Mrs. Pitchford shared a PowerPoint presentation and brochure (information on course descriptions that they offer).
Mr. Thornhill - Science
Mr. Egan - Social Studies Teachers
Mrs. Mullen - English

This is an interdisciplinary approach. Three hour/two-block class. There is a common planning period. Some of the advantages are:

- Technology (computer access in the classroom and laptops)
- All classes in the same vicinity
- Working, supportive relationship of the staff
- Rapport between students and staff
- Emphasis on student group work and collaboration
- Student support for one another.

Student projects:

- Field Trip to Sylvan Heights
- Type of wetlands projects
- Salem Witch trials project
- Animal Rights Debate
- Environmental Advertisement Project

Goals:

- Improved grades and GPA
- Higher Standardized test scores EOC scores
- Improved attendance rate
- Decreased dropout rate
- Increased parental involvement

Some of the Partnerships include:

Sylvan Heights Water Fowl Center
DENR
Restoration Systems LLC

Mrs. Hardy moved to approve the revised Repayment Plan for the State for the over expenditure of funds in the amount

of \$852,256.57 minimum rate of \$18,957.98 per month to begin November 1, 2008. Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried. Dr. Hunter opposed.

Mr. Hawkins moved to release Travelers Casualty & Surety Company for the amount of the bond on Mr. James Henry Sweet, Jr. (\$200,000). Mrs. Young moved in second. Motion carried. Dr. Hunter and Mrs. Hawkins opposed

Mrs. Walden moved to approve the budget amendments as presented by Mr. Andrew Callihan, Finance Officer, which increases the budget by \$399,251.00 bringing the current budget to \$30,437,827. Michael Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Mrs. Young moved to approve personnel as discussed in closed session. Mrs. Walden moved in second. Motion carried.

CERTIFIED: Jan Cahela

NON-CERTIFIED: Emily Harris, Lakezia Lumpkin

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS: Zenobia H. Brown, Stephanie Crawley, Patsy H. Ray

TRANSFERS: Stephanie Davis

RETIREMENTS: Florence Boyd, Georgette Kimball

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS:

- o Reported that Senator Edward Jones and Representative Angela Bryant and Board Chairman Tyrone Williams coordinated an Anti-Gang, Drug and Student Violence Forum, which was held at Southeast. There is a grant available for all agencies to work together toward this effort. Cynthia Harris of CJH Educational Grant Services will be meeting with staff on November 10th.
- o A Student Advisory Council is being coordinated through Keith Hoggard and Mabel Taylor. I met with them on October 21st. Students were very positive. Some of the things discussed were: SGA, AVID Program, Healthy Alliance, and Leadership Academy in Montana. Many of the students were pleased for the opportunity that their schools had reworked schedules so that they could work on health. Mrs. Wendy Edmonds of the RTED Group has opportunities that will work for these students through an Emerging Leaders Program.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Dr. Donna Hunter - The Policy and Procedural Manual, Organizational Chart need to be brought back to the board. Visited Inborden School on Friday, October 31st. I got such a great feeling when I walked through the building. Everyone was on task.
- Michael Hawkins - Had a report from the Summer Custodian Groups, which was organized under the Building and Grounds Committee and how they felt that this plan really worked. The Building and Grounds Committee meets monthly at different schools. The Finance Committee recently met (there are four (4) members on this committee). I attended the Anti-Gang, Drugs, Student Violence Forum at Southeast. One of the speakers stated that the community is in denial and we need to work through that.
- Faye Young - Attended a floating Art Gallery at Northwest in the absence of Mr. Williams. I also attended the Anti-Gangs, Drugs and Student Violence at Southeast. It was very informative; I learned a lot of things. The Audit Committee/Finance Committee recently met on for the first time. Committee members had very positive comments to say about their part in this committee. I'm looking forward to the next meeting in January.
- Carolyn Hawkins - Shared that she enjoyed the wit of Mr. Reginald Wilkerson. I don't agree with you. I believe that our principals are doing a great job. Teachers sign an agreement called an accountability agreement form. We call it a 3-3 agreement. Statistics: there are lies, "damn" lies and statistics. Some of the people who helped develop the evaluation instrument haven't been in education in eons. Getting rid of principals just because of test data is just crazy.
- Gladys Walden - Really enjoyed the first school visits of the Curriculum Committee.
- Debbie Hardy - The Curriculum Committee Meeting held on October 30th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. focused on the NC Exit Standards for seniors (2010). The Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce met on October 31, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Chowan University. Please send topics to be included in the work sessions that we are in the process of planning.
- Tyrone Williams - Thanked everyone for coming. Thanked Catherine Brooks, DPI Transformation Coach for being part of the team. Four letters V-O-T-E. We are on the eve of change in this country. It will be a monumental change from what we are accustomed to. It is spilling over into our communities, and I'd like to

see this spill over into our school system. Exercise
your right to vote.

Carolyn Hawkins moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Michael
Hawkins moved in second. Motion carried.

Board Chair

Secretary

December 1, 2008