

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – September 23, 2013

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools in Hertford, North Carolina. Board members in attendance included Walter Leigh, Susan Cox, Wallace Nelson and Arlene Yates. Ralph Hollowell and Steven Magaro were absent, but Mr. Magaro participated in the meeting via speakerphone.

Board Chair Walter Leigh called the meeting to order. Wallace Nelson led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Susan Cox opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Special Recognitions

Staff in the Transportation Department were recognized as the Employees of the Month for September 2013. Terry Sawyer and Aaron Bunch were recognized for their diligence in maintaining the school buses for Perquimans County. The Department recently received an inspection score of 15.67, the second lowest score in the state for school bus inspections. The lower the score is the better, with zero being a perfect score. Julie Williams was also recognized for her leadership and dedication to the Transportation Department in scheduling students during the summer camp programs. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Stallings presented Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Bunch and Mrs. Williams with a certificate and monetary award for their outstanding service to the school system.

The Perquimans County Board of Education was recognized for all of its members having earned at least the minimum 12 credit hours of training for the 2012-2013 school year. The Board received this award at the North Carolina School Boards Association District I meeting held recently in Williamston. On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairman Walter Leigh accepted a plaque recognizing local school board members for meeting this requirement.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2013 regular session as presented.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Steven Magaro and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Student Transfer Requests Report for September 23, 2013 as presented.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report for September 23, 2013 as presented.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Owens asked to be placed on the agenda to speak to the Board; however, due to the confidential nature of their concern, their comments were deferred to closed session at the end of the agenda.

Old Business

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to table action on the North Carolina School Boards Action Center until the November board meeting after having the opportunity to learn more about it at the NCSBA Annual Conference in November.

New Business

Mr. Heath McLaughlin, a representative of the SOLON Corporation, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed sites for solar farms in Winfall. The Superintendent wanted board members to be aware of this since one of the proposed sites adjoins the property occupied by Perquimans County Middle School.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following budget amendments as presented: Federal Grants Fund – Budget Amendment #1; Capital Outlay Fund – Budget Amendment #2; and Other Specific Revenue Fund – Budget Amendment #1.

Finance Officer Candy Tilley presented the monthly financial report for each of the six funds as of August 31, 2013, noting the budget amount, amount spent, remaining budget and percent spent for each fund.

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Steven Magaro, the Board voted unanimously to elect the following voting delegates for the NCSBA Annual Conference: Wallace Nelson, Walter Leigh, Susan Cox and alternate, Arlene Yates.

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following overnight field trips for 2013-2014 as presented: 1) Perquimans County High School – Angel White, West Johnston High School, NC FFA Career Development Events, November 16-17, 2013; and 2) Perquimans County High School – Angel White, Raleigh Convention Center, NC FFA State Convention, June 17-19, 2014.

Mrs. Yates asked for a moment to speak about a concern involving students being transported to the wrong learning center. Evidently, information taken at the front desk was inaccurate or interpreted incorrectly. Board members noted that last minute phone calls sometimes do not allow enough time for information to be relayed to the Transportation Department, plus it puts a lot of responsibility on the school staff. Dr. Stallings apologized for the incident, noting that staff need to be sure the communication they receive is correct.

Superintendent's Report

School Improvement Plans 2013-2014 – Test results will not be available until early November; therefore, School Improvement Plans will be presented at the November board meeting so that SITs can incorporate the data into the plans.

Tour of Schools – Possible dates for school tours will be shared at the upcoming board retreat.

Other – In regard to Performance Contracts, Dr. Stallings noted that the County and school system need to step back to see if there are other alternatives. More information will be provided about Performance Contracts at the board retreat.

Board Chair's Comments

The Board Chair reminded board members about the upcoming NCSBA Annual Conference, Monday through Wednesday, November 18-20, 2013, at the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro.

In regard to the NCSBA Awards for November 2013, the Board decided not to pursue any nominations this year.

Announcements

- Joint meeting with County Commissioners – Wednesday, September 25, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., Media Center, Perquimans County High School
- Board of Education Retreat – Thursday, September 26, 2013, 7:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m., Boardroom, Central Office; 11:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Auditorium, Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

- Board of Education Retreat – Friday, September 27, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Auditorium, Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation
- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, October 28, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., Board of Education Building

Closed Session

Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Wallace Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) regarding confidential student matters and 143-318.11(a)(6) regarding personnel matters.

Upon motion by Wallace Nelson and seconded by Susan Cox, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

No action was taken upon returning to open session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Walter L. Leigh, Board Chairman

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent

Perquimans County Board of Education
Joint Session – September 25, 2013

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in a joint session with County Commissioners on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Perquimans County High School. Board members in attendance included Walter Leigh, Susan Cox, Ralph Hollowell, Steven Magaro, Wallace Nelson and Arlene Yates. In addition to the Board of Education and County Commissioners, many staff members, several students and their parents attended the meeting.

Board Chair Walter Leigh called the meeting to order.

Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that the purpose of the meeting was to present information to the Commissioners about the proposed 1:1 initiative for Perquimans County Schools. He then presented a brief video clip that illustrated the 1:1 initiative at Burlington High School.

Director of Technology Victor Eure shared data gathered from recent surveys of faculty/staff, parents/guardians and PCHS English classes noting that the majority of people who responded to the surveys believe that providing a computing device to all students will help them become more productive and excited about learning. Mr. Eure also shared research that showed the benefits of 1:1 computing access as well as real-world examples in North Carolina of how 1:1 computing has increased students' academic performance and decreased out of school suspensions, as in the Mooresville Graded School District. In addition, he noted many technology integration outcomes from the Impact grants received by Perquimans County Schools and shared several points illustrating 1:1 readiness in Perquimans County. A survey conducted by NCDPI in September 2013 showed that 1:1 programs have grown steadily in North Carolina over the past four years and that 20% of high schools and 16% of middle schools have 1:1 initiatives. The survey also showed that the growth of online assessment is pushing schools in the direction of 1:1 and the overwhelming majority of LEA's/schools fund these programs locally.

The following staff and students shared presentations on how technology is infused in instruction in each of their schools: Perquimans Central School - Melissa Fields, Principal, and Blair Russell, student; Hertford Grammar School - Linda White, Principal; April Benton, Media Coordinator; and Jaden Sawyer and Jewel Benton, students; Perquimans County Middle School - Andrea Greene, Principal; Michelle Swinney and Joel Brown, teachers; and Ja'Easha Williams and Jameka White, students; Perquimans County High School - Chante' Jordan, Principal; Lynette Baker, teacher; and Taylor Chappell, student.

Dr. Kate Kemker, a National Development Executive with Apple, Inc., accompanied by Tonia Aldridge, a K12 Account Manager with Apple, Inc., presented information on 1:1 initiatives, particularly from a global perspective. Dr. Kemker said that the staff and students' presentation "said it all" in regard to why such an initiative is important to students growing up in the world of technology today.

Following Dr. Kemker's comments, Board Member Wallace Nelson described how he personally uses technology in his job as a pharmacist and how important it is to prepare our students for 21st century jobs where employers will expect them to know how to use technology upon entering their profession. Mr. Nelson passionately shared his views on why the school district needs to move in the direction of the 1:1 initiative and how it could benefit and impact both our students and our community.

Walter L. Leigh, Board Chairman

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent

Perquimans County Board of Education
Board Retreat – September 26-27, 2013

The Perquimans County Board of Education conducted its annual board retreat on Thursday and Friday, September 26-27, 2013. The Board met on Thursday from 7:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. in the boardroom at the Central Office. The remainder of the retreat was held in the auditorium at the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation in Winfall. Board members in attendance included Walter Leigh, Susan Cox, Ralph Hollowell, Steven Magaro, Wallace Nelson and Arlene Yates. In addition, principals, directors and other staff members attended various sessions throughout the retreat.

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Board Chair Walter Leigh called the meeting to order. Arlene Yates led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Ralph Hollowell opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Dr. Stallings welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for the remainder of the retreat.

The Board welcomed Dr. Kate Kemker, National Development Executive for Apple, Inc. and Tonia Aldridge, K12 Account Manager for Apple, Inc. Joining the Apple group was Jeff Lloyd, Regional Manager, who had had a discussion with Bill Cobey, State Board Chair, that morning regarding connectivity. Dr. Kemker mentioned content that schools have access to now that they did not have access to before, including apps in the classroom, textbooks (e-pub), and iTunesU. She also noted four stakeholder areas including personalized learning, community, leadership and access. Dr. Kemker distributed iPads to all attendees for a hands-on demonstration and walked through several apps that are available for teachers and students to use in the classroom.

Following the hands-on demonstration and a short break, Dr. Stallings and Victor Eure talked about the monies available to counties through a Golden Leaf grant that could be used for implementing the 1:1 initiative. If successful, the grant would provide up to \$1.5 million per county through an application process through the local county government. In planning for the implementation of the 1:1 initiative, the Board discussed which grade levels would benefit, how current technology would be disseminated to other grade levels, and which devices would be used at certain grade levels. The Board looked at various scenarios and possible costs involved for each.

State Board of Education District I Representative Rebecca Taylor delivered greetings from the State Board of Education and introduced herself to board members. Mrs. Taylor mentioned that her goal is to attend a board meeting at each LEA in District I. She shared updates on current education topics and fielded a variety of questions from board members.

After lunch, Dr. Stallings shared goals that had been met as well as the following goals for 2013-2014:

Goal #1 – To continue the emphasis on literacy skills at both the district and school levels; to provide students an educational experience that ensures they do not need to take remedial classes in college; to provide relevant information to parents and the community regarding 3rd grade retention for students who do not meet literacy standards.

Goal #2 – To switch the evaluation process to True North Logic; to provide an overview of Home Base.

Goal #3 – To re-examine, develop and implement guidelines to ensure Perquimans County Schools are meeting the needs of students in ensuring they are healthy and responsible. In addition, Perquimans County Schools will revisit all aspects of student and staff safety while at school.

Goal #4 – To monitor budget issues and implications for the 2014-2015 budget; to review and enhance school-based financial procedures for school bookkeepers; to continue to collaborate with IHEs and other agencies to provide learning opportunities for students such as STEM and aviation grants.

Goal #5 – To provide facilities and resources that support energy efficiency measures in each school, state of the art technology for student learning, and appropriate access for students and staff in utilizing these systems; to continue to work toward construction of new athletic facility at PCHS.

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented information on the implementation of Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards. His presentation included the purpose of the Standard Course of Study, an overview of the Common Core State Standards and the NC Essential Standards, and resources to support the change. He described each of the four parts included in this implementation: 1) SBE Mission and Race to the Top; 2) NC Professional Teaching Standards; 3) 21st Century Teaching and Learning; and 4) Common Core and NC Essential Standards.

Mr. Bunch and Sandy Meads, director of Human Resources and CTE, presented information on Closing the Gap Between High School and College. Statistics indicate that 60% of entering community college students who recently graduated from high school are assigned to remedial classes, with at least 69% being placed in at least one remedial class. Mrs. Meads shared statistics pertaining to Perquimans County High School students attending College of The Albemarle in 2011 and 2012. She explained a new placement process, “Multiple Measures,” which will apply to all degree-seeking students, as well as strategies for Perquimans County Schools’ students.

Hertford Grammar School Principal Linda White presented information on the Third Grade Promotion Standards for 2013-2014. As part of the North Carolina statewide “Read to Achieve” Literacy Initiative, by 2013-2014, students who do not demonstrate proficiency at the end of third grade will be retained. Retained third grade students must attend LEA-run summer reading camps which must be offered in Summer 2014. Third graders who are not proficient after summer reading camp must be placed in transitional fourth grade classrooms which must begin the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. White explained the notification procedures, accountability measures, assessments and good cause exemptions used in this process. She also elaborated on what is being done at Perquimans Central School and Hertford Grammar School to improve student achievement, as well as additional district initiatives.

After a break, Mr. Eure returned to the meeting to share more information regarding costs for various scenarios related to the proposed 1:1 technology initiative.

Mr. Bunch gave an abbreviated overview of Home Base, which is a statewide, instructional improvement (IIS) and student information system (SIS) for teachers, students, parents and administrators. Teachers will be able to utilize Home Base to access student data and teaching and learning resources. Students will be able to access their schoolwork, grades, and learning activities. Parents will be able to view their child’s attendance and progress, and administrators can monitor data on students, teachers and schools.

Betty Hartley gave a brief overview of PowerSchool, which is the statewide student information system that replaced NC WISE in July 2013. PowerSchool gives parents and students access to real-time information including attendance, grades and assignments. This application makes it possible for everyone to stay connected; students stay on top of assignments, parents are able to participate in their child’s progress, and teachers can instantly share information from their gradebook with parents and students.

Sandy Meads spoke briefly on Educator Effectiveness Standards 6 and 8. There are six standards in the teacher evaluation system and eight standards in the principal and assistant principal evaluation system. Respectively, standards six and eight are measures of growth in the teacher and principal / assistant principal evaluation system. Information was provided on how these standards determine overall status.

Friday, September 27, 2013

The day began with Mr. Clifford Winslow, community member and former Board of Education chairman, presenting information on the Nicanor Rosenwald School. Mr. Winslow shared the history of how the Rosenwald schools got their start and how these facilities provided educational opportunities for African Americans. He distributed a picture to board members as to how the building appears today and described his plans to personally restore the school to its original state in order to preserve this piece of history in our community.

Jonathan Nixon, Director of Maintenance, Construction and Custodial Services, provided a safety update which included the 2013-2014 District Safety Calendar. With the assistance of Perquimans Central School Principal Melissa Fields, Mr. Nixon went through the calendar, month by month, highlighting drills, safety committee meetings and inspections. He noted updates to the Critical Incident Response Plan including Concussion and Head Injury, Earthquake, Lightning Action Plan, Suicidal Ideation Potential Expressed at School, and Panic Button Operations. He also shared photos of the updated Lobby/Gurard System and redesign of front entrances at each school.

In regard to the consideration of bids for the Hertford Grammar School Front Entrance Design, no action was taken since the bids came in over budget. The school district will negotiate with the contractor on certain items to hopefully bring the project within budget.

Mr. Nixon also provided an update on the Performance Contract, noting that two responses to the Performance Contract Request for Proposals were received on September 3, 2013. The responses were reviewed by Frank Heath, Bill Diehl, CC Maurer, Len Hoey and Jonathan Nixon on September 4, 2013. On September 19, 2013, a conference call with the Review Committee, including Dr. Stallings, resulted in a letter from Perquimans County to ESCOs noting the project scope did not meet our expectations. The Review Committee is scheduled to meet on October 2, 2013, to consider the following options: 1) Work with State Energy Office to layout other potential avenues to pursue getting the work accomplished. 2) Go back out with new PC RFP based on new legislation which would allow us to negotiate project costs and savings during the RFP phase. The new project could be 15 or 20 years. 3) Look at additional county buildings to allow for greater short-term cash flow that will buy a larger project for the school system without extending the term. 4) Consider a traditional design and bid project to include just lighting or lighting and HVAC repairs at PCHS and PCS.

Dr. Stallings talked briefly about STEM schools. He played a video about the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience at the Vernon James Center in Plymouth and showed photos of DRS in Elizabeth City. He mentioned the fact that the Board of Education and County Commissioners adopted a resolution supporting the establishment of the Bio-Ag school in Washington County, and that students in Perquimans County would have the opportunity to apply for admission with the understanding that Perquimans County Schools would not be responsible for cost or fees associated with their admission, attendance and participation other than the ADM which would follow the student. Dr. Stallings referred to an article in *The Daily Advance* that spoke about Elizabeth City Mayor Joe Peel advocating for the creation of a regional facility with a charter school, with an early college high school and with a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) school. Dr. Stallings then referred to a more recent newspaper article that mentioned Mayor Peel and the chairman of the Pasquotank Board of Commissioners asking officials in Camden and Currituck to join them in helping to bring this education center to the region. The goal of the center is to provide the skills students need to work for the aviation-related businesses in the Elizabeth City area. The plan is to provide students with the course they will need to enroll in either ECSU's aviation science degree program or at College of The Albemarle's Regional Aviation and Technical Training Center in Barco.

Dr. Stallings told the Board that there was not much information to share about the PCHS Athletic Facility. Fundraising efforts are at a standstill and there has been no commitment from the County Commissioners to help fund the project even after creating a "phase-in plan" which decreased the cost of the project to about half of the original cost.

Following lunch, Board Attorney John Leidy presented, "2013 Legislative Update: Goodbye Tenure; Contracts, Anyone?" His presentation included information about the elimination of tenure: changes to the contracting law. The law states that individuals who have never received career status prior to the 2013-2014 school year shall never get tenure. Teachers who earned tenure before the 2013-2014 school year do not automatically lose it yet. He explained the procedures for recommending a teacher for a contract and based on performance evaluations, the identification and recommendation to the Board for four-year contracts "25% of those teachers employed by the Board for at least consecutive years." These teachers will receive a \$500 annual pay raise for each of the four years beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. No teacher shall have tenure after June 30, 2018. He touched on other changes to the contracting law, changes affecting other categories of employees, numerous other changes, and strategies for dealing with loss of tenure.

Mr. Leidy also referred to a law bulletin from the UNC School Government that spoke about remote participation in local government board meetings. After some discussion about being physically present for the purposes of a quorum, it was concluded that a board member participating remotely should not vote or participate in closed sessions. A board member participating remotely could express his/her intent on an item if he/she is not allowed to vote. Wallace Nelson voiced that the board should purchase a Polycom which would work better than a speakerphone when board members are participating remotely. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Leidy draft a policy for the Board related to remote participation in board meetings.

After a break, Mr. Eure returned to the meeting with more information about the proposed 1:1 initiative. After further discussion, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Susan Cox and seconded by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously for the Superintendent to recommend to the County Commissioners the grades 3-12 implementation plan, to include a 20% buy in, and a sustainability plan to include a 20% match of the sustainability amount.

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch discussed the referral process for students attending the Accelerated Learning Center. He spoke about the purpose of the Center, legislation that must be followed prior to referring a student to an alternative program, program information, alternative learning placement procedures and homebound instruction eligibility.

Finance Officer Candy Tilley provided information about the budget, showing slides of the revenue history for Perquimans County Schools since 2003-2004 for state, federal, local and other funds. She showed source of expenditures (excluding Child Nutrition) for North Carolina compared to Perquimans County Schools highlighting the percentage for each fund. The amount of Small Schools Funding and Low Wealth Funding was also shown from 2003-2004 to the present, with separate slides showing how Small Schools and Low Wealth were expended for the State of North Carolina and Perquimans County Schools by percentage in 2011-2012. Mrs. Tilley also showed how Small Schools and Low Wealth were budgeted by percentage for 2013-2014.

In regard to financial procedures for school-based bookkeepers, Mrs. Tilley noted that she is conducting audits quarterly at each school and reporting the results to the bookkeepers, principals and the Superintendent. She recently held a group meeting with all bookkeepers to discuss procedures and to answer questions that bookkeepers may have about finance.

End of Retreat

Walter L. Leigh, Board Chairman

Dwayne K. Stallings, Superintendent