

**Perquimans County Board of Education
Special Called Meeting – April 8, 2024**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met for special called meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Central Office. The purpose of the meeting was for a closed session and a joint budget work session with the County Commissioners. Audio access was available to the public by dialing a telephone number and entering a meeting ID and passcode.

Board Chair Russell Lassiter called the meeting to order. He led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and had prayer.

Board members present: Board Chair Russell Lassiter (in person), Vice Chair Arlene Yates (in person), Kristy Corprew (in person), Dr. Anne White (in person), Leary Winslow (in person), and Matt Winslow (in person).

Prior to approving the agenda, Mr. Lassiter referred to Policy 2330 Board Meeting Agenda to consider adding an item to the proposed agenda before the agenda was adopted. The proposed addition to the agenda was a Personnel Summary Report. Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted to add the Personnel Summary Report to the agenda for consideration.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda including the addition of the Personnel Summary Report as presented.

Personnel Summary Report

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Dr. Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Personnel Summary Report as presented.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 6:04 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) in order to consult with the Board attorney regarding matters within the attorney-client privilege and to preserve that privilege; and pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(2) to prevent the premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award.

Return to Open Session

Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 6:29 p.m. to return to open session. No action was taken following closed session.

Note: Arlene Yates left the meeting following the closed session.

New Business

Board Chair Mr. Russell Lassiter welcomed County Commissioners to the joint budget work session. Commissioners attending the meeting included Chair Wallace Nelson, Vice Chair Charles Woodard, Tim Corprew, Joseph Hoffler, and James Ward. Also attending were Frank Heath, county manager, Traci Mathews, finance officer, and Mary Hunnicutt, administrative assistant.

Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner began the presentation by congratulating the Commissioners for being named the NCSBA County Commissioners of the Year. She provided highlights about the school district including academics, National Board Certification, AIG PLC, PCHS accreditation, EMT pathway, CTE Agriculture Grant, PQ Ambassadors, Safe Schools Grant, athletics, the arts, therapy dog, Governor's Round Table, PCS literacy presentation to the State Board of Education, and six features in EdNC in 2023.

Chief Finance Officer Mr. Rube Blanchard provided the Capital Outlay funding sources for current FY 2023-2024 which totaled \$38,937,609. He thanked the Commissioners for maintaining level funding of \$235,000 which has allowed the school system to complete much needed repairs and renovations. Maintenance Director Jamie Johnson highlighted Capital Outlay expenditures for the current FY 2023-2024 which totaled \$38,937,609, noting projects with a "C" had been completed and projects with a "P" were in progress. Mr. Johnson also highlighted projects that were completed using PRC 171 and PRC 181 in ESSER funding over the past several years which included carpet removal at all schools, asbestos abatement at HGS and PCMS, DDC Phase II for PCMS and HGS, HVAC upgrades at all schools, the new track at PCHS, and auditorium windows at PCHS. Accounting Specialist Jamie Ayscue noted from the ESSER dashboard that in the 2022-2023 school year, 8% of overall spending was drawn from ESSER allocations.

Mr. Johnson highlighted the Athletic Facility Grant for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of \$103,525 which could be used only for repairs and additions to existing facilities. The balance of these funds, \$1,569, will be used for a door for the storage building at the Athletic Complex. Mr. Johnson provided photos of Capital Outlay projects that have been completed including the PCS bus parking lot, bus cameras, maintenance shop parking lot, PCHS sidewalk/parking lot, PCS media furniture, track/soccer field, Nixon Athletic Complex parking lot lights, activity bus, transportation shop floor, and maintenance truck.

Mr. Blanchard presented the Capital Outlay request for FY 2024-2025. He highlighted sources of revenue and expenditures for school bus payments and new school construction (funding provided by the state) and projects using FY 2024 carryover. Expenditures for other Capital Outlay projects in FY 2024-2025 were listed in no particular order. Mr. Blanchard also noted the current balance of \$971,106 in the Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund, \$362,040 remaining for FY 2024, and \$500,000 for FY 2025, for a total of \$1,833,146. Projects identified for these funds include sound systems for PCHS gym and PCHS auditorium (already approved) and renovation of PCHS auditorium and HVAC upgrades. These funds will be used to bring PCHS and PCS up to the level of the new school. The balance of the Public School Building Capital Fund (lottery funds) is \$669,043.

In regard to the Current Expense requests for 2024-2025, Mr. Blanchard provided ADM historical data which showed annual increases since FY 22, with FY 24 at 1,658. These figures did not include Pre-K attendance. The proposed total budget for 2024-2025 was \$61,437,537, including \$3,855,443 from Local Fund #2. Mr. Blanchard illustrated the local county appropriation for the past ten fiscal years. For FY 24, he noted that with the additional \$289,546, the district was able to retain two nurse positions (keeping one nurse at each school), offset the local increase in health insurance, retirement, and cover the 4% raises mandated by the state. He also provided the historical fund balance since 2013 to the present, noting that as of June 30, 2023, the unassigned fund balance was \$1,113,450 per the audit.

Additional funding requested for the FY 2024-2025 local budget totaled \$392,897, which included implementation of NC Salary Scales, salary/benefit increases with level funding, salary/benefit increases to State PRC 019, PQ Ambassador instructor, two math teacher positions (PCHS) and an English teacher position at PCHS. Mr. Blanchard illustrated the history of Low-Wealth funding since FY 2015. For four of the last ten years, the district received no allotment for Low Wealth. Information on the amount to be received for the next fiscal year is usually received in May or June. For this reason, additional funding may be needed pending further information on the state Low-Wealth funding allotment.

The total FY 2024-2025 Local Current Expense request was \$3,782,443, an increase of \$392,897 over last year's appropriation.

Dr. Turner, Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Johnson entertained questions from the County Commissioners.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Lassiter thanked the Commissioners for their continued support. Mr. Heath said it is a totally different experience now from previous budgets and expressed his thanks. Mr. Nelson expressed his appreciation to the Board of Education for its transparency and applauded the district for its accomplishments. Dr. Turner said she appreciates the partnership. The open communication makes for a great working environment.

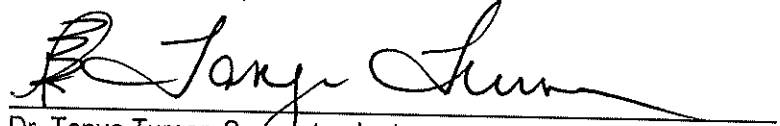
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Russell R. Lassiter".

Mr. Russell Lassiter, Chairman



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dr. Tanya Turner".

Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent

