

Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – June 26, 2024

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Central Office. 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), and Matt Winslow (in person). Leary Winslow was absent.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the addition of Item H. under IX. New Business (as allowed by Policy 2330 Board Meeting Agenda) and an addendum to the Personnel Summary Report.

Special Recognitions

Bus Drivers with Perfect Attendance 2023-2024

On behalf of the Board, Superintendent Dr. Tanya Turner recognized bus drivers with perfect attendance for the 2023-2024 school year, Angela Hedgepeth and Amber Jacobs. Angela Hedgepeth started driving a regular route in October of 2012. Over the last 12 years, Mrs. Hedgepeth has had perfect attendance for the last five years and a total of eight years of perfect attendance as a bus driver with Perquimans County Schools. Mrs. Hedgepeth prides herself in hard work, forming relationships with her students and getting students to/from school safely. Amber Jacobs was unable to attend. Dr. Turner also expressed her appreciation to Julie Williams, cost clerk and TIMS coordinator, who supports all of our bus drivers.

2024-2025 NERESA Region 1 Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Chris Mansfield, executive director of the Northeast Regional Education Service Alliance (NERESA), presented the NERESA Region 1 Superintendent of the Year Award to Dr. Tanya Turner. Dr. Turner was unanimously selected by the superintendents in the NERESA Superintendents' Council for this award. She will now go on to compete in the competition for the State Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Mansfield said Dr. Turner has been a champion for all 19 school districts in our region and across the state through her work in the NCHSAA and other things she is involved in across the state. The NERESA is a consortium of 19 school districts that circle the Albemarle Sound in northeastern North Carolina. The NERESA supports a number of functions for these school districts—a leadership conference in November in Kitty Hawk, advocacy work with the General Assembly, partnership with NCDPI and its leadership in our region, and professional development for teachers and school leaders in the 19 districts.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the May 20, 2024 regular session as presented.

Consent Agenda

None

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

Sheryl Lowe, grandmother of out-of-district students accepted from Gates County, expressed her appreciation to the Board and Dr. Turner for accepting her two grandchildren to attend Perquimans County Schools and for the educational experience her grandchildren have received in Perquimans County Schools—from the caring leadership and staff at the schools, the interaction of the Superintendent with students at school functions, as well as the support of the school board.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Finance

Budget Amendments

While copies of the budget amendments and financial report were being distributed to board members, Chairman Russell Lassiter expressed his sincere appreciation to Chief Finance Officer Mr. Rube Blanchard for his service to the school district. Mr. Blanchard is retiring and this is his last board meeting. Mr. Blanchard said he loved his job and the people in the district and that Perquimans is a wonderful place to work. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Mr. Blanchard presented budget amendments for the Board's consideration, explaining in detail the reason for each amendment. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve State (Fund 1) Budget Amendment #4, Local (Fund 2) Budget Amendment #3, Federal (Fund 3) Budget Amendment #3, Capital Outlay (Fund 4) Budget Amendment #4, Child Nutrition (Fund 5) Budget Amendment #2, and Local (Fund 8) Budget Amendment #3 as presented.

Year-End Financial Report

Mr. Blanchard provided a detailed year-end analysis for Fund 1 (State Funds), Fund 2 (Local Funds), Fund 3 (Federal Funds), Fund 4 (Capital Outlay Funds), Fund 5 (Child Nutrition Funds), and Fund 8 (Local/Grant Funds). For any budgets remaining, he indicated if the funds would revert back or if they would carry over. He also noted that next year ESSER funds would be gone. There were three years of ESSER funding to use instead of using other funds. Our leadership team used these funds for non-recurring items. Some school systems used ESSER funding for people and now those districts are struggling because ESSER is going away. Our district did not do that.

Mr. Blanchard provided balances for the following funds: Public School Building Capital Fund Lottery Fund Update - \$748,447.56, Public School Building Capital Fund Public School Building Repair & Renovation Fund (PSBRRF) Update - \$1,236,807.88, and Public School Building Capital Fund Needs Based Lottery Fund, Project Allocation - \$36,005,362.16.

Interim Budget FY 2024-2025

Mr. Blanchard presented the interim budget for 2024-2025. Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Kristy Corprew, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the interim budget for FY 2024-2025 (based on the estimated FY 2023-2024 final budget) until state, local, and federal allotments are finalized.

Insurance

Mr. Blanchard presented insurances for renewal for 2023-2024, including Auto/Garage Liability, Worker's Compensation, and Errors & Omissions/General Liability. Dr. Anne White recused herself from the discussion and vote on this item since she is the Chair of the North Carolina School Boards' Trust. Upon motion by Kristy Corprew and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following FY 2024 premiums for insurances for as presented: Auto/Garage Liability with Surry Insurance - \$18,544.77, Worker's Compensation with Surry

Insurance - \$26,381.00, and Errors & Omissions/General Liability with the NC School Boards Trust - \$3,565.00 as presented. The Board's vote was 4-0 on this item as Dr. White recused herself from this item. Following the vote, Dr. White recommended that in the future a quote be requested from the NC School Boards Trust to compare costs of insurances. Again, Mr. Lassiter thanked Mr. Blanchard for all that he has done for Perquimans County Schools.

2024-2025 CTE Local Plan

Career Technical Education Director Melissa Swain presented the Career Technical Education plan for 2024-2025. In her PowerPoint presentation, she provided information on evaluation of performance, pathway alignment adjustments for 2024-2025, identified needs, budget for PRC-013 State Program Months of Employment, budget for PRC-014 State Program Support Funds, and budget for PRC-017 Federal Program Improvement. Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Kristy Corprew, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2024-2025 CTE Local Plan as presented.

2024-2025 PRC 29 Grant

Chief Academic Officer of Student Services presented the 2024-2025 PRC 29 Grant (Behavioral Support) funds total funds requested of \$190,000 and expenditures. These PRC 29 Grant funds are used to assist the public school unit with providing behavioral support services to students that meet the criteria based on a rubric score as needed in Perquimans County Schools (K-12 Special Education and General Education). Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2024-2025 PRC 29 Grant (Behavioral Support) as presented.

School Health Advisory Committee Action Plan

Assistant Superintendent Mr. James Bunch presented the School Health Advisory Committee Action Plan for 2024-2027. This plan fulfills the Perquimans County Schools District Wellness Plan which has been adopted by the Board of Education (Policy 6140 Student Wellness). He thanked Dr. Griffin for serving as the Committee Chairperson this past year. Mr. Bunch presented each area of the plan which included Physical Activity, Social and Emotional Climate, Employee Wellness, Physical Environment, Health Education, Health Services, Nutrition Environment and Services, Counseling, Psychological and Social Services, and Family Engagement and Community Involvement. Each area included a focus and goal, as well as steps and strategies, who is responsible, resources needed, completion date and evaluation. Upon motion by Matt Winslow and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2024-2027 School Health Advisory Committee Action Plan as presented.

Driver Education Cost Increase Analysis

Mr. Bunch provided a slide on the cost increase in driver education services. The current cost is \$40 per student for the classroom training and \$200.00 per student for the behind the wheel training. The increased cost is \$60.00 per student for the classroom training and \$225.00 per student for the behind the wheel training. He provided data for the past three years which illustrated the cost and total budget. It is difficult to project the costs for driver education due to student activities, students using other driving schools, and students waiting until they are older to take driver education. The projected budget for next year is \$25,620.00; the projected allotment is \$41,238.00. Even with increased costs, changes in our current driver education fees will not be necessary. Driver education funds that are not used go back to the State.

Student Discipline Report for Second Semester

Mr. Bunch provided the student discipline report for the second semester. He noted that the total number of reportable offenses has decreased from 12 last year to 5 this year. In regard to discipline data, there has been an increase in suspensions from 6 suspension last year, to 12 suspensions this year. Compared to the number of students enrolled in the school, that number is low. At Hertford Grammar School, the number of suspensions has decreased over the past three years from 67 in 2021-2022, to 57 in 2022-2023, to 44 in 2023-2024. At Perquimans Middle School and Perquimans High School, the number of suspensions has increased each year over the past three years. Mr. Bunch

noted several items from the SHAC Plan that can be used to help lower these numbers; however, students must be held accountable for their actions.

Board of Education Meeting Calendar

Dr. Turner presented the proposed meeting calendar for 2024-2025 which follows the same schedule as last year's calendar. She pointed out exceptions to the regular meeting dates including the meeting dates for the August, December, April, May and June meetings. Upon motion by Dr. Anne White and second by Kristy Corprew, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2024-2025 Board of Education Meeting Calendar as presented.

Vape Detectors/Sensors RFP

Mr. Bunch presented the bid tabulation information from the vape detectors/sensors RFP which was posted on June 5, 2024. The bid due date was June 20, 2024. The bid was for vape detectors/sensors to be installed at Perquimans County Middle School and Perquimans County High School in the gang bathrooms—10 vape sensors to be installed in the gang bathrooms at PCMS and 15 vape sensors to be installed in the gang bathrooms at PCHS. Two bids were received, one from ByteSpeed (Ricotta vape detectors and sensors) and one from NewCom (Tritan vape detectors and sensors). In checking references on these companies, both references were good, with one being better than the other. The product offered by ByteSpeed was not bottom of the line, not top of the line, but in the middle. NewCom's product was top of the line. Based on that, the recommendation to the Board was to go with NewCom for vape detectors/sensors in the amount of \$51,620.00. If someone is vaping or smoking or using a fragrance, a sensor goes off that sends a text message to a site administrator. This also provides gun shot detection. Mr. Bunch entertained questions and comments from board members. Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Dr. Anne White, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a contract with NewCom for vape detectors/sensors as presented.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Turner presented the following information in her report:

- Projected enrollment for 2024-2025 is 1737 which is up from enrollment of 1684 for 2023-2024.
- Vacancies: Middle Grades Social Studies (6th), Middle Grades ELA Teacher (8th), High School Science Teacher, High School English Teacher, 1 High School Math Teacher, High School Social Studies Teacher, Human Resource Specialist (interviewed today), CTE at PCMS, EC Teacher at HGS (potential candidate), Teacher at PCS, Teacher at HGS, PCMS Receptionist (interviews next week), HVAC, Electrician, Custodian at PCS, Groundskeeper, ELL Tutor
- New Intermediate School Update
 - Feasibility report is being filed with DPI for approval.
 - Final comments from the school traffic section of the NC Department of Transportation are being worked through by traffic consultant.
 - Comments from agencies conducting plan reviews are being received and are being responded to as received (i.e. stormwater review and architectural review).
 - Pending receipt of all agency comments and any adjustments to the plans that may be required, we are ready to advertise the project for bids.
 - Final review of BOE is expected at the July meeting with a request to approve advertisement for bids.

Mrs. Yates asked for the number of students attending NEAAAT. Dr. Turner noted there are 65 students currently attending NEAAAT. Dr. Turner said NEAAAT sends a letter out to all eligible students. The district has to send them a list of students with their grade level and address.

Board Chair's Comments

None

Announcements

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, July 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office. The oath of office will be given to the newly re-elected board members. In addition, the Board Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at this meeting.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Winslow, the Board voted unanimously at 7:37 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statute 143.318.11(a)(1) and (6) to consider closed session minutes, student transfer requests, and personnel matters.

Note: Matt Winslow left the meeting before the closed session was over.

Return to Open Session

Upon motion by Kristy Corprew and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously at 8:39 p.m. to return to open session.

Personnel Summary Report

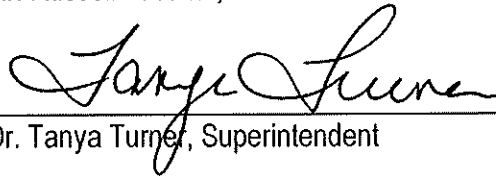
Upon motion by Kristy Corprew and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously, 4-0, to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding personnel items, with the addendum, as presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



Mr. Russell Lassiter, Chairman



Dr. Tanya Turner, Superintendent

