

EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, April 6, 2009, 6:30 pm
D.F. Walker Elementary School Media Center

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 6, 2009, 6:30 pm, D.F. Walker Elementary School Media Center with the following members present: Chairman Ricky Browder, John Guard, Gil Burroughs, Jean Bunch, Win Dale, Kay Wright, and Gene Jordan. Others present were: Superintendent Allan Smith, Rob Boyce, Michelle Maddox, Tom Abbott, Becky Bunch, Deborah Goodman, Audrey Bunch, Nancy Heiniger, Emma Berry, Kim Ullom, Joy Brickhouse, Pam Leary, Mel Pekofsky, Tom Miller, Deanna Chesson, Peggy DiMartino, Dr. Thomas DiMartino, Alison Brusko, Jackie Laverty, Mary Elliott, Marty McCarthy, Kathleen Elmore, Vickie Miller, Alyssa Miller, Sheron Johnson, Stephani Hartman, Jean Simpson, Nancy Goodwin, Brenda Pate, Jamie Bass, Grace Nixon, Eugene Baker, Deborah West, Stacey Banks, Allison Fleetwood, Krista Bond, Nell Mason, Nelle Hyatt, Annie Branson, Kevin Newsome, Jasmine Brooks, Willie Koonce, Karen Davenport, Sandra Stanley, Kerri Albertson, Sheila Evans, NaTishe Bonner, Reginald Granby, Brenda Coston, Deborah Brothers, Cotina Eason, Mary Griffin, Brittany Tynch, Edna Lawrence, Sadie Riddick, Sarah Wills, Catherine Jackson, Mona Gilliam, Brenda Wilson-Holley, Nicole Byrd-Phelps, Ginger Skinner, Virginia Jones, Larry Mulderig, Tommy White, Maurice Bunch, Mary Scott Bunch, Alyssa Hartman, Brad May, Sheila May, Hackney High, and Harriet Sawyer.

The meeting was called was called to order by Chairman Ricky Browder. The invocation was given by John Guard.

PUBLIC/BOARD DIALOGUE:

Tom Abbott addressed the Board concerning the credit recovery program at John A. Holmes High School. He asked the Board to consider his son's credit recovery grade for Chemistry to be substituted for his original classroom grade for his final grade on his transcript. **(Attachment #1)**

Several concerned parents and students addressed the Board concerning the resignation of Bill Moore, Principal at John A. Holmes High School.

Angela Lawrence spoke on behalf of Mr. Moore. Mrs. Lawrence asked that the Board reconsider the resignation of Mr. Moore. Mrs. Lawrence stated that she has worked with Mr. Moore over the past several years and he is an advocate with working with our students. Mr. Moore has earned our trust and gratitude for a job well done. Mrs. Lawrence has seen our system grow over the past years largely due to the accomplishments of past principal John Williams and Mr. Moore. Mrs. Lawrence also commented if the low test scores was the issue for Mr. Moore's resignation, the Board should not put all of the testing problems with Mr. Moore.

Larry Mulderig asked the Board not to accept the resignation of Mr. Moore. The students and staff admire and respect Mr. Moore. He stated that possible reasons for Mr. Moore's resignation might be personality conflicts with the administration and low test scores. If low test scores are a reason the Board should consider his other accomplishments and reconsider the decision to let him go. Mr. Moore has proven to be a real asset to his school and students. With all of the turmoil that the county has been going through we do not need to uproot the students at this time.

Jasmine Brooks and Annie Branson, students at John A. Holmes High School, presented a petition requesting that the Board reconsider Mr. Moore's resignation and that the Board ask him to stay. **(Attachment #2)**

Tom Miller offered the Board some good advice to keep Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore has a genuine love for our children. If low test scores are a reason not to renew his contract I would ask the Board of reconsider. After reviewing test scores in surrounding counties, our school system is in line with these counties. Because of his character and how much the students admire him we should give him another chance.

Dr. Thomas DiMartino stated that we should not compare our students test scores with larger school systems. Because of being located in a rural area our students cannot compete with students in larger systems. Mr. Moore is a man of excellence. If there are personality conflicts the administration should set aside these differences and reconsider Mr. Moore's resignation.

Deanna Chesson stated that she knew that the Board's job was not easy and asked that the Board take note of the parents at the meeting and reconsider Mr. Moore's resignation.

Tom Abbott commented that he was on the Board when Mr. Moore was hired. He felt that Mr. Moore was still the right person for the job. Mr. Abbott also questioned the Board's financial resources involved in the pursuant of a new principal.

Hackney High, School Board Attorney, thanked everyone for their comments. Mr. High stated that because the comments were in regard to a personnel matter, the Board was not able to give comments or answer comments. The Board would go into closed session to discuss the comments before making a decision.

REPORT:

1. **North Carolina Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Instructor of the Year.** The Board recognized Lt. Col. George Nelson for being selected the North Carolina JROTC Instructor of the Year by the North Carolina American Legion. Lt. Col. Nelson will be recognized by the American Legion at the State Convention that will be held in June. Lt. Col. Nelson will participate at the national level.

2. **D. F. Walker Impact Grant.** Principal Sheila Evans and the school staff reported on the IMPACT Model Grant that the school has received and the difference it has made on student learning at D.F. Walker Elementary School. The grant has made it possible to purchase technology equipment that include Smart Boards, LCD Projectors, digital cameras, flip video recorders, Senseo clickers in classrooms that are used for the delivery of instruction to students. Perquimans County and Edenton-Chowan Schools jointly received a competitive grant for Enhancing Education Through Technology through the NC Department of Public Instruction.
3. **John A. Holmes Science Curriculum.** Board member Gil Burroughs requested that the Board look at the Science Curriculum at the high school especially AP and Honors Physics, AP Biology and Chemistry prerequisites. Mr. Burroughs would like to see an Honors Chemistry for those students that are interested in pursuing more rigorous course work and also a standard Chemistry for students. Mr. Burroughs also proposes that physical science be a prerequisite for Chemistry. Dr. Smith said he would take these suggestions to the science department at the high school and request that they review and address the science curriculum. **(Attachment #3)**

CONSIDER:

1. **Budget Work Session.** The Board of Education scheduled a budget work session for Thursday, April 9, 2009, 3:30 pm, Central Office Conference Room.
2. **2008-2009 Budget Amendments.**
Budget Amendment #1-To amend the Local Current Expense budget for the School Nurse Initiative revenue and expenditures. A motion was made by Win Dale, seconded by Kay Wright to approve Budget Amendment #1. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #4)**

Budget Amendment #2-To amend the Local Current Expense budget for the reduction of funds from the County due to the shortfall of sales tax revenue and the projected loss of revenues through June 30. A motion was made by Kay Wright, seconded by Win Dale to approve Budget Amendment #2. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #5)**

Budget Amendment #3-To amend the Local Current Expense budget for the reduction of funds from the Entrepreneurship Pilot Program due to the unavailability of matching grant funds. A motion was made by John Guard, seconded by Jean Bunch to approve Budget Amendment #3. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #6)**

Budget Amendment #4-To amend the Local Current Expense budget for More at Four Grant revenue and expenditures. A motion was made by John Guard,

seconded by Jean Bunch to approve Budget Amendment #4. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #7)**

APPROVE:

A motion was made by John Guard, seconded by Win Dale to approve the following items by consent agenda:

1. Minutes
3. Financial Report **(Attachment #8)**

Chairman Ricky Browder requested a motion to adjourn the regular session meeting to enter into closed session to discuss personnel. A motion was made by Win Dale, seconded by John Guard to adjourn the regular session meeting and enter into closed session to discuss personnel pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 115C-319 and 115C-321.

The meeting returned to open session with Chairman Ricky Browder calling the meeting to order.

Due to the sensitivity of the William Moore resignation, the personnel report was voted on in two motions. A motion was made by Win Dale, seconded by Kay Wright to approve the personnel report except the resignation of William Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Gil Burroughs, seconded by Gene Jordan to accept the resignation of William Moore. The motion passed with a vote of 5 for (Jean Bunch, Gil Burroughs, Win Dale, John Guard, Gene Jordan) and 1 against (Kay Wright). The motion passed. **(Attachment #9)**

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS/REMARKS: None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricky Browder, Chairman

Allan T. Smith, Secretary