

EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, April 8, 2013, 6:30 pm
Central Office Conference Room

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2013, 6:30 pm, Central Office Conference room with the following members present: Chairman John Guard, Jean Bunch, Gil Burroughs, Ricky Browder, Glorious Elliott, Gene Jordan, and Kay Wright. Others present were: Superintendent Allan Smith, Casey Atstupenas, Amy Asbell, Angela Byrum, Karen Tynch, Nelle Hyatt, Rebecca Bunch, Ricky Winebarger, Hackney High, and Harriet Sawyer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Guard. The invocation was given by Glorious Elliott.

PUBLIC/BOARD DIALOGUE: None.

REPORT:

1. **Golden Leaf.** Dr. Smith reported that the Golden Leaf Foundation awarded four grant proposals for funding in Chowan County. Two of the proposals were awarded to Edenton-Chowan Schools for the Secondary STEM Curriculum and the 1:1 Learning Initiative. The other two grant proposals include cleanup of the firing range for industrial development and the TDA for tourism marketing.

Casey Atstupenas reported on the STEM Initiative at the middle and high school. The funds will be used for equipment, materials, renovation of classroom, teacher training, and network upgrades to provide hands-on, project-based learning opportunities that will improve teaching and learning in science and math.

The 1:1 Learning Initiative will provide funds to pay for Chromebook devices for every student in grades 6-12, professional development, instructional technologists, upgrade of schools wireless systems, and learning management systems.

2. **High School Graduation Requirements.** Casey Atstupenas provided a summary of the state requirements and local requirements for the students that are taking Algebra I and Earth Science in the eighth grade. The state allows for the courses to meet all graduation requirements. Students at Chowan Middle School who take Algebra I in the 8th grade receive high school credit for the course but this credit does not count towards the total of credits needed for graduation. Students are still required to earn 4 maths and 3 science credits in grades 9-12. Parents of eighth grade students are notified by letter that Algebra I and Earth Science does not count towards graduation requirements. The

administrative staff will work on a policy outlining the local expectations for students that take Algebra I or Earth Science in the eighth grade. Students who successfully pass Algebra I or Earth Science are given the opportunity to move on to more advanced courses in high school. It is the intent of the school system to offer Algebra I and Earth Science to make a more rigorous course load for students. **(Attachment #1)**

3. **Center for Safer Schools Forum.** The Department of Public Safety is sponsoring Safer Schools Forums in communities across the state to assess ways to prevent and respond to school safety concerns. Chowan County has been selected as the location for the first public forum that will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the College of the Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan Campus.
4. **Legislative Visit.** The Board of Education members are scheduled to meet with Senator Clark Jenkins and Representative Bob Steinburg on April 11, 2013 at the Legislative Building in Raleigh, NC. Some of the issues the Board would like to address are the Excellent Public School Act (SB361), NC Public Charter School Board (HB443), School Ownership (SB236), and Governor's Proposed Budget, A-F Funding (HB435), and term lengths.

CONSIDER:

1. **Meal Prices.** The federal government is requiring local school systems across the country to increase paid meal prices to meet the cost of preparing a reimbursable meal. The school system is required to raise meal prices until the \$2.59 threshold is met. Karen Tynch requested to increase current lunch meal price by the amount of \$.10 from \$2.10 to \$2.20. A motion was made by Jean Bunch, seconded by Gene Jordan to approve the increase of the current paid lunch meal from \$2.10 to \$2.20. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **New High School Course.** Amy Asbell and Angela Byrum presented a request to add a new elective course at the high school for next year. The course will be part of the 1:1 Learning Initiative. Students will be supervised by Amy Asbell, Angela Byrum, and Paula Taylor will also be working with these classes. Students will learn to troubleshoot technical support issues with software, hardware, and connectivity. Students will work through modules in order to grow their ability to help with technical support issues. A motion was made by Gil Burroughs, seconded by Kay Wright to approve the new elective tech support class. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #2)**
3. **2013-2014 Local Current Expense Budget Request.** Dr. Smith presented to 2013-2014 Local Current Expense Budget Request for Board approval. The request to the county commission reflects costs of one additional teacher to maintain classroom size and the restoration of the full 1% teacher supplement. The Board of Education is requesting the local current expense appropriation be

increased by \$195,000 to \$3,616,929 to meet these needs. The recommendation will increase the contribution from the school system's reserve to \$748,000 to balance the budget.

Gil Burroughs expressed a concern that the Assistant Superintendent's position was needed at the central office. Mr. Burroughs compiled data from the surrounding school systems on administrative positions in the central office and found that Edenton-Chowan's 6.7% was the lowest in the area.

A motion was made by Glorious Elliott, seconded by Gene Jordan to approve the 2013-2014 Local Current Expense Budget Request. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #3)**

APPROVE:

A motion was made was made by Glorious Elliott, seconded by Ricky Browder to approve the following items by consent agenda:

1. Minutes
2. Personnel **(Attachment #4)**
3. Financial Report **(Attachment #5)**

A motion was made by Gil Burroughs, seconded by Kay Wright to enter into closed session pursuant to NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with attorney in regard to the pending lawsuit Felton vs. the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Case Number 2:12-CV-00016-F.

The Board returned to open session.

Superintendent Allan Smith presented an addendum to personnel for the Exceptional Children's Director position. A motion was made by Kay Wright, seconded by Glorious Elliott to approve the addendum to personnel. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #4)**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Guard, Chairman

Allan T. Smith, Secretary