

EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT
Monday, February 21, 2011,
9:00 am, Technology Department,
10:30 am Central Office Conference Room

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in a retreat session on Monday, February 21, 2011, 9:00 am 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, Michelle, Maddox, Becky Bunch, and Harriet Sawyer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ricky Browder. The Board observed a moment of silence.

Central Office Relocation. Dr. Smith updated the Board on the February 15, 2011 meeting with Kay Wright, Jean Bunch, Gene Jordan with County Commissioners Eddy Goodwin, Keith Nixon and County Manager Paul Parker. The meeting began with Dr. Smith reviewing the request from the County Commission Planning Committee that the Board of Education begin the process of looking for locations to move the Central Office. The county commission committee has been working on combining county facilities and closing of the County Office Building. At that time the county commission planning committee was interested in keeping the central office downtown. The Board of Education committee presented information on the sites for the central office relocation to the county commission committee. The Board of Education committee identified the old Boswell building as the site that would best meet the needs of the central office. Discussion was held by the county commission regarding how funds would be provided to the Board of Education for lease. The use of the old D.F. Walker as an option was raised by the County Commission committee. After discussion, the Board of Education committee agreed that the Board would tour the old D.F. Walker building and discuss the use of the old D.F. Walker site at the February 21, 2011 meeting. Several questions were asked by the Board of Education committee concerning if the adequate renovations could be completed before the November relocation and if COA will be agreeable to sharing the facility. The sharing of the facility by COA and Edenton-Chowan Schools could be a long-term partnership but there is an immediate need for a short-term solution. The Board of Education would like for the county commission, COA, and the school system to discuss the long-range plans/timeline for sharing of space with COA. The Board of Education stated that the central office should not move into the old D. F. Walker building unless a defined plan for renovation was developed and all of the renovations to be completed before moving to the facility to ensure the best working environment for employees. The Board of Education will discuss the relocation at the March 7, 2011 meeting and make a recommendation to be presented to the Chowan County Commission.

The Board of Education adjourned the meeting at the Technology Department and will resume the meeting at the Board of Education office.

Budget Priorities for 2011-2012. Dr. Smith reviewed the current budget status with the Board. The current expense budget includes \$250,000 contingency and \$450,000 to balance budget. We will not need to access contingency and will only need \$350,000 to balance budget.

Dr. Smith reported on the Governor's proposed budget. The plan would keep a portion of the temporary sales tax but would eliminate a number of state jobs and programs.

Over the next several months the Board of Education will begin the budget process for the next school year with anticipated cuts in the state and federal funding. Edenton-Chowan Schools could possibly see as much as a three million dollar reduction in state and federal funds. This will be the last year for the federal stimulus funds and helped fund about 26 employees. The Board was presented an overview of the system's personnel for instructional programs, student services, non-instructional services, administrative services, and salaries. The Board reviewed the class size by grade levels at each of the schools and wanted to be sure that the system was maximizing class size. The Board would also like for the system to look at transportation costs to be sure we are operating in the most efficient manner. The Board stated that in addition to the core subjects they wanted to include music, art, and physical education as classes to keep. The Board also identified protecting the jobs of teachers and teacher assistants as priorities.

The Board reviewed the procedures outlined in the board policy for the reduction of licensed employees and non-renewal of licensed personnel. Dr. Smith met with the principals and asked for feedback on personnel budget priorities for 2011-2012. The Board will continue to monitor the projected cuts in state and federal funds as they prepare to develop the 2011-2012 budget. **(Attachment #1)**

High School Review. The Board was presented information from the first semester on student achievement, the 9th grade transition and ACES period, discipline and dress code, student attendance, and class sizes/teacher assignment. **(Attachment #2)**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricky Browder, Chairman

Allan T. Smith, Secretary