

EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, January 12, 2009, 6:30 pm
White Oak Elementary School Media Center

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2009, 6:30 pm, White Oak Elementary School Media Center with the following members present: Chairman Ricky Browder, John Guard, Jean Bunch, Win Dale, Kay Wright, and Gene Jordan. Others present were: Superintendent Allan Smith, Rob Boyce, Michelle Maddox, Kerri Albertson, Hunter Davis, Taylor Davis, Alice Harrell, Anna DiMartino, Hollis Elmore, Rachael McCarthy, Elizabeth Leary, Meredith Laverty, Meredith Jordan, Claire Baker, Jessica Ordonez, Kathleen Don, Dean Fisk, Iris Fisk, Martha Harrison, Betty Byrum, Pat Harrison, Beverly Bass, Elizabeth Huff, Sheila Evans, Tanya Turner, Stacey Leggett, Audrey Bunch, Phillip Gatling, Sarah McLaughlin, John Powell, Bridgett Baxter, John Quinn, Sally Quinn, Joy Denton, Nell Mason, Jeff Mason, Evans Mason, Wilson Mason, Tammi Ward, Jennifer Thach, Lee Thach, Alvin Winslow, Linda Hobbs, Nelle Hyatt, Rae Knox, Doug Eddy, Robin Solsk, John Rothchild, Jennifer Argent, Hannah Baker, Dennis Robinson, Vero Brentjens, Isabelle Boehling, Mary Boehling, Jimmy Boehling, Liza Boehling, Barbara Cavanagh, M.F. Cavanagh, Sam Young, Bill Moore, Tanya Turner, Amy Steinert, Hackney High, and Harriet Sawyer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ricky Browder. The invocation was given by Gene Jordan.

PUBLIC/BOARD DIALOGUE:

Dr. Vero Brentjens addressed the board with a request for the Board of Education to consider an Environmental Curriculum to be added to the school's education program for grades K-12. There are several programs in North Carolina that are available to schools. Mrs. Brentjens stated that we should begin at an early age to teach students the importance of making the earth a cleaner safer place to live.

Dennis Robinson asked that the board consider the request of the LiveGreen organization.

John Powell stated that he felt that the "go green concept" should be a priority for the school system.

Superintendent Allan Smith stated during the preliminary work for the renovations at the high school, the board has looked into LEED Certification and the recent renovations to the facility have been environmentally sound.

Ricky Browder thanked each person for their input and comments.

REPORT:

1. **Recognition of Teacher of the Year, Administrator of the Year, National Board Certified Teachers.** The Board of Education recognized the following for their accomplishments.

Teacher of the Year. The principals presented their Teacher of the Year from each school. Plaques were presented to the following teachers for being selected to represent their school in the selection of the 2008-2009 Chowan County Teacher of the Year: Sally Quinn, Chowan Middle School; Nell Mason, D.F. Walker Elementary School; Jennifer Thach, White Oak Elementary School; and Barbara Cavanagh, John A. Holmes High School. Barbara Cavanagh was selected Chowan County Teacher of the Year.

Administrator of the Year. Stacy Leggett, Chowan Middle School Assistant Principal, was selected as the 2008-2009 Administrator of the Year.

National Board Certified Teachers. The following teachers were recognized for achieving National Board Certification: Joy Denton, Sally Quinn, and Debra Rook from Chowan Middle School; and Beverly Bass and Jessica Ordonez from John A. Holmes High School. Sheila Evans was recognized as the first Edenton-Chowan Schools National Board Certified Teacher to renew certification. Sheila Evans has been selected by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to serve on a committee that will evaluate the existing standards to determine whether the standards are up to date and if any revisions should be made in the standards.

2. **LiveGreen.** Isabelle Boehling, student at John A. Holmes High School, presented information on LiveGreen. LiveGreen is a student organization at the high school whose mission is devoted to promoting and developing healthy relationships with the environment, nature, and those who inhabit it. The members of the organization have started raising money to help purchase a dishwasher at John A. Holmes High School. The high school uses Styrofoam trays to serve meal and the Styrofoam trays cannot be recycled. If the dishwasher is replaced recyclable plastic trays can be used in the cafeteria. The club members have placed posters in hallways at the high school to educate their peers, obtained a recycling dumpster, and recycling bins have been added in the hallways. LiveGreen will host a talent show in February that the proceeds will towards the purchase of a dishwasher for the high school.
3. **Dropout Prevention Grant.** Rob Boyce updated the board on the renewal of the Dropout Prevention Grant. In January 2008 the NC General Assembly designated 7 million dollars in grants. More than 300 applications were received. 60 grant proposals were awarded. Edenton-Chowan Schools Life Coach proposal was one of sixteen to receive the maximum amount requested of

\$150,000. In November of 2008 an additional 42 grants were awarded. These grants were selected from the 240 applications that applied for the January 2008 grants but did not receive funding. December 2008 37 from the original 60 grants were approved for continuation grants. Edenton-Chowan Schools Life Coach Program received a continuation grant of \$150,000. The grant must be spent by August 31, 2010.

4. **Future-Ready Core Curriculum.** Rob Boyce presented a summary of issues from the new state Future-Ready graduation requirements to be implemented beginning with next year's ninth grade class. Beginning in 2009-2010, every high school student in North Carolina must meet the course and credit requirements based on when they entered high school as freshmen; successfully complete the North Carolina Graduation Project; earn passing scores in five essential end-of-course tests: Algebra I, Biology, Civics and Economics, English I and U.S. History; earn a passing score on the Computer Skills Test; and meet any local graduation requirements. The Future-Ready Curriculum ends the courses of study except students with disabilities, adds a fourth math requirements and the expectation that all students will complete math at the Algebra II level, the state will now require 21 units to graduate instead of 20, and local districts still have the option of having additional requirements for graduation. The Future-Ready Core Planning Committee at the high school has been working on issues to help students meet the new requirements, develop with the middle school a revised orientation/pre-registration plan that focuses on the new requirements, and review all guidance materials, student and faculty handbooks, to determine needed changes in order to meet the new requirements. The committee will present their recommendations to the Board at a later board meeting.
5. **Board of Education Retreat.** The Board of Education scheduled a board retreat on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 9:00 am at the National Guard Armory. Jim Copeland with Moseley Architects will review the report completed at the end of June. The Board will discuss how the system will take advantage of the Economic Stimulus Package that Congress has proposed to be used at the local level to create jobs and used for school construction/renovation. The Board of Education will look at the immediate needs for the high school. The Board will review a list of immediate needs and identify priorities.
6. **Joint Committee of the County Commissioners and Board of Education.** A meeting of the joint committee of the County Commissioners and Board of Education has been scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2009, 5:30 pm, Central Office Conference Room. The meeting will be an information sharing session on school budgets and how local funding supports state and federal funding.
7. **Visions for the Future of the Board of Education.** (Under Board Members Reports/Remarks)

CONSIDER:

1. **2009-2010 School Calendar.** The calendar committee met on December 8, 2008 and developed the 2009-2010 for board approval. The calendar committee consisted of a parent, teacher, and school administrator from each school. Several changes are proposed for the board to consider.

Grades K-8 will go back to a 9 weeks grading period.

End of Grade testing was moved to an earlier time to accommodate the new retesting requirements.

A request was made from the schools to dismiss sooner on early release days, 12:30 instead of 1:30 pm. The school principals have been asked to meet with their staff to talk over any problems that may arise with the earlier dismissal.

The calendar leaves little opportunity to build in make-up days in case of inclement weather. It may be necessary to use the Christmas break or Spring break if necessary. A motion to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar was made by John Guard, seconded by Kay Wright and passed unanimously.

(Attachment #1)

APPROVE:

A motion was made Gene Jordan, seconded by Win Dale and passed unanimously to approve the following items by consent agenda:

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

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS/REMARKS:

Board Chairman Ricky Browder shared some of his ideas and visions for the board.

Mr. Browder would like the length of board meetings between 1 ½ and 2 hours. The productivity during lengthy meetings can decrease with trying to comprehend so much information.

Reinstate quarterly meetings. The quarterly meetings can be used to present and discuss time consuming items such as School Improvement Plans, approval of school handbooks, policies, board member issues, Superintendent Evaluations. Mr. Browder suggested that we schedule the quarterly meetings when the regular meeting schedule is developed.

Strengthen relationship between teachers and the Board of Education. Look for ways the board can communicate with teachers. Mr. Browder would like to be able to set up a way to communicate with teachers so they will be free to discuss their issues. A suggestion from the Teacher Advisory Committee was to be more visible during the school day in the schools-volunteering, proctoring, senior projects. Mr. Browder asked for board input on how to start this process with the teachers.

Continue to improve and strengthen boardsmanship and professional responsibilities; be involved in group study like the Master Board Training.

Make our board meetings more user friendly. Make the board meetings accessible for the community to be able to attend. Mr. Browder would like to see the meetings not only in the schools but also in the community.

Mr. Browder asked the board members for their ideas for the board to pursue. He would like to see the board make decisions that would give our students and faculty the best opportunity for them to be successful.

Gene Jordan stated that he supports Mr. Browder's initiatives especially for better relationships with our teachers.

Win Dale asked if we could begin the process of looking at the budget for next year in case there are reductions in funding. Mr. Dale also commented that he would like to see more recycling efforts promoted in the schools and especially Chowan Middle School. Superintendent Allan Smith stated that the planning allotments should be available in February and we would begin looking at the budget process.

Jean Bunch agrees that the board should be more involved with activities in the schools. Mrs. Bunch suggested that the board look at the events posted on the school calendars so they will know when activities are scheduled.

Kay Wright suggested that Dr. Smith let the principals know that board members would like to be more visible in the schools and may visit occasionally.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricky Browder, Chairman

Allan T. Smith, Secretary