

Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education  
Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 6:30 p.m.  
John A. Holmes High School School Media Center

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 6:30 pm, in the John A. Holmes High School Media Center with the following Board Members present: Chairman John Guard, Vice Chairman Jean Bunch, Ricky Browder, Gil Burroughs, Glorious Elliott, Gene Jordan, Kay Wright and Superintendent Dr. Rob Jackson.

Others present were: Assistant Superintendent Tanya Turner; John A. Holmes High School Principal Steve Wood; Chowan Middle School Principal John Lassiter; D F Walker Elementary School Principal Michelle White; Directors representing Central Services; Deputy Heather Matthews; Board Attorney Will Crowe and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from John A. Holmes High School.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Gil Burroughs to approve the agenda as presented with a second by Glorious Elliott. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Recognitions: The Board presented a plaque to team members and coaches representing the Chowan Middle School football team in recognition of the team's undefeated football season.

There were no requests to address the Board.

REPORT:

1 - Current Employee Benefits Presentation - Chris Pierce from Pierce Group Benefits gave a presentation highlighting the services that Pierce Group Benefits offers Edenton-Chowan Schools employees. Director of Human Resources Michelle Maddox also provided the Board with some benefits information, answered questions from

Board Members, and shared information about the upcoming Request for Bids to provide Employee Benefits for the time period beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

2 - Superintendent's Report - The first meeting of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2016. Dr. Jackson shared that Chowan County has met all of the requirements to become the first county in Northeastern North Carolina to become certified as "work-ready". Dr. Jackson gave Board Members a brief overview of Gaggle, which is a safety management tool that the school uses to detect inappropriate words and images in students' email messages and attachments. Mr. Jack Hoke, Executive Director of the North Carolina Superintendents' Association, has shared the Board's recently passed policy on drones with each of the 115 superintendents in the state. The results of our third month membership report indicates that we have 125 less students than last school year. Dr. Jackson also informed Board Members that the school system is continuing its efforts to promote the school's new website address. Our latest initiative is that each school will be sending home a refrigerator magnet with each student that displays the school's new website address.

#### CONSIDER:

1 - NCSBA Legislative Committee - Mr. Guard asked for nominations of Board Members to serve on the NCSBA Legislative Committee. A motion was made by Gil Burroughs to nominate John Guard to serve as a representative on the NCSBA Legislative Committee. A second to the motion was made by Gene Jordan. The motion carried unanimously.

2 - Low Performing School Update - Ms. Tanya Turner presented the Board with a revised Low Performing School Plan for D F Walker Elementary School based on feedback from the State Board of Education. A motion was made by Glorious Elliott to accept the plan as presented. A second to the motion was made by Gil Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously.

3 - January Quarterly Meeting Update - Dr. Jackson recommended that the Board reschedule the January 19, 2016 quarterly Board Meeting to February 22, 2016. A motion was made by Kay Wright to move the January 19, 2016 quarterly Board Meeting to a full meeting day on February 22, 2016, beginning at 9:00 am. A second to the motion was made by Gene Jordan. The motion carried unanimously.

## APPROVE:

A motion was made by Glorious Elliott to approve the following items by consent agenda. A second to the motion was made by Kay Wright. The motion carried unanimously.

- December 1, 2015 Board Minutes
- December 2015 Personnel Report
- School Board Report - December 2015

A motion was made by Gil Burroughs to enter into a closed session at 7:50 pm to consult with the school board attorney and to discuss a personnel matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes §143-318.11 (a) (3) and §143-318.11 (a) (6). A second to the motion was made by Kay Wright. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session.

A motion was made by Glorious Elliott to support Dr. Jackson's recommendation to terminate the employment of Essie Baker. A second to the motion was made by Gene Jordan. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kay Wright to pursue the Improper Equipment Fines Lawsuit and to acquire the services of High & Crowe, LLP, with the assistance of Tharrington Smith, LLP. A second to the motion was made by Jean Bunch. The motion carried unanimously.

## BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/COMMENTS:

Mr. Burroughs commented on the following:

- The importance of energy efficiency in the schools and the possible need for the board to consider adopting an energy efficiency policy.

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Glorious Elliott to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Kay Wright. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Guard, Chairman

Rob Jackson, Secretary