

EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, July 2, 2012, 6:30 pm
Central Office Conference Room

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 2, 2012, 6:30 pm, Central Office Conference room 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, Donnelle Graham, Jamie Gillespie, Hackney High, and Harriet Sawyer.

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

PUBLIC/BOARD DIALOGUE: None.

REPORT:

1. **GEAR UP Presentation.** Donnelle Graham, Eastern Regional Director for the GEAR UP grant presented information on a 7-year grant for Edenton-Chowan Schools. The program is a national initiative to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The grant works with cohorts of students, starting no later than 7th grade through high school and first year college students. This year GEAR UP will partner with 11 school districts; 46 middle and high schools, providing academic preparation services to nearly 22,000 students. The grant for the 11 school districts totals \$28.6 million in federal and local match dollars support over the seven years. The program was established in 1998 and funded through the US Department of Education. Included in the grant will be funds for a district coordinator, and a family and community facilitator. Students will be given opportunities to visit college campuses, receive financial aid information and counseling, opportunities to explore a variety of careers, receive after school tutoring and mentoring, and students will be offered summer enrichment programs. The 2005-2011 GEAR UP North Carolina high schools experienced a 10.3 percentage point increase in the percentage of students graduating from high school during the six year program. College enrollment rates increased by almost 10 percentage points across GEAR UP NC, growing from 52.4% to 62.2%. **(Attachment #1)**

2. **Budget Update.** Dr. Smith presented an update to the state budget. Governor Perdue held a press conference to announce her veto of the budget. The reason for the Governor's veto is because lawmakers refused to compromise with her on the budget. The House and Senate will reconvene tonight. The General Assembly can vote to override the veto or adjourn with only the 2011 approved spending in place for 2012-2013. This would mean that public schools will face a \$74 million increase in the Discretionary Reduction worsened by the loss of \$259 million in federal EduJobs funding that is expiring. **(Attachment #2)**

3. **Capital Outlay Projects.** Dr. Smith presented a summary of the capital outlay projects scheduled from this year's budget. The projects remain the same but there are savings in the furniture for the high school media center and cafeteria. The savings will make up for the increased cost for the tennis courts and the exterior door upgrades. The cost of repaving the tennis courts was to be shared by the recreation department but the county did not approve in the recreation's budget. The projects will be funded with the land transfer tax and lottery funds.

The natural gas projects at White Oak and Chowan Middle Schools have not been completed from last year's budget. The conversion kits have been installed. The gas company has a backlog of customers waiting to be connected to the gas line and will be installed in the near future. **(Attachment #3)**

4. **Middle School Curriculum Changes.** Next year the middle school will offer selected students the opportunity to take Earth Science which is a high school course. Students that successfully complete Earth Science will meet the course requirement before entering high school. Students will still be required to take at least three science courses in grades 9-12. Students completing the Earth Science requirement in the 8th grade would enroll in physical science in the 9th grade, Biology in the 10th, and then complete a third elective science course.
5. **Alternative Program.** The Boys and Girls Club has not presented a cost for the use of the building for the alternative program. The Boys and Girls Club Board does not want to consider the use of technology by the school system towards the rent. Location at the club would require technology costs of approximately \$40,000 and additional personnel costs and the cost of the rent. Dr. Smith stated that it would be more economical to include the program on the campus at the high school. There will be no additional technology costs, and personnel can be reduced to one lead teacher and one assistant. Dr. Smith is considering locating the alternative program at the armory. The alternative program's schedule would change from the present schedule, including changing to regular school hours from 8:00-3:00 and insuring the students would be separate from the rest of the school. The program can accommodate 15-20 students. The students will be given an opportunity to exit the program if certain requirements are met. Factors such as lunch schedules and transporting students will be considered before the program begins. **(Attachment #4)**

CONSIDER:

1. **Frozen/Optional Workdays.** Each year the Board is required to approve the allocation of workdays as determined by the School Improvement Teams. Due to changes in the calendar law and the approval of our waiver for 5 additional student days to be used as professional development workdays, each school was required to amend how the days will be utilized. Based on the new law at least two workdays must be optional. A motion was made by John Guard,

seconded by Win Dale to approve the frozen/optional teacher workdays as presented by each school. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #5)**

APPROVE:

A motion was made by Gene Jordan, seconded by John Guard to approve the following items in consent agenda:

1. Minutes
2. Personnel **(Attachment #6)**

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS/REMARKS:

Dr. Smith reported to the Board that COA advised us this week they plan to suspend the automotive program. We have approximately 100 students signed up for the upcoming school year. COA is committed to continuing the automotive program but feels this is a good time to look at the program and bring it back in a few years. The school system feels the automotive program is an important course option for students and is in the process of looking for a viable alternative for the program. The Department of Public Instruction has reviewed the facility at the high school to see what changes, equipment and supplies would be needed if we offer the automotive program.

The Board discussed in depth how the school system can retain our most effective classroom teachers. The Board is concerned that we are losing our most effective classroom teachers. The Board would like to see the school system offer more leadership opportunities to classroom teachers to ensure that they continue in the classroom.

Mr. Burroughs commented that we need to build a faculty at the high school. Mr. Burroughs said that we need to develop a stable, experienced, confident, and demanding faculty.

Gene Jordan commented that the school system needs to offer incentives to keep teachers in the classroom.

Dr. Smith asked Board members to let him of any incentives that we can offer our teachers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricky Browder, Chairman

Allan T. Smith, Secretary