

**EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Monday, March 7, 2011, 6:30 pm**  
**Central Office Conference Room**

**MINUTES**

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 7, 2011, 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, Karen Molloy, Elizabeth Huff, Julia Forehand, Tula Polvadore, Phil Huey, Cindy Rickenbaker, Sarah McLaughlin, Jamie Gillespie, Audrey Bunch, Amy Steinert, Tanya Turner, Sheila Evans, Casey Atstupenas, Don Polvadore, Stacy Leggett, Becky Bunch, Will Crowe, and Harriet Sawyer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ricky Browder followed by a moment of silent prayer remembering the Alex Boehling family.

**PUBLIC/BOARD DIALOGUE:** None.

**REPORT:**

1. **School Counselor's Update.** Julia Forehand, White Oak Elementary School; Cindy Rickenbaker, D.F. Walker Elementary; Tula Polvadore, Chowan Middle School; and Karen Molloy, John A. Holmes High School presented an overview of the K-12 guidance and counseling program.

White Oak Elementary School. White Oak students participated in vehicle day, CFNC PAWS, and Skype sessions with different professionals as some of the career development activities. PBIS for attendance, reading incentive programs, Why Try? Classes, study skills groups, character education, social studies/math projects school wide, responsiveness to instruction are some of the activities in academic counseling that is offered to students.

D.F. Walker Elementary School. D.F. Walker students are given classroom guidance for personal interests and talents, interest inventories-career folder, CFNC-PAWS, and JobReady tasks as activities for career development. In the area of academic counseling students are given opportunities for classroom guidance-social skills, conflict resolution; group counseling-study skills drop out prevention-Why Try, family concerns, death/grief, social skills; individual counseling-attendance, records review, behavior plan, at-risk behavior; response to interventions team; and mentors-WatchDOGS, character education, hornet buddies.

Chowan Middle School. Career Highlights for Chowan Middle School include 6<sup>th</sup> grade career week. 7<sup>th</sup> grade new career scene investigations at COA, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

career cluster forum, 8<sup>th</sup> grade career PowerPoint/portfolio, interest inventories in all three grade levels, and career cluster choice for 9<sup>th</sup> grade registration. Academic highlights for the middle school include "Education in the East" college trip day for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders, goal setting for "at risk" students, student success plans when needed, learning styles inventory, one on one session on academic progress, and PBIS celebrations.

John A. Holmes High School. Edenton-Chowan Schools, College of the Albemarle, and the Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Career Future Forum. Tenth grade students had the opportunity to visit different career clusters in the areas of their career interest. Academic highlights for the high school included an emphasis on reducing the drop out rate at the high school with the Why Try program and credit recovery, helping students with graduation requirements, and junior night with 40% of juniors and parents attending, assisting students with college applications, and SAT/ACT registrations. The drop out rate for last year is below the state average.

2. **Education Foundation 2011 Spelling Bee Fundraiser.** Stacy Leggett, Interim Direction of the Edenton-Chowan Education Foundation, shared information on the first Spelling Bee fundraiser scheduled for April 7, 2011 at 6:30 pm Edenton United Methodist Church. All proceeds will be used to fund grants to teachers for projects directly impacting students in Edenton-Chowan Schools. A motion was made by John Guard, seconded by Kay Wright to sponsor a team at the platinum level in the amount of \$500.00. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **School Calendar Law.** Dr. Smith presented highlights of House Bill 175 Putting Students First/Local Control. The bill would repeal the 2004 school calendar law and restore local flexibility to school boards to set school calendars that would eliminate the required opening and closing dates of August 25<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>. If the bill is approved the new calendar law would become effective beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. If the calendar law is passed we may reconvene the calendar committee to see if the calendar for next year should be revised.  
**(Attachment #1)**
4. **Budget Update.** The Department of Public Instruction and the Governor have presented their 2011-2012 budget and we are waiting for the General Assembly to present their budget. Dr. Smith has talked with several members of the General Assembly and was told to anticipate an 8% -10% cut in the state budget for K-12 education. For the school system a 10% reduction in state funds would a \$1.4 million and in federal funds \$1.4 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the next year. The Board of Education knew that the cuts this year would be more severe and has been very careful in spending our reserves but with the anticipated loss from state and federal funds additional cuts may be necessary. The house target date for their budget is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, senate by May 13<sup>th</sup> and final budget approval by June 1, 2011. As soon as the state budget

is approved, the board will develop the local budget and submit to the County Commission.

**CONSIDER:**

1. **Charter School Legislation.** The original version of the bill removed the current number of charter schools of 100. A number of new parts of the bill have been added that would cause financial hardships for local school systems. The limit of 65 students per charter has also been removed. The Charter School Bill-Senate Bill 8 would require all funds that go through a school district to be shared with charter schools even if the charter school does not offer the services for which the funds are received. The North Carolina School Boards Association asked school systems to consider a resolution opposing the bill. A motion was made by John Guard, seconded by Gil Burroughs to approve the Resolution from Edenton-Chowan Board of Education opposing the bill. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #2)**

**APPROVE:**

A motion was made by Gil Burroughs, seconded by Gene Jordan to approve the following items by consent agenda:

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

Chairman Ricky Browder requested a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NC General Statutes 143-318.11 (a) (5) to discuss the material terms of a potential contract. Kay Wright made the motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Gene Jordan and passed unanimously.

The meeting returned to open session.

**CONSIDER:**

2. **Relocation of Central Office.** A motion was made by John Guard, seconded by Win Dale to approve the following recommendation:

The Board of Education is committed to minimize, as much as possible, the costs associated with the relocation of the school system's administrative offices. The Board also recognizes the sharing of space on the College of the Albemarle's Chowan Campus as a possibility. An inspection of the facilities was conducted by the Board on February 21, 2011 to evaluate the feasibility of this option as a long-term solution. The Board is resolute that before any consideration for the housing of the administrative offices at this site can be entertained, a defined use plan must first be designed and

agreed upon by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, College of the Albemarle, and the Board of Education. Further, adequate and permanent renovations need to be completed to the entire facility prior to occupancy to insure productivity and to protect the health and safety of the school system's employees. If and when it is determined that these renovations have been completed and all parties agree to a mutual occupancy agreement, the Board of Education will give full consideration to College of the Albemarle Chowan Campus site for the permanent location of its administration offices. Since such an agreement and renovations cannot be completed prior to November of 2011, it is recommended that the administrative offices be relocated to the facility owned by William Chesson, located at 406 West Queen Street, Edenton, NC. The Board of Education further recommends, pending a comprehensive building inspection, that a four year lease of said property with an option to buy or renew be the course of action taken at this time. The motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD MEMBERS/REPORTS/REMARKS:**

Gil Burroughs requested that as the school system reviews the transportation of students that we also look at the starting time for the school day. Mr. Burroughs stated that research indicates that especially for high school students delaying the start of the school day would help students with their need for more sleep and this would help with student learning.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricky Browder, Chairman

Allan T. Smith, Secretary