

EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, November 5, 2012, 6:30 pm
Central Office Conference Room

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 5, 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, Emma Berry, Kurt Fickling, Lee Powell, Sara Powell, Martha High, Molly High, Lee Powell, Sara Powell, Kathy Strzyzewski, Theresa Strzyzewski, Lisa Lane, Megan Lane, Donna Winborne, Darnell White, John Jordan, Sheila Evans, Rebecca Bunch, Bill Moore, Will Crowe, and Harriet Sawyer

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

PUBLIC/BOARD DIALOGUE: None.

REPORT:

1. **John A. Holmes Tennis Team Presentation.** Tennis team members Molly High, Sara Powell, Theresa Strzyzewski, and Megan Lane presented a request that the tennis courts be named in recognition of Allen and Lindsay Hornthal. Allen Hornthal is the girl's tennis team coach and also has coached the boy's team in the past. Mr. Hornthal has been a good role model and has had a positive influence on the lives of our students at John A. Holmes High School. The Board of Education approved the request for the tennis courts to be named for Allen and Lindsay Hornthal.
2. **2011-2012 Fiscal Audit.** Donna Winborne, Douglas A. Hollowell P.C., presented the 2011-2012 Fiscal Audit. The financial statements are the responsibility of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. It is the firm's responsibility to express an opinion. The firm issued an unqualified opinion, which is the highest level. The firm did offer suggestions in two areas: investigate old outstanding checks; and documentation of Emergency Action Plans. Dr. Smith added that the total fund balance is \$360,000 less than the previous year but the unobligated fund balance has increased by \$8,612. The amount allocated from the fund balance this year is \$790,142 compared to \$1,024,164 last year. Last year the school system used the Medicaid funds that were collected in the amount of \$122,450 to offset any additional loss of fund balance. **(Attachment #1)**

3. **Insurance Update.** Kurt Fickling updated the Board on the school system's current insurance policies on Property, Liability, Auto Liability and Physical Damage, Workers Compensation, Volunteer Accident Insurance and Athletics Accident Insurance. **(Attachment #2)**
4. **NCSBA Delegate Assembly.** During the NCSBA Annual Conference the delegate meeting will be held. This year, because of a new General Assembly convening in January, one of the duties of the Delegate Assembly is to approve the association's biennium legislative agenda. One of the agenda items that the NCSBA has asked Boards of Education to discuss before the delegate meeting is career status being eliminated and which group of teachers the ending of career status should be applied. The choices are to eliminate career status going forward but allow those who have already earned it to retain it or eliminate career status for teachers including those who have already earned it. The Board reviewed the pros and cons of each choice. John Guard, Jean Bunch, and Kay Wright will represent Edenton-Chowan Schools at the delegate meeting. **(Attachment #3)**

CONSIDER:

1. **School Improvement Plans.** A motion was made by John Guard, seconded by Gil Burroughs to approve the School Improvement Plans as presented at the October 15, 2012 Board of Education Quarterly meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Revision: Series 4000 – Student Services.** Revisions to Policy 4000 Series was presented for its second reading and approval. A motion was made by Gene Jordan, seconded by Kay Wright to approve the revisions to Policy 4000 Series. The motion passed unanimously. **(Attachment #4)**
3. **Board Member Term Length.** Win Dale and John Guard presented a draft Resolution to amend the term length from six years to four years. Six year term lengths have been in place since 1967 when the Edenton City Board of Education and the Chowan County Board of Education merged. The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is a non-partisan board that is made up of seven members elected at-large by voters throughout the town and county with one seat designated to be filled by an individual residing anywhere in Chowan County and the other six seats allocated two each to the three county electoral districts. Four year terms are the usual term lengths for elected officials at the federal, state and local levels. If the term length is changed to four years it is believed that it will increase candidate participated in the Board of Education election process.

Discussion was held. Kay Wright expressed a concern that when filing for the Board the term length states that it is a six year term length. Jean Bunch, John Guard, and Gene Jordan felt that we should include newly elected Board

members in the discussions of changing the term length. After further discussion from Board members the consensus of the Board is to postpone the agenda item until December so that newly elected board members would have an opportunity to discuss the draft resolution. **(Attachment #5)**

APPROVE:

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

1. Minutes
2. Personnel **(Attachment #6)**
3. Financial Report **(Attachment #7)**

Board Members Remarks/Comments:

Dr. Smith and Board members thanked Win Dale for his service on the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education over the past six years.

Chairman Ricky Browder requested a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. G.S. 115C-319 and N.C. G. S. 115C-321. A motion was made by Kay Wright, seconded by Gene Jordan to enter into closed session.

The meeting returned to open session.

No action taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricky Browder, Chairman

Allan T. Smith, Secretary