

**EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Monday, October 1, 2012, 6:30 pm**  
**Central Office Conference Room**

**M I N U T E S**

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 1, 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, Casey Atstupenas, Sheila Evans, Willie Koonce, Nelle Hyatt, Amy Asbell, Catherine Baker, Vann Lassiter, Darnell White, John Jordan, Audrey Bunch, Rebecca Bunch, Ricky Winebarger, Hackney High, and Harriet Sawyer.

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

**PUBLIC/BOARD DIALOGUE:** Darnell White, NAACP, addressed the Board concerning a request from the NAACP at the September 10, 2012 Board of Education meeting. The NAACP has not received a response from the Board on the letter that was presented at the September 10, 2012 meeting and would like to know when to expect a response. Mrs. White stated that the questions and comments in the letter were not related to Mrs. Felton. The NAACP would like a response to the hiring practices of teachers and professionals for Edenton-Chowan Schools.

**REPORT:**

1. **One-to-One Initiative.** Vann Lassiter, Sheila Evans, Catherine Baker, and Nelle Hyatt presented an update on the goal of providing an electronic device for every student at John A. Holmes High School. The educational benefits of implementing a one-to-one program is to close the digital divide, ensure students are college and career ready, increase graduation and attendance rates, ensure technology is available at all times for everyone, improve academic achievement by personalizing learning, provide relevant and up-to-date instruction, collaboration among teachers and students, and encourage proper digital citizenship and responsibility. The staff has looked at the MacBook Air, iPads, and most recently the Chromebooks. The Chromebook supports the school system's Google initiative (g-mail and Google docs), a built in learning management system, cloud computing. The school system is moving toward Chrome as our standard browser. Some of the disadvantages of the Chromebook are that it is a browser; therefore, students cannot print, the office suite is not provided, and the video production is not as good as the Apple products. The cost of the Chromebook is less than the MacBook Air and iPads. The plan for the high school is to continue to provide staff development, select a device and pilot with three classes, develop a deployment plan and explore

insurance options, and train a cohort of students and teachers to serve as Tech support during the fall. In the spring plans are to upgrade the wireless network, prepare laptops for the students, deploy devices to the students, and continue to evaluate and reflect on the program. The school system will continue to explore a funding source for the initiative before a recommendation is made to the Board.

2. **Teacher Education Effectiveness Update.** Audrey Bunch, Willie Koonce, Michelle Maddox, and Casey Atstupenas provided an update on the state requirement that links student academic growth to teacher and principal evaluations. This will include mandatory testing of students with Common Exams, EOG and EOC tests, as well as other possible measures. Results obtained from the Common Exams, EOG, and EOC tests will be calibrated into a rating for every teacher and principal in North Carolina. Collection of data will begin this year but a rating for teacher/principal evaluation must contain three years of data so it will be a few years before student growth scores are used in educator performance appraisals. Beginning in 2011-2012, a sixth standard for teachers and eighth standard for principals will be added to the evaluation system that will measure student growth. Teachers are evaluated and can receive one of five ratings on a standard. Standard 6 and 8 will now be added and are measures of growth. EVAAS is a software system that school systems will use when possible that provides the measurement of student progress over time. For teachers the growth model will measure growth by predicting how well a student will do on an assessment. Teachers will not be evaluated on Standard 6 until the teacher has three years of student achievement data.

The new Common Exams includes tests for every core course. The Common Exams will be timed 90 minutes tests, may be administered in 1 or 2 days, consist of multiple choice and performance questions, and will be locally reproduced and scored. The administration of the high school MSLS in the fall is optional. The high school has elected to administer the common exams at the end of the first semester. **(Attachment #1)**

3. **October 15, 2012 Quarterly Board of Education Meeting.** The Board of Education's Quarterly is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2012, 6:30 pm at John A. Holmes High School. Each of the schools will present their School Improvement Plans.
4. **Golden Leaf Assistance Initiative.** Dr. Smith reported that the next meeting of the Golden Leaf is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 6:00 pm at COA Culinary Arts. The group has identified two major areas of Economic Development and Education & Workforce Development. Within the Education & Workforce issues identified are to increase the graduation rate, prepare students to be career and college as high school graduates, and meets the needs of community college students. Two million dollars is available to Chowan County for this initiative.

5. **Board of Education Term Limits.** Win Dale presented information for the Board's consideration to amend the term limits of Board members from 6 to 4 years.

#### Pros and Cons of 4 Year Terms

##### Pros

Increases competition, encourages challengers  
Aligns with other elected officials terms  
Eliminates appearance of "elite or dynasty" board  
Introduces fresh thinking and new ideas  
Creates more conversation/discussion  
Greater rotation in office  
Greater voter participation

##### CONS

Fewer years to learn "ropes" of the office  
Majority election every 4 years  
Additional orientation costs for school system  
Additional election costs for candidates  
Potential loss of knowledge and experience

Mr. Dale presented two scenarios on the makeup of the board and election process if the Board decided to switch to 4 year terms and asked for any suggestions from the Board.

Mr. Dale also suggested the next steps if the Board would like to pursue the change in term: (1) Resolution from the Board of Education; (2) Resolution from the County Commission; (3) House of Representative introduce as a Bill in the next Legislative session; (4) pass through Education Committee; and (5) voted on by both House and Senate.

Discussion was held:

Win Dale stated that he though 6 year terms discourages people from running for office because of the time and commitment to the office. The trend is turning to 4 year terms. If shorter terms we can obtain more ideas and input from others;

Ricky Browder was in favor of changing from 6 to 4 year terms. The Board of Education election is a non-partisan election; party affliction should not be an issue, that's what makes our election unique. We should want what is best for the students of Chowan County. As Board members we are responsible for thinking about the future for educating our students. What environment do we want to leave our processors; 4 year terms allows for changes to be made in a more timely manner.

John Guard said that the shorter term could become politicized and the Board would be less able to act as a cohesive unit when it came to making decisions. Over the years the 6 year term has benefited the Board;

Kay Wright was in favor of keeping the 6 year term;

Jean Bunch was also afraid of the shorter terms as becoming political. She does not want to lose the Board's focus on what is best for our students;

At this time Gil Burroughs is unsure and needed more time to think about the change.

Gene Jordan reflected that all of the pros listed were solid and positive. His concern if terms were changed to 4 years is that running for the office could become political.

Ricky Browder made a recommendation that we pursue a draft Resolution for changing to 4 year terms and present at the November meeting. Mr. Browder asked that Win Dale and John Guard develop the Resolution for the Board.  
**(Attachment #2)**

#### **CONSIDER:**

1. **Revision: Policy Series 4000-Student Services.** Policy Series 4000 was presented for the Board's first reading. Dr. Smith stated that the staff, principals, and Board committee met and made recommendations for revisions in the Series 4000. **(Attachment #3)**

#### **APPROVE:**

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

1. Minutes
2. Personnel **(Attachment #4)**
3. Financial Report **(Attachment #5)**
4. Line Item Transfers **(Attachment #6)**

#### **Board Members Reports/Remarks:**

Chairman Ricky Browder requested a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. G. S. 115-C 319 and N.C. G. S. 115C-321. A motion was made by John Guard, seconded by Gil Burroughs to enter into closed session.

The meeting returned to open session.  
No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricky Browder, Chairman

Allan. T. Smith, Secretary