

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, November 10, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met on Monday, November 10, 2014, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Services Building. Members present included: Vice Chair Charlotte Williams; Board members Sallie Johnson, Margaret Pope, Amy Monroe and Julie Correll. Absent was Board Chair Reginald Hamilton.

Also present were Board Attorney Jeff Mackie; Dr. Walter Hart, Superintendent; Dr. Denise Patterson, Chief Academic Officer; Shawn Clemons, Director of Accountability; Adam Huckabee, Director of Facilities; Dr. Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs; Jeff Tice, Director of Technology; Angela Simmons, Director of Students Services; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; Adam Steele, Finance Officer; invited guests; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

Vice Chair Williams called the meeting to order and stated there was a quorum.

The first item of business to come before the meeting was a review of school improvement plans for the middle and high schools. Board members received a video from each principal that provided a summary of the school's improvement plan for the current school year. At this time, each principal together with members of their faculty entertained questions from the Board. Common themes throughout each plan included the need to improve the achievement of minority students and initiatives around technology integration.

Dr. Howerton, Principal at Grandview Middle School, highlighted increased proficiency in math, reading and science as well as strategies to increase the number of underrepresented groups in advanced classes. Ms. Dischiavi, Principal at Northview Middle School, highlighted strategies that are in place to increase the performance of all students which include underrepresented subgroups in advanced classes as well as keeping an eye on the data for advanced subgroups. Setting clear expectations for students and modelling those expectations, increasing parental involvement through personal notes, phone calls and going into the community, and building relationships between students and teachers are also common themes for each middle school for increasing the academic achievement of all students.

Dr. Stalnaker, Principal at Hickory High School, highlighted strategies to increase the academic success for all students that included year-long Math One, SMART Lunch, and instructional training and support for teachers. Ms. Carroll, Principal at HCAM, highlighted goals and strategies to increase student achievement, parental involvement and reduce suspensions that included more student collaboration, blended learning and flipped classrooms.

Board members thanked the principals for their efforts and applauded them for what they have accomplished with all the state cuts.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a discussion of a proposed field trip for the 5th grade class at Oakwood Elementary School. Mr. Ryan McCreary, Principal at Oakwood Elementary School, was present to review the field trip with the Board. The field trip is scheduled for March 5 and 6. On March 5, students will tour the campus at Catawba Valley Community College and visit the Lincoln Economic Development Association where students will see a wide range of businesses that will expose the students to innovative jobs for the future. Students will then travel to Boone and have the opportunity to ski and spend the night. On March 6, students will tour the campus of Appalachian State University. Mr. McCreary stated that last year the 5th grade class travelled to Washington, D.C. but spent a great deal of time on the bus. He stated that this trip will allow the students to see what is possible all around them. Dr. Hart advised the Board that this would be an item for approval at its next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was information shared by Ms. Angela Simmons, Director of Student Services, about new technology that would provide a mobile security information platform for schools. The company, Punch Technologies, provides an app for cell phones that can be used by all staff at a school to communicate in the event of an emergency. Ms. Simmons advised the Board that Punch Technologies has offered a pilot program to the district for three to six months. Dr. Hart stated that no recommendations were being made at this time and the pilot program is being provided at no cost to the district.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a review of three contracts for services to the Exceptional Children's Program. They included a contract for transportation services, nursing services and audio logical services. Dr. Hart stated that these are services that are required as part of a child's individual plan. The Board will be asked to take formal action at its next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was the 2015-2016 Capital Outlay Budget Request presented by Facilities Director Adam Huckabee. Mr. Huckabee reviewed the request which included a list of seven projects. Dr. Hart advised the Board that formal approval by the Board will be requested at its next meeting and encouraged Board members to contact Mr. Huckabee if they have questions.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was the 2015-2016 school year calendar. Dr. Timothy Sims shared two drafts of the calendar with the Board stating that he had shared these drafts with principals and members of the PTA Council and is scheduled to share with NCAE representatives at a meeting later in the week. Dr. Sims reported that principals and members of the PTA Council prefer the first draft which deviates slightly from the calendar being adopted by Catawba County Schools. A recommendation will be presented to the Board for approval at its next meeting.

A resolution supporting local control of the school calendar was the next item of business to come before the meeting. Dr. Hart reviewed the resolution and advised the Board that it will be presented for adoption at the Board's next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was an e-rate update. E-rate is a federal program that has enabled the district to upgrade the infrastructure at five of the nine schools. Dr. Hart reported that the other four schools did not qualify last year; however, the guidelines have changed and the remaining schools will qualify this year which will enable the district to update the infrastructure at the remaining schools for twenty cents on the dollar. Dr. Hart stated that with the combination of e-rate funding and funds from the County for technology he would anticipate the district to be 1:1 in approximately two years. Dr. Hart thanked Technology Director Jeff Tice for his efforts to secure e-rate funding.

A lease agreement with Mr. Joey Vance for property adjacent to Viewmont Elementary School for the purpose of selling Christmas trees was shared with the Board and will be presented for formal approval at the Board's next meeting. Mr. Mackie requested that language be added to the lease indicating that the venue for any litigation associated with the lease agreement would be held in Catawba County.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a presentation by Dr. Hart and Dr. Stalnaker of the IB/AP programs at Hickory High School. The discussion focused on the efficiency and the opportunity of the programs, the IB prestige factor, possible options for the Board to consider and feedback from AP and IB teachers regarding the options being considered. There was consensus among the Board that before it makes a decision on the future of AP and IB at Hickory High School that the Board should call a special meeting to discuss all the information that has been shared over the last few months. There was also a discussion to hold a town hall meeting at Hickory High that would give parents and students an opportunity to express their opinions. Vice Chair Williams thanked Dr. Hart and Dr. Stalnaker for their time and effort to provide the Board with all this important information to help the Board decide what is best for the students at Hickory High School. She assured those in attendance that the Board will make a sound decision.

Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Correll, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the 2014-2015 school improvement plans for Jenkins, Longview, Oakwood, Southwest and Viewmont Elementary Schools that were presented at the Board's last meeting.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the submission of a waiver request to the State Board of Education for NC Final Exams in courses in which a majority of teachers who teach the course vote to request a waiver as presented by Dr. Patterson.

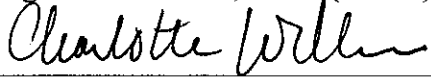
Vice Chair Williams reviewed calendar reminders with the Board that included:

1. NCSBA Annual Conference, November 17-19, 2014, Greensboro
2. Monday, November 24, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall
3. Monday, December 1, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall
4. Monday, January 12, 5:30 p.m., Board meeting, Administrative Services Building
5. Monday, January 26, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Reginald Hamilton, Chair (absent)



Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair

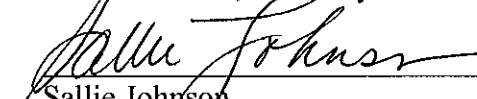


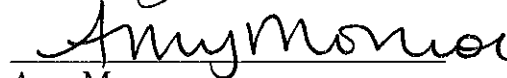
Margaret Pope



Julie Correll


Walter H. Hart, Secretary


Sallie Johnson


Amy Monroe
