

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, October 13, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met on Monday, October 13, 2014, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Services Building. Members present included: Chairperson Reginald Hamilton; Vice Chair Charlotte Williams; Board members Sallie Johnson, Margaret Pope, and Julie Correll. Absent was Board member Amy Monroe.

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; Amanda Byrd, Director of Exceptional Children's 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.

Chairperson Hamilton called the meeting to order and stated there was a quorum.

The first item of business to come before the meeting was an interview of a candidate, Ms. Ittiely Carson, to fill the vacant Ward 3 seat on the Board. At the conclusion of the interview, Chairperson Hamilton thanked Ms. Carson and advised her that Ms. Duquette would notify her of the Board's next steps.

Ms. Williams made a motion that the Board go into closed session for the following reasons: to hear the appeal of a student dismissed for disciplinary reasons and to preserve the confidentiality of the student's educational records as required by 20 USC Section 1232g; and to consider candidates recommended for employment by the administration as provided for in G.S.143.318.11 and in accordance with the North Carolina Personnel Act. Ms. Correll seconded the motion and the Board's vote was 5-0.

Upon return to open session, Ms. Johnson made a motion that the Board approve Personnel List No. 7. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pope and the Board's vote was 5-0.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a discussion of the evaluation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Hickory High School. Dr. Hart stated that the evaluation will provide the Board with a summary overview and information to consider and analyze. Dr. Ann Stalnaker, Principal at Hickory High School, provided the Board with information about schedules and quality points as they relate to Advanced Placement (AP) and IB classes. Dr. Hart then introduced Ms. Tatia Prieto of Prismatic Services, Inc. who was present to share the evaluation of the IB Program at Hickory High.

Ms. Prieto thanked Dr. Hart and the Board for the opportunity to conduct this study. She presented her outline which included a review of her research, stakeholder input, and her recommendations.

Ms. Prieto stated that there is little to no research comparing AP to IB. She stated that AP has grown rapidly in the United States, while IB growth has been slower. However, both offer gifted students opportunities for class rigor. She researched many colleges and universities and there is no “standard” when it comes to giving credit for AP or IB classes. She stated that for the most elite colleges, there is no definitive advantage in credits.

Mr. Prieto stated that she conducted focus groups with current sophomores who had indicated they would be taking the full IB Program and a group who indicated they were not going to take the full program but would take some IB electives and more AP classes. She stated all students were motivated and serious about the high school experience. The AP students were less certain about their major in college. Students who were in the full IB Diploma program were absolutely certain about their future and viewed the full program as a way to the top in the graduating class and acceptance to a good college.

Her next focus group was current juniors and seniors in the full IB Diploma program. Juniors reported IB was a lot of work but good college preparation. They also stated that grades and GPA were important to them. The seniors reported the same heavy workload and indicated that college credit was important but admissions advantage was more important than credit. This group also felt that the IB controversy was between the adults, not the students.

Ms. Prieto also conducted surveys and received 621 responses. She surveyed Hickory High teachers, middle school parents, sophomore parents, all sophomore students, current IB students and the recent top 20 graduating seniors. Additionally she reached out to the top 20 students in each graduating class from 2008 to 2013 and received 32 responses. She encouraged Board members to review the survey results included in the report.

As a result of her study, Ms. Prieto made three recommendations. They included:

1. Communication
 - AP and IB options need to be communicated to students and parents in clear terms
 - The IB work load is mythologized and needs to be demystified
 - IB is a heavy work load but in talking with seniors at the end of the program they are alive and felt good about what they had done
 - Need to emphasize that IB does not mean the end to extra-curricular activities
2. Improve AP course offerings
 - A student should be able to graduate number one in the class by taking equivalent classes. It should not be impossible for a student to do this on the AP track.
3. Only rich kids can take IB
 - This has changed. The state is providing some assistance. We don't want a student to look at the dollar amount and decide not to participate in the program.

The Board thanked Ms. Prieto for her comprehensive report and review of the IB program. A copy of her presentation to the Board is attached for reference.

At this time, Board member Sallie Johnson excused herself from the meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was the presentation of the 2013-2014 Audit Report. Mr. Michael Wike of the accounting firm Anderson, Smith and Wike was present to review the audit report with the Board. He started with the financial statements and reported a "clean" report which he stated was the highest level of assurance he could give. He further reviewed the various funds and current fund balance. Mr. Wike stated that all staff in the schools and in the various departments at the Administration Office were very cooperative and provided information requested. Dr. Hart thanked Mr. Wike for sharing the audit report with the Board and advised the Board that this would be an item for action at the Board's October 27 meeting. Dr. Hart encouraged Board members to contact Adam Steele, Finance Officer, with any questions they may have regarding the audit report as presented.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was revisions to two policies based on new laws and state board policy. They included Board policy JGCD – *Administering Medicines to Students* and Board policy JGCDA – *Student Wellness*. These policies will be presented to the Board at its next action meeting for approval on first reading.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was an agreement with Community Schools for the management of the use of the district's facilities by outside agencies and organizations. Dr. Hart stated that the fee charged for this service has been changed from a flat fee to a percentage fee which will reflect a savings to the district. This will be presented for formal approval by the Board at its October 27 meeting.

Dr. Hart presented the following items for formal action by the Board.

Dr. Hart recommended that the Board approve a one-time bonus to qualifying employees. The bonuses would be a one-time \$250.00 for full-time employees and a one-time \$125.00 bonus for part-time employees. Dr. Hart suggested that the Board include in the list of qualifying employees former custodians who recently became Aramark employees.

Upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 4-0 to approve a one-time bonus for employees who qualify as presented.

Dr. Patterson presented for approval by the Board a request to approve local flexibility in the determination of the Standard 6 evaluation ratings for teachers in the Analysis of Student Work process by allowing a waiver of this process which would be based on a majority of teachers in this category voting to waive the process.

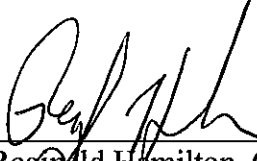
Upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board approved local flexibility in the Analysis of Student Work (ASW) process for eligible teachers in the Hickory Schools as presented.

Upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Correll, the Board voted 4-0 to return to closed session for the following reason: to hear the appeal of a student dismissed for disciplinary reasons and to preserve the confidentiality of the student's educational records as required by 20 USC Section 1232g.

Chairperson Hamilton reviewed calendar reminders with the Board.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn.

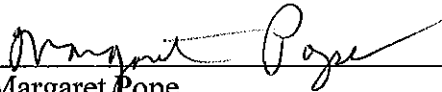
The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Reginald Hamilton, Chair

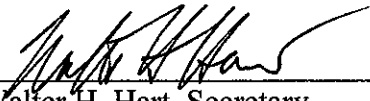


Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair




Margaret Pope

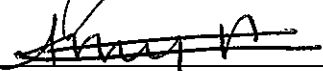
Julie Correll



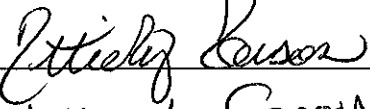
Walter H. Hart, Secretary



Sallie Johnson



Amy Monroe (absent)



Ettaley Carson