

The Orange County Board of Education met on the above date in its offices located at 200 East King Street, Hillsborough, NC with the following business taking place:

At 6:00 p.m., upon motion by Debbie Piscitelli, second by Stephen Halkiotis and unanimous approval, the Board moved into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential under NCGS 115C-402 and 20 USC 1232.

The board adjourned out of closed session at 6:55 p.m.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons present: Tony McKnight, Chair; Donna Coffey, Vice Chair; Eddie Eubanks, Stephen Halkiotis; Anne Medenblik; Debbie Piscitelli; Brenda Stephens; Patrick Rhodes, Superintendent; Dr. George McFarley, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Denise Morton, Chief Academic Officer; Marcie Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mike Gilbert, Public Information Officer; Mike Parker, Board Attorney; 28+ staff, patrons, and media.

Public Charge – The Public Charge was read.

Moment of Silence – A Moment of Silence was observed.

Recognitions – Public Information Officer Mike Gilbert recognized Nina Morley Daye, Orange High School teacher, mentor and coach, and students and mentors of the Hedgehogs Robotics Team 587 for having won the gracious and professional team spirit award at their last competition.

11-05-01 Agenda Adoption – Attorney Mike Parker requested to add a personnel action item to the agenda immediately following Agenda Item 11-05-01 Agenda Adoption.

Brenda Stephens made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of the personnel action item. The motion was seconded by Debbie Piscitelli and was unanimously approved.

11-05-01a Personnel Action – Superintendent Rhodes recommended Crystal Scillitani for the principal vacancy at Efland-Cheeks Elementary School. Upon motion by Debbie Piscitelli and second by Stephen Halkiotis, Ms. Scillitani was unanimously approved.

11-05-02 Public Comment – The following public comments were heard related to:

1. Alton Tyre – Topic: Staffing.
2. Vernita Griffith – Topic: Health Education.
3. Lawrence Sanders – Topic: Student Support Services and Healthful Living.
4. Erika Nelson – Topic: Student Support Services and Healthful Living.
5. Rev. Gwen Jordan – Topic: Charter Schools; Student Support Services and Healthful Living.

11-05-03 Board Reports and Comments – The following reports and comments were heard related to:

Debbie Piscitelli – attended athletic directors meeting; attended Voices Together performance; attended Pay It Forward event at Orange High School; attended BOCC joint School Boards meeting; requested administration check outside cameras blown by recent bad weather; attended athletic events; attended P.A.C.E. Summit.

Anne Medenblik – attended P.A.C.E. Summit; attended BOCC joint School Boards meeting; in honor of Administrative Professionals Week, thanked board secretary Patricia Coleman; in honor of Teacher Appreciation week, thanked teachers.

Stephen Halkiotis – highlighted April 29, 2011 News & Observer newspaper article related to the budget war going on in Raleigh and the number of state employees who will lose their jobs.

Brenda Stephens – appreciates playground letters from G.A. Brown Elementary students; thank you to Denise Morton and Ann Wilkerson on a successful P.A.C.E. event.

Eddie Eubanks – attended Cultural Explosion at A.L. Stanback Middle School; attended board budget subcommittee meeting; attended BOCC joint School Boards meeting; commented that during budget deliberations, need to keep in sight that a position is a person.

Donna Coffey – appreciates playground letters from G.A. Brown Elementary students; attended the board's budget subcommittee meeting; attended trustees meeting for the N.C. School Boards Association; attended a dance recital at Gravelly Hill Middle School.

Tony McKnight – attended BOCC joint School Boards meeting; attended P.A.C.E. Summit; will be reading to students at Hillsborough Elementary this week.

11-05-04 Superintendent Comments – The following comments were heard related to: proposed House budget cuts; County Manager request asking persons to contact legislators and ask to restore county lottery funds for school construction; rally by NCAE on May 3, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. traveling to Raleigh, NC; several pieces of legislation are pending – charter school legislation, tuition vouchers for special needs children, driver education, child nutrition, etc.

Consent Agenda – Upon motion by Debbie Piscitelli and second by Stephen Halkiotis, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

11-05-05 Minutes CONSENT AGENDA – The minutes of the April 18, 2011 regular meeting and closed session meeting were approved.

11-05-06 Personnel Report and Action CONSENT AGENDA - The following personnel recommendations were approved:

Classified Recommendations

Hinckley, Jeffrey Bus Driver Transportation

Leave of Absence 2011-2012

LeFur, Kelly Elementary Teacher CE Family-Child
Rao, Nina Exceptional Children Teacher CE Education-Admin. Intern

The following was reported for information:

Licensed Resignations 2011-2012

Ringer, Catharina District Math Specialist District

Retirements 2011-2012

Floyd, Lee Elementary Teacher GAB

11-05-07 School Trip Requests CONSENT AGENDA – The following school trip request was approved: Orange High School Marching Band to Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC October 14-16, 2011.

11-05-08 Request For Matching Funds CONSENT AGENDA – The following Request for Matching Funds was approved: \$1,000.00 for Efland-Cheeks Elementary School.

11-05-09 Public Records Policy #5070 Revised – 2nd Reading Approval CONSENT AGENDA – The Public Records Policy #5070 was approved on 2nd Reading Approval.

11-05-10 Graduation Requirements Policy #3460 Revised – 2nd Reading Approval CONSENT AGENDA – The Graduation Requirements Policy #3460 was approved on 2nd Reading Approval.

11-05-11 Student Code of Conduct Approval – 2011-2012 – 1st Reading Approval – Dr. Denise Morton reviewed recommended changes to the Student Code of Conduct. Board member discussion included: student incidents that take place off school campus; electronic devices on campus interfering with instruction and theft of devices; cost and number of copies printed.

Upon motion by Debbie Piscitelli and second by Stephen Halkiotis, the Student Code of Conduct was unanimously approved for 1st Reading Approval.

11-05-12 Third Quarter Financial Report 2010-2011 – Finance Director Donna Brinkley reviewed the Third Quarter Financial Report for 2010-2011 to include the following funds: State Public School Fund; Local Current Expense Fund; Federal Grant Fund; Capital Outlay Fund; Other Restricted Fund. Following a question and answer session for clarification purposes, board member discussion included: financial reports for the two revenue funds in the district; capital projects update; revenues received from the ABC Board.

11-05-13 Quarterly Legal Update – Attorney Mike Parker reviewed a quarterly legal report to include: Office of Civil Rights “Dear Colleague” letter of April 4, 2011; Court Decisions of Interest; Pending Legislation of Interest; Other Legal Issues.

11-05-14 Probationary Teachers: Nonrenewal Policy #7949 – Revised – 1st Reading Approval – Assistant Superintendent Marcie Holland provided recommended changes for board consideration.

Upon motion by Anne Medenblik and second by Eddie Eubanks, the Probationary Teachers: Nonrenewal Policy #7949 was unanimously approved for 1st Reading Approval.

11-05-15 Student Reassignment Discussion #4 – Dr. George McFarley provided a review of the student reassignment process since the beginning of the study in April 2010. ORED has suggestions that can be made for long and short term solutions but needs additional information from the Board of Education in order to move forward. Administration recommended the board establish a board subcommittee to study various options which may impact the reassignment process. Board discussion included, but was not limited to: holding to the transfer policy; kindergarten registration numbers; charter schools.

Chair Tony McKnight appointed a board subcommittee to include: Tony McKnight, Debbie Piscitelli and Stephen Halkiotis. The subcommittee will hold its initial meeting in May with a follow-up meeting to include representatives from ORED.

11-05-16 State Budget Work Session – Superintendent Rhodes and staff reviewed information to include: Orange County Schools Estimated Impact of House Budget Proposal Funding Reductions; Teacher Assistant Salary and Benefit Projections based on proposed state reductions; Full time personnel report – school based; assistant principal salary and benefits; 2010-2011 state discretionary reversions. Board member discussion included: dollars needed to maintain the current number of teacher assistants; reduction in the number of days worked by teacher assistants; teacher assistant allotments; teacher assistants who hold dual positions; status of federal funding; reduction in months of employment for assistant principals with optional supplemental funding for extra months of employment for special assignments, as needed.

Superintendent Rhodes will meet with all teacher assistants and assistant principals in the district to review superintendent recommendations.

Superintendent Rhodes reviewed a PowerPoint presentation to include: State Funding Received 1999-2012; Total District Revenues 1999-2012 (Local, State and Federal); Federal Funding Received 1999-2013.

11-05-17 County Funding Formula Discussion #2 – Board Vice Chair Donna Coffey and Superintendent Rhodes, as follow-up to a recent meeting of the board’s county funding formula subcommittee, reviewed information to include: Memo from Clarence Grier, Orange County Financial Services Director, dated March 10, 2011; School Funding Options Task Force Memo dated May 3, 2001; Pay-As-You-Go Capital Funding Analysis; Orange County Local Government Annual General Fund Budgeted Appropriations for Education. Donna Coffey reviewed a PowerPoint Presentation titled *Pay-As-You-Go Capital Funding Analysis – May 2, 2011* reviewing funding option(s) that could be considered. Following board member discussion, a letter will be drafted for the Board of County Commissioners to provide an analysis of the whole funding picture including funding alternatives. Questions for clarification will be presented at the next collaboration meeting to include: Is the one-quarter cent sales tax going to supplant or be over and above what is already received; How will the district tax be allotted – by ADM or by project selection as stated in the resolution.

11-05-18 Central Office Administrative Reductions – Superintendent Rhodes presented a recommendation for the elimination of 3 district level administrative positions with any associated savings to be applied to prevent school-level job loss. The recommendation is based on a projected 2.4 million dollars (54 school level positions) in state cuts and categorical cuts to central office administration. Any employee recommended for non-renewal will be guaranteed a teaching position.

Following board discussion, Stephen Halkiotis made a motion to accept the superintendent’s recommendation to approve the elimination of three district-level administrative positions and that any associated savings be applied to preventing school-level job loss. The motion was seconded by Anne Medenblik and approved by a vote of 5 to 2. Voting against the motion were Tony McKnight and Eddie Eubanks.

Adjournment - At 10:00 p.m., upon motion by Stephen Halkiotis, second by Debbie Piscitelli and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

_____, Chair

_____, Secretary